

EXEED Certified Grant Scheme 2021: Overview of Changes

The EXEED Certified Grant Scheme will open to new applications from **Monday 11 January 2021**.

Significant steps have been taken to improve the programme, building on learnings from the previous phase and stakeholder feedback:

- The scheme will be **open to applications year-round** at both Stage 1 and Stage 2.
- The maximum grant level available per project will **increase from €500k to €1m** (including all support at Stage 1 and Stage 2).
- For large projects, the scheme will be able to support **longer capital implementation periods** across the current and subsequent calendar year.
- A new online application form has been introduced to **reduce the turnaround times for application evaluation**. This new online form replaces the previous PDF-based form. The questions have been carefully designed to be user-friendly and easy to understand, with drop-down options where possible. The application form redesign now enables applicants to submit all supporting documentation together with their application form. An instructions document has also been produced to help applicants complete the form correctly.
- Eligibility criteria have been introduced at both stages, which will give greater clarity to prospective applicants on whether their project is a good fit for the grant scheme. This will reduce the evaluation turnaround times for all applicants.
- New feedback mechanisms have been introduced to provide applicants with greater clarity on the outcome of their application, supported opportunities and eligible costs. Where applicable, clear feedback will also be given on the EXEED documents submitted at the Stage 1 payment request stage, to help ensure projects are benefitting from the EXEED Certified standard, and to give applicants an opportunity to make improvements before submitting a Stage 2 application.
- Improved templates have been introduced to improve the inspections and payment processes.
- SEAI's Register of Energy Auditors has been updated to include a listing for Energy Efficient Design Experts (EEDE). This will help prospective applicants who are seeking to appoint an EEDE.¹
- An Energy Efficient Design Training course has been introduced, particularly for those working as EEDEs, but which may also be informative for applicants about the EXEED Certified approach.

Changes have also been made to better align the scheme with policy and value for money objectives:

- **Support for fossil fuels will be restricted**, as follows:
Projects that involve heating systems (including combined heat and power systems) where fossil fuels are used (whether part of the specific works seeking support or the wider process, building etc.) shall not be supported unless at least one of the following is true:
 - Fossil fuel use is only through use of electricity from the grid.
 - There is no technically viable non-fossil alternative (generally only related to applications for a purpose other than space heating).
 - The installation of a renewable space heating system would increase the final energy consumption or CO2 emissions of the asset.
 - The fossil fuel use is provided for backup, peaking, or operational purposes (and makes up less than 10% of annual heating energy).
 - The fossil fuel use is part of a credible phased pathway to net zero emissions (e.g. the first phase of a programme of work that will lead to net zero emissions and is not predicated on the future external provision of decarbonised fuels such as biogas or bioliquid).
- **EXEED certification and verification of savings will be required** for all projects.
- **Financial support will be limited to the present value of the lifetime emission reductions** associated with the project, using the methodology set out in the Public Spending Code), or not greater than €50,000. Full details of this methodology will be provided in the EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines 2021.

¹ The register is available at: [Energy Auditing Scheme | Business & Public Sector | SEAI](#) Note that it is not a requirement to appoint an EEDE from this register. To be included in the EEDE section of this register, it is necessary to meet the criteria for the register and to have undertaken the SEAI Energy Efficient Design Training course. For more information about the EEDE training course, contact EXEED@seai.ie.