

INTRODUCTION

Energy Transition Zone Ltd (ETZ) is a not-for-profit company aiming to reposition the North East of Scotland as a globally recognised integrated energy cluster focussed on the delivery of net zero and develop a long-term international industry base that delivers sustainable jobs and growth for Scotland and the UK. At the company's core is the ambition to deliver the Energy Transition Zone, an exemplar, low-carbon development that will provide the energy industry and the local community with amenities, employment opportunities, and a long-term business environment.

ETZ believes that sustainable, accessible job opportunities for future generations are central to a successful and just energy transition. To help support local young people develop skills for rewarding, sustainable careers, ETZ is piloting a new Skills Energiser Fund for the 2024/25 academic year.

FUND DETAILS

Award Value

Funding of up to £3,000 (the 'maximum award value') per school/organisation is available for skills development initiatives delivered by or through local schools, for the benefit of pupils and teaching staff.

Applicant Criteria

Applications may be submitted by any of the following:

- Local authority primary and secondary schools in the immediate vicinity of the Energy Transition Zone, namely Tullos, Greyhope, Charleston and Loirston Schools, and Lochside Academy (the 'local schools'). Joint applications from multiple schools will be considered, so long as at least one of the submitting parties is a local school.
- Third party organisations that provide support or educational services to schools and have written confirmation from at least one local school that the proposed service or initiative will be run for the benefit of said school.

Note that a 'primary contact' must be allocated for each organisation, and all funding requests must be submitted by the primary contact to ensure organisations prioritise requests appropriately.

Skills Areas

Proposals may be submitted for initiatives which help develop pupil and/or teaching staff skills in at least one of the following areas:

- Careers and employability skills, including literacy
- STEM, including digital
- Energy transition and low-carbon technologies
- Health, wellbeing and community building

Preference will be given to proposals which support multiple areas.

Proposals

Proposals will only be accepted for initiatives occurring within the **2025/26 academic year**. All spend for successful proposals must be complete by 1st March 2025; however, the proposed activities themselves can continue until the end of the school year.

Schools may submit more than one application, for different initiatives, so long as the total value of all proposals does not exceed the maximum award value. For example, if Proposal 1 is for £800 for buses to a relevant event, Proposal 2 was for £1,500 for new equipment, and Proposal 3 was for £500 for teacher training,

all proposals could be successful as they align with the Skills Areas and the total value comes to less than £3,000.

Third party organisations may submit more than one application if they are for distinctly different proposals and all proposals have a confirmed local school to run them. If multiple local schools are confirmed to run the same initiative, these should be detailed in one proposal.

If submitting multiple proposals, the applications do NOT need to be submitted together unless linked or co-dependent.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submission Process

Applicants are required to submit an application form (see below) outlining their proposal and funding request to ETZ for consideration. One form should be submitted per proposal, in line with the timelines given below, to Lauren.Braidwood@etzltd.com. Applicants can contact the same email address for any queries or support in completing and submitting an application.

Post-Submission

Following submission, ETZ may request a follow-up meeting to discuss proposals in more detail. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission via email.

Selection Process

Available funds are limited, so funding awards are not guaranteed for proposals which meet all the application criteria. All applications will be reviewed internally by ETZ with consideration given to:

- Meeting applicant and skills area criteria
- Impact (i.e. number of pupils reached, low-engagement groups targeted, unit cost per head)
- Sustainability/longevity (i.e. does the initial funding bring longer-term benefits or enable initiatives to be repeated in future years at little or no extra cost)
- Teacher continuous professional development elements
- Collaborative submissions
- Industry partnership proposals which enable or build on initiatives supported by other companies

TIMELINES

Applications may be submitted at any time before midnight on 19th December 2025. Receipt of submissions will be confirmed via email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt via email, please contact Lauren.Braidwood@etzltd.com.

ETZ will endeavour to respond within one month of applications being received. However, if this timeline cannot be met, applicants will be notified via email.

ETZ will provide feedback on unsuccessful applications, if requested in writing by the applicant.

FEEDBACK

This is the second year of this funding programme, and ETZ welcome any feedback on how the fund or associated process could be improved in the future. Please send feedback to Lauren.Braidwood@etzltd.com.