

CO2SENSE YORKSHIRE

Innovative Project Fund

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) and Guidelines

Frequently asked questions and guidelines

1. Where can the funding be used?

CO2Sense Yorkshire can only support projects that support businesses based within the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

The following map on the Yorkshire Forward website will help you to determine whether your project falls within the region.

<http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/improving-places/where-we-live>

2. What is *de minimis* funding?

CO2Sense Yorkshire *must* ensure that all aid/investment made under the Innovative Project Fund is compliant with current State Aid rules and regulations. If aid is given that is not compliant with State Aid rules then it is automatically deemed ineligible and the EU Commission will ask that the funding is paid back.

Simply speaking, State Aid is any publically provided funding that could benefit individual businesses. This type of aid could distort competition and affect trade by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods and so is incompatible with the common market.

Exceptions to this general state on State Aid are:

- (1) Aid provided through *de minimis*
- (2) Aid provided through notified Block Exemption schemes.

CO2Sense Yorkshire provides investment through the Innovative Fund using the *de minimis* exemption. The *de minimis* regulation sets a financial threshold below which the Article 87(1) rules do not apply; small amounts of funding allocated in this way are deemed to be too small to distort competition. The approved *de minimis* threshold adopted in December 2006, allows aid of up to €200,000 over a three year rolling period.

To support businesses through the current period of economic uncertainty the EU Commission has given permission for this *de minimis* threshold to be increased (from November 2008 until the end of 2010) to €500,000 over a three year rolling period. This temporary measure allows for the total amount of aid that may be granted to any one undertaking (company or group) in the three-year period from Tuesday 1 January 2008 to Friday 31 December 2010 to be €500,000.

Please be aware of the exchange rate when calculating whether you are within the threshold.



Greenhouse Gas Savings Capital Investment Fund 2009-2012

3. Does aid intensity apply to *de minimis*?

Aid intensity does not need to be considered for *de minimis* aid. CO2Sense Yorkshire can theoretically fund 100% of a high risk project as long as it is within the total amount ceiling.

4. What percentage of my project costs are likely to be covered by CO2Sense Yorkshire investment?

For **revenue based projects** there will be some cases in which we can fund 100% of projects and would like applicants to think about other public (other business support bodies) and private sector (businesses) investments that would add value to their applications.

CO2Sense Yorkshire will not be able to fund innovative projects that duplicate other support. Please consider the other funded programmes such as Business Link, the Manufacturing Advisory Service, Carbon Trust, Envirowise, WRAP etc when designing the project.

For **capital based applications** please see the call document and frequently asked questions for the GHG Capital Investment Fund.

5. Where else can I try and obtain funding from?

For capital projects please see frequently asked questions for the GHG Capital Investment Fund.

6. Where can I get assistance in preparing my application and a business plan?

For capital projects please see frequently asked questions for the GHG Capital Investment Fund.

7. What are the definitions of the outputs CO2Sense Yorkshire collect?

Indicator	Definition
Businesses assisted to improve their performance (through provision of environmental advice and guidance)	<p>Provision of consultancy support, information, diagnostic advice or guidance to individual businesses, located within the region.</p> <p>The assistance can be face-to-face, telephone or web-based dialogue at conferences, seminars, workshops or through networks.</p> <p>The minimum level of support is 2 hours of consultancy advice or other non-financial assistance; or grant of at least £250</p> <p>Includes non SME's.</p>



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Businesses <u>Intensively Assisted</u> to improve their performance	To qualify for “intensive assistance”, there must be an action plan or other formal agreement, developed in partnership between the project and business.
People assisted in their skills development	A count of beneficiaries (individuals) who must have received a minimum of 6 hours training, either contiguous or as a number of sessions for the same individual. Activities may include: general (management, IT) or job specific (marketing, engineering) skills, provision of equipment & materials to support direct skills development.
Jobs created or safeguarded	A job (permanent, paid, full time equivalent (FTE)) is counted as an output when the jobs are a direct consequence of the project intervention. The expected duration of a job created must be 1 year or longer. To qualify as a job safeguarded it must be a job which is at risk - defined as being forecast to be lost within 1 year (i.e. the jobs at risk must be specified) or if sector is in long-term decline a longer period might be appropriate. The unit of measurement is the job and not its occupant.
Businesses created	Defined as when a new (not just moved from one region to another) business starts trading in the region and is sustained for at least 12 months as a direct result of the project intervention (therefore cannot be collected/reported until a year after creation).
Increase in sales from new environmental products and services developed (£000)	Value of <i>annual</i> sales increase attributable to new product/service introduction, related principally to businesses assisted to develop Env' Products but also other businesses supported across the programme. R&D support may take a long time to result in a new product or service which generates sales/cost savings. Future sales/savings should therefore be estimated at the end of year following the provision of support.
Gross increase in GVA	The value (£) of GVA increase in businesses assisted or created GVA = Total wage costs + net profit before tax and interest + depreciation (this is consistent with the calculation used by Business Link). There is likely to be a delay between the project activities and the realisation of improvements in GVA.
Private Sector Investment (Levered £m)	The gross funding provided to cover the project costs, including investment in fixed assets, working capital and in-kind contributions, from the funding bodies.
Cost savings to business	This relates to the savings (£000) made by businesses as a result of reduction in resource use (waste, water, energy, fuel, raw materials etc).
Reduction in Water	The savings (in m ³) made by businesses as a result of



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Indicator	Definition
Consumption	project interventions.
Virgin raw material saved (tonnes)	Reduction in virgin raw materials used by businesses, through design of a more efficient product or process, waste prevention work and through displacement by re-used or recycled materials. Where possible raw materials should be broken down into specific materials.
Re-use of materials (tonnes)	The calculated waste diverted from landfill saving which results from the reuse system introduced or grown by the CO2SENSE intervention. As above the recording of this should be broken down into separate waste streams where possible.
Tonnes of materials recycled	Waste diverted by businesses through recycling. Businesses will be required to segregate waste in order for it to be collected so collecting data on the specific waste streams is possible.
Reduction in hazardous waste	Reported reductions in hazardous waste made by businesses supported.