

EXEED Certified Grant Scheme 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

27th March 2023

Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	List of FAQs	4
1.2	Other sources of information	4
2	Application process	5
2.1	Stage 1 grant application	5
2.2	Stage 2 grant application	5
3	Baseline	6
3.1	General baseline questions	6
3.2	New build / Extension.....	6
4	EED Expert	7
4.1	Contact details.....	7
4.2	Requirements	7
4.3	EED Expert independence.....	8
4.4	Responsibilities	9
5	EED Owner	10
5.1	Requirements	10
6	Eligibility requirements	11
6.1	Certification	11
6.2	Minimum energy consumption (100,000 kWh).....	11
6.3	Leased properties	11
6.4	Start- Up businesses	11
6.5	Project types.....	12
6.6	SME status.....	12
6.7	Stage 2.....	12
6.8	Geographical location	13
7	Eligible measures	14
7.1	Number of measures.....	14
7.2	Type of measures.....	14
8	ESCos	15
8.1	Projects delivered through energy services companies (or similar)	15
9	Assessment processes	15
9.1	Requirements checks	15
10	EXEED impact	16
10.1	Projects to date.....	16
10.2	Repeat customers	16
10.3	EXEED Vs LEED	16
11	Fossil fuels	17

11.1	Rationale for reduced fossil fuel support	17
11.2	Project-specific questions	17
12	Funding availability and costs.....	19
12.1	Funding limits	19
12.2	Type of funding available	19
12.3	Average costs.....	19
12.4	Interaction with other grants	19
13	Timelines.....	20
13.1	Application windows.....	20
13.2	Projects longer than 1 year.....	20
13.3	Project delays	20
13.4	Stage 1 timelines.....	20
13.5	Works before grant offer.....	21
14	Measurement and verification (M&V)	22
14.1	M&V rationale.....	22
14.2	M&V options.....	22

1 Introduction

1.1 List of FAQs

This document has been prepared with responses to questions we have received since January 2021, when the current phase of the EXEED grant scheme was launched. It has been made available to help anyone interested in EXEED to get an immediate response to their questions.

If you do not find the answer to your question(s) in this document, you can contact us at EXEED@seai.ie and we will respond directly.

We intend to update this document with any new questions received so that it can be as helpful as possible for prospective EXEED participants.

1.2 Other sources of information

There is a lot of information about EXEED available on our website.

Resource	Details
EXEED Certified Grant page	This webpage contains an overview of the EXEED grant scheme and links to all EXEED documentation, including the online application form.
EXEED Certified Programme page	This webpage contains details of the EXEED standard, including the links to the requirements for EXEED Designed, EXEED Verified and EXEED Managed.
EXEED Brochure	This is a high-level introduction to EXEED and its benefits.
EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines	This is a comprehensive document setting out full details of the scheme, including eligibility criteria, timelines, funding available and grant payments information.

2 Application process

2.1 Stage 1 grant application

2.1.1 Is it necessary to know the specific opportunities that the EED Owner is proceeding with before submitting a Stage 1 application?

No. The purpose of the EXEED Stage 1 grant is to support companies with the pre-investment activities which the EXEED standard requires in order to identify the best opportunities specific to an asset.

Where an applicant already knows the specific opportunities they intend to invest in before submitting a Stage 1 application, they must be open to following the EXEED process and using the findings to inform their final investment decision. If they are not, the Stage 1 application will not meet eligibility criterion ELC 1.2 *EXEED process is understood and integrated* (see Section 7.1 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#)).

Note that Stage 2 capital grant support is only available for opportunities which have been recommended through the EXEED Challenge and Analyse process and are included on the Energy Savings Register for the project.

The EXEED standard is primarily focussed on the design stage of a project, before capital investment begins in earnest. This is because the potential for energy savings is higher at the design stage and the costs are lower. To maximise the opportunity for energy savings at the design stage, the EXEED standard defines a number of studies and processes that must be carried out in order to identify the best opportunities for energy savings at a specific asset.

Stage 1 grant support is available to help companies undertake these pre-investment studies/activities:

- Project Execution Plan
- Energy Balance Study
- Challenge and Analyse
- Energy Savings Register

These documents must be submitted as part of an EXEED Stage 2 grant application for capital support.

2.2 Stage 2 grant application

2.2.1 If the Stage 1 studies were done in previous years can a Stage 2 application be made using that base information?

Yes. The Stage 2 evaluation process will include a check on the pre-investment documents against the requirements of the EXEED standard.

The studies should reflect an appropriate baseline design. If this has changed since the previous studies were completed, then the EXEED documentation and outputs should be updated to reflect the most appropriate baseline.

2.2.2 Is it possible to submit a Stage 2 application without submitting a Stage 1 application first?

Yes. It is not relevant to SEAI whether the EXEED pre-investment studies have been supported by an EXEED Stage 1 grant. The important thing is that the pre-investment studies have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the EXEED Designed standard in advance of submitting a Stage 2 grant application.

3 Baseline

3.1 General baseline questions

3.1.1 How do you quantify or score "over and above" for grant applications?

EXEED grant support is available for implementing energy saving opportunities which reduce the asset's energy demand (or divert primary energy demand from fossil fuels) relative to the baseline.

The costs of achieving compliance with building regulations are ineligible for grant support.

For major energy upgrade projects that do not involve a major renovation or a material alternation to an asset, the eligible costs and energy and carbon savings associated with that support are typically the difference between the existing and improved asset. Note that, counterfactuals may be required.

More information on eligible and ineligible costs, including counterfactuals, is available in Section 5 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

3.2 New build / Extension

3.2.1 On a new build for an existing business are the criteria measured against the existing business in its current location vs new build OR as a standalone new development on its own merits?

Where you are making an investment in a new asset or increasing the footprint of an existing asset, the baseline for our evaluation will always be the new or extended asset.

The eligible costs and energy and carbon savings associated with EXEED grant support are those which are above and beyond achieving compliance with building regulations (and any other applicable regulations).

3.2.2 How would a new building qualify for the EXEED support – are there different KPIs vs the TGD requirements?

EXEED capital grant support is only available for energy saving opportunities which go above and beyond achieving compliance with building regulations. This means that you cannot receive support towards the cost of achieving compliance with building regulations. However, support is available to help you improve the energy performance of your asset beyond that level.

4 EED Expert

4.1 Contact details

4.1.1 Is there a list of EED Experts who have gone through the application process before?

We do not provide a list of all previous EED Experts involved in the scheme. However, SEAI's Register of Energy Auditors includes a column for registered auditors that have also completed our Energy Efficient Design training course.

You can find this register on SEAI's [Energy Auditing Scheme](#) webpage. You can filter the register by type of qualification to only show those with energy efficient design competency.

4.1.2 Would it be useful to attach the name of the EED Expert to each certified project (with the EED Expert's consent) - this would allow people to identify people with expertise in various fields

You can now find the name of the EED Expert in some of our case studies. EXEED case studies can be found at the bottom of the [EXEED Certified Grant page](#) or on the main SEAI [Case Studies](#) page.

4.2 Requirements

4.2.1 What are the requirements for someone to be deemed an EED Expert?

The [EXEED Designed standard](#) does not set out specific qualification requirements for an EED Expert. It does, however, set out a number of activities that the EED Expert has responsibility and authority for:

- developing and implementing an EED project execution plan.
- implementing design for energy performance and design for energy management within the design project.
- ensuring that technical specifications developed for specialist suppliers incorporate energy performance requirements.
- communicating with the EED owner as appropriate.
- liaising with the project design team and specialist suppliers.
- assessing design changes so that their impact on energy performance is understood; and
- completing the EED project summary report.

It should be noted that there is no requirement for the EED Expert to be the person that physically carries out the various activities listed; however, they do need to be satisfied that those activities are carried out appropriately for the project, in accordance with the standard.

In addition, the EED Owner is responsible for ensuring that the EED Expert is competent.

It is therefore the responsibility of the organisation to identify and appoint an EED Expert that they are satisfied has the competence to lead on the activities above.

4.2.2 Can the EED Expert come from the same organisations developing the design project, or would it need to be a third party?

Under the EXEED standard, the EED Expert must operate independently of the design team and must report directly to the EED Owner. However, provided that these requirements are satisfied, there is no rule preventing the EED Expert from being based at the same organisation that also provides the design function for a project.

4.2.3 If the EED Expert is a Certified Energy Auditor (CEA), is an EED training cert required?

No. SEAI offers a free half-day Energy Efficient Design training course which is highly recommended for all consultants working as EED Experts and may also be of interest to EED Owners and others involved in the EXEED journey. There is no requirement to undertake this training, but it is designed to give a clear understanding of the EXEED processes and their value.

You can request course information and upcoming dates at EXEED@seai.ie.

4.3 EED Expert independence

4.3.1 What is required to demonstrate that the EED Expert is independent of the design team?

Context: purpose and value of the independent EED Expert

The EXEED Designed standard states the following (at clause 2.1.2 EED Expert):

The EED expert shall report directly to the EED owner and shall operate independently of the project design team

The independence of the EED Expert is not a tick-box exercise. In fact, it represents one of the most important aspects of the EXEED standard and is central to the success of your project.

EXEED grant funding is a benefit to your project but, even without the grant, the EXEED approach to energy efficient design should drive significant cost savings and improved energy and carbon outcomes for your asset. The competence and independence of the EED Expert appointed to your project is key to unlocking this value. If the independence of the EED Expert is compromised by the project organisation structure, then the outcomes and value of the EXEED project may also be compromised.

In order to gain EXEED certification, the requirements of the standard must be implemented. This includes defining the project organisation structure. The EED Owner will need to be able to unambiguously demonstrate that the requirements of the standard are being achieved. The EED Owner is responsible for the appointment of a competent EED Expert who is independent of the design team (and project suppliers, including equipment and installation) and reporting directly to the EED Owner. By appointing an appropriate EED Expert with the necessary independence, the EED Owner should have confidence that the opportunities recommended in the Energy Savings Register are suitable to their asset before the organisation makes an investment decision.

Projects may already have a design team that is competent in energy efficient design and can introduce innovative energy saving initiatives to the project. An independent EED Expert remains vital even in these cases. Their responsibilities are defined in the EXEED standard, but it should be noted that there is no requirement for the EED Expert to be the person that physically carries out the various activities listed; they do need to be satisfied that those activities are carried out appropriately for the project, in accordance with the standard. The principal benefit of the EED Expert in these cases is in their ability to act autonomously to review and challenge the design. Even excellent designs can benefit from the challenge exercise. Opportunities for further improvement may be identified but – even in the event that they are not – going through the process gives confidence in the EED aspect of the project design.

Opportunities proposed in advance of the EED process commencing, by the owner or the design team, may still be eligible for EXEED grant support if they are subsequently outputs of a robust challenge and analyse process (as part of the EED process) and there is a clear grant incentive effect.

New build / major renovation

In these projects, there will always be a design team in place. The EED Expert must be independent of the design team. This can be achieved in a number of ways:

- from a separate company to the design team.
- from the same company as the design team; or

- could even be an internal employee at the organisation, subject to having the relevant EED expertise (although note that internal employees are not eligible for EXEED grant support).

Major energy upgrade projects

There are different types of major energy upgrade projects, some which have broader drivers than the EXEED grant and would proceed in any case (A) and some of which may be driven primarily by the EXEED grant and would not otherwise proceed (B). In both cases, it is likely that the baseline design is the existing asset (i.e., business as usual).

A. Design team in place

In projects which have a design team in place, there must be an EED Expert operating autonomously from that design team. The assigned EED Expert, regardless of organisation, must be allowed to make independent and unbiased contribution.

B. No design team in place

In projects where there is no design team in place because the organisation is not currently committed to undertaking a project, the organisation will nevertheless need to define a project organisation structure in accordance with the standard. In such cases, for example, the 'design team' could be the internal energy management team and the Project Manager could be the Energy Manager or Facilities Manager. The EED Expert will need to be independent and competent in energy efficient design but – as always – there is flexibility regarding who this is. It may be an external consultant, it could be a representative from a sister site, for example, or it could be an internal assignment. The EED Owner will be someone else in the organisation with responsibility for ensuring the energy efficient design is implemented.

The project needs to be formed as an EXEED process with commitment to EXEED certification to avail of a capital grant under this programme. A traditional energy audit will not replace the Challenge and Analyse process, but it can serve very well as an input into the Challenge and Analyse process of a major energy upgrade project.

If you are committed to the EXEED process but uncertain whether your project organisation structure satisfies the requirements of the EXEED standard, get in touch with us: EXEED@seai.ie

4.4 Responsibilities

4.4.1 Does the person in this role typically act as an advisor also?

The EED Expert responsibilities are set out in the EXEED standard. The organisation is free to assign additional responsibilities to them, provided independence from the design team is maintained.

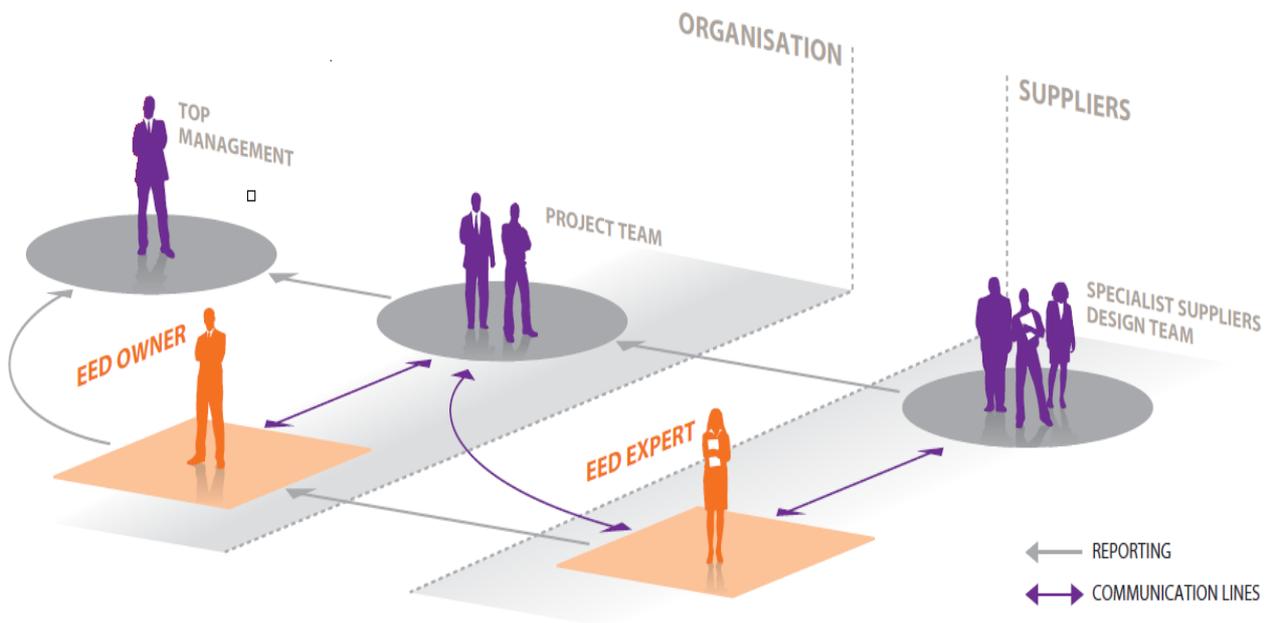
EED Expert professional fees are only eligible for grant support towards activities that are directly related to the implementation of EXEED for the project.

5 EED Owner

5.1 Requirements

5.1.1 Would the independence requirement apply to the EED Owner? For instance, some businesses may not have a competent design department within their organisation and might assign a design consultancy to fill these type roles.

The EED Owner must be internal to the organisation – see diagram below. It is part of the organisation's commitment to the EXEED process that they appoint an EED Owner with responsibility for ensuring the energy efficient design is implemented.



6 Eligibility requirements

6.1 Certification

6.1.1 Do the projects need to be EXEED certified to get a grant?

Commitment to getting EXEED certification is a requirement of EXEED grant support. 10% of the Stage 2 grant amount will be retained by SEAI (up to a maximum of €30,000) until EXEED certification has been achieved and the energy savings have been verified. Organisations can choose which EXEED distinction they want to achieve certification against, EXEED Designed, EXEED Verified or EXEED Managed.

Further information is available in Section 10(g) of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

6.1.2 Is it a requirement to be ISO50001 certified for EXEED certification?

No. It is not a requirement to be ISO 50001 certified unless you are seeking EXEED Managed certification. There are three distinctions of EXEED certification available, of which EXEED Designed and EXEED Verified do not require ISO 50001 certification.

6.2 Minimum energy consumption (100,000 kWh)

6.2.1 If a building has not been in use for some time (of full use), yet the energy consumption would be >100,000kWh will it be eligible?

Yes. The 100,000 kWh minimum energy consumption is based on the asset's baseline energy consumption. For existing assets which are not undergoing an extension, this should be based on a representative year's energy consumption. For example, if the business was closed for part of 2020 due to Covid restrictions, it may be more appropriate to consider 2019 consumption.

For Stage 2 applications, the baseline energy consumption will be available in the Energy Balance Study.

6.3 Leased properties

6.3.1 Can a company apply for grant for upgrading a leased building?

Yes. This is possible in cases where the Landlord has given permission for the works.

6.4 Start- Up businesses

6.4.1 Do you need to be an existing business to avail of EXEED? Or can you be a start-up business renovating a dated building to a high energy standard?

Start-ups are eligible for the EXEED grant scheme provided they have a tax registration number and company number, if applicable.

If SME levels of grant support are being sought, SEAI undertakes a review of company accounts alongside the SME declaration provided. However, for start-up businesses, projections can be uploaded in place of accounts, if accounts are not available.

6.5 Project types

6.5.1 Our GAA Club are currently in the planning phase for a new clubhouse and dressing rooms and we want to make the building and club as energy efficient as possible. Is EXEED an option as it is a new build. We are looking at solar, air source heating, future e-charging ports, remote working space etc.

Yes, EXEED is applicable to new build projects. Assets must have an annual energy consumption of at least 100,000 kWh as part of the initial eligibility checks at Stage 1 and Stage 2. For Stage 2 projects which meet the eligibility criteria, the evaluation will also consider the project impact in terms of energy and CO₂ savings. Full information about evaluation scoring is available in Section 7.3 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

6.5.2 Can EXEED apply to single service project, e.g. refrigeration in a retail area?

In accordance with the EXEED Designed standard, all services must be within the scope of the pre-investment studies. However, once these studies have been completed, it is for the organisation to decide which opportunities to invest in and when. This gives flexibility to invest in, for example, just refrigeration as part of a single Stage 2 capital investment project, provided that the pre-investment studies have been undertaken in advance for the wider asset.

Note that, for Stage 2 projects which meet the eligibility criteria, projects with a bigger impact in terms of energy and CO₂ savings are likely to achieve a higher evaluation score. Projects must achieve an evaluation score of at least 65% in order to proceed to a grant offer. Full information about evaluation scoring is available in Section 7.3 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

6.5.3 Can the same technology be applied more than once in a grant scheme?

Yes. The organisation will need to be able to demonstrate that the grant support has an incentive effect in all cases. Provided that this eligibility criterion is satisfied, the project will be assessed on its own merit against the scheme eligibility and evaluation criteria.

6.6 SME status

6.6.1 What are the definitions of small, medium and large companies?

SEAI will strictly apply [Annex 1 of the General Block Exemption Regulations](#) as qualifying criteria for an SME, as summarised in the table below:

SME Status	Headcount: Annual work unit (AWU)	Annual Turnover*	Annual balance sheet total*
Large	≥250	>€50M	>€43M
Medium	50 – 249	>€10M - €50M	>€10M - €43M
Small	<50	≤€10M	≤€10M

**SME status is determined based on meeting the levels shown for headcount AND EITHER annual turnover OR annual balance sheet total.*

6.7 Stage 2

6.7.1 If you skip stage 1 can you give more detail on the requirements for Stage 2 submission.

The Stage 2 requirements are the same irrespective of whether you have received Stage 1 grant support. The EXEED Asset definition must be in accordance with the standard, and there must be evidence that the

EXEED process is being followed. This means that the roles of EED Owner and EED Expert must have been assigned and the pre-investment studies must have been carried out.

The Stage 2 application must include the documentation from the pre-investment stage, as listed below, and this will be checked against the requirements of the standard as part of the evaluation process:

- Project Execution Plan
- Energy Balance Study
- Evidence of the Challenge and Analyse process
- Energy Savings Register

Please see link to a [read-only PDF](#) of the Stage 2 application form for further detail on the requirements for a submission. The full eligibility criteria and evaluation scoring criteria are set out in sections 7.2 and 7.3 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

6.8 Geographical location

6.8.1 Is EXEED for ROI only or is there a European dimension?

The EXEED grant scheme is only open to assets which are located in the Republic of Ireland. However, the EXEED standard can be applied to assets anywhere.

7 Eligible measures

7.1 Number of measures

7.1.1 Is there a minimum number of measures to be implemented in order to get funds?

No, there is no minimum number of measures.

Following the EXEED standard typically identifies a wide range of opportunities which are suitable for the asset, although there is no requirement to invest in all of them.

Note that, for Stage 2 projects which meet the eligibility criteria, projects with a bigger impact in terms of energy and CO₂ savings are likely to achieve a higher evaluation score. Projects must achieve a score of at least 65% in order to proceed to a grant offer.

7.2 Type of measures

7.2.1 Do you support EV charging?

No. Grant is only available for measures which reduce an asset's energy consumption or divert its consumption from fossil fuels. The asset boundary does not include vehicles, so it is not possible to support EV chargers.

7.2.2 Is equipment now commonly used such as LED lighting, Variable Speed Drives etc grant aided?

Yes, this is eligible for support. However, there must be a grant incentive effect and additionality. For example, it is unlikely that an organisation would invest in new inefficient lamps in 2021, so a simple replacement project would not receive support. Following the EXEED Challenge and Analyse process should identify opportunities for a significant lighting redesign, considering lux level requirements and controls.

8 ESCos

8.1 Projects delivered through energy services companies (or similar)

8.1.1 Can EXEED be considered for projects that are funded externally by a 3rd party. i.e., ESCO EPC/Energy Efficiency as a Service/Energy Efficiency Leases?

SEAI have actively investigated the options for facilitating EXEED grants for ESCo-delivered projects and have developed a model contract to support ESCO arrangements under its EXEED Certified Grant scheme, while ensuring SEAI's obligations under State Aid are managed appropriately. The SEAI EXEED ESCO Contract Template, and Explanatory Note for SEAI EXEED ESCO Contract, are available on the [EXEED Grant Scheme | Business Grants | SEAI](#) webpage.

9 Assessment processes

9.1 Requirements checks

9.1.1 Who verifies that the requirements are met for the grant?

The SEAI EXEED team undertakes eligibility checks and evaluation scoring of EXEED grant applications. Section 7 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#) provides full details.

An overview of the checks at application and payment stage is set out below:

Stage 1

Stage 1 grant applications are subject to an eligibility check by the SEAI EXEED team. The financial documentation including SME status is also checked by SEAI.

Following completion of the Stage 1 project, the SEAI EXEED team reviews the outputs of the pre-investment studies to check that they meet the requirements of the EXEED standard. The payment information is checked to ensure that grant payments are only made for eligible expenditure.

Stage 2

Stage 2 grant applications are subject to an eligibility check and, if successful, an evaluation scoring process, both of which are undertaken by the SEAI EXEED team. Applications for capital grant support above €100,000 also involve a technical review of the application, including a site visit, undertaken by an external evaluator. The financial documentation including SME status is also checked by SEAI.

Following completion of the Stage 2 project, the SEAI EXEED team reviews the inspections spreadsheet and supporting documentary evidence to get assurance that the works have been completed in accordance with the letter of offer. The inspections team arrange a site inspection and/or desktop audit to confirm that the works have been completed as expected. The payment information is checked to ensure that grant payments are only made for eligible expenditure.

10 EXEED impact

10.1 Projects to date

10.1.1 How many projects have been completed to date?

Based on applications received from 2016-2019, over 130 Stage 2 projects have been supported.

10.1.2 Which sectors have received support to date?

A wide range of sectors have received Stage 2 support to date, including: cold storage, manufacturing, leisure, hotels, offices, retail, universities, healthcare and data centres.

10.2 Repeat customers

10.2.1 Do you find that developers who applied EED and EXEED are coming back to apply it to subsequent projects?

Yes. We've seen several companies coming back again for the implementation of further energy saving opportunities or applying the EXEED process to another asset.

10.3 EXEED Vs LEED

10.3.1 Why choose EXEED?

LEED and BREEAM are sustainability rating systems, which cover a broad range of environmental indicators. In contrast, EXEED is focused specifically on energy performance.

EXEED Certified is a standardised methodology that businesses and other organisations can apply to the design of an asset in order to optimise its energy performance. It is designed to help businesses maximise the opportunity for energy savings at the design stage of investment projects.

EXEED can help businesses to future-proof their assets by:

- Designing for optimum energy performance
- Reducing energy bills and CO₂ emissions
- Improving competitiveness
- Boosting reputation (by demonstrating commitment to sustainable energy)

We have also received feedback from one company that following the EXEED standard was instrumental in helping them achieve LEED, because of EXEED's structured approach to project implementation.

11 Fossil fuels

11.1 Rationale for reduced fossil fuel support

11.1.1 Why are fossil fuel grants limited?

EXEED grants are a form of Government funding. Grant support is provided to organisations to incentivise investment in energy efficiency measures which further national climate policy objectives. The Government is working towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050, which will necessitate decreased reliance on, and phasing out of, fossil fuels. However, as part of the transition to a net zero emission economy, it is recognised that there are some heating system scenarios where fossil fuels remain necessary at present.

To ensure that EXEED grants support the transition to a low carbon economy in line with Government policy, EXEED grant support will not be made available for sites with heating systems (including CHP) which will consume fossil fuels following project completion, except where at least one of following applies:

- a) Fossil fuel use is only through use of electricity from the grid
- b) There is no technically viable non-fossil alternative (generally only related to applications for a purpose other than space heating)
- c) The installation of a renewable space heating system would increase the final energy consumption or CO₂ emissions of the asset
- d) The fossil fuel use is provided for backup, peaking, or operational purposes (and makes up less than 10% of annual heating energy)
- e) The fossil fuel use is part of a credible phased pathway to net zero emissions (for example, 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)

11.2 Project-specific questions

11.2.1 Under what circumstances are fossil fuel technologies like Micro CHP permitted?

Micro-CHP which uses fossil fuels can only be supported if one of the exceptions listed above (a-e) applies.

11.2.2 Are projects that involve efficiency improvements to equipment burning fossil fuels e.g, economisers on boilers etc. supported and if yes, will they be scored lower due to the fact that they are ultimately fossil systems?

Projects to improve the efficiency of existing fossil fuel systems will only be supported if one of the exceptions listed above (a-e) applies.

Where a fossil fuel project satisfies the EXEED eligibility criteria, it will proceed to the evaluation scoring stage. This stage does not take into account the fossil fuel status of the project. You can see the evaluation scoring criteria and scoring tables in Section 7.3 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

11.2.3 Fossil fuel upgrades are excluded. Does this exclude boiler upgrades and CHP?

Yes, in general. All fossil fuel systems are excluded unless the applicant can demonstrate that one of the exceptions listed above (a-e) applies.

11.2.4 Is Gas fired CHP included or excluded?

Excluded, in general. All fossil fuel systems are excluded unless the applicant can demonstrate that one of the exceptions listed above (a-e) applies.

11.2.5 Is support available to upgrade from Oil to Gas?

No, in general. All fossil fuel systems are excluded unless the applicant can demonstrate that one of the exceptions listed above (a-e) applies.

11.2.6 If you are certified as using BioLPG I presume this is not deemed as Fossil Fuels?

Correct. Where an asset will not be using fossil fuels at the end of the EXEED project, the application will pass the fossil fuel eligibility criterion.

Note that organisations will need to accept the EXEED grant offer terms and conditions which does not permit Bio-fuelled systems to switch to fossil fuels following completion of the project.

12 Funding availability and costs

12.1 Funding limits

12.1.1 Of the €14m funding available this year, is this dispersed on a first come first served basis?

Yes. This €14m relates to funding that will be spent within 2021. An additional €7m funding is available for projects which will commence in 2021 but will not be completed until 2022 (no later than 1 October).

EXEED funding availability for 2022 and 2023 is expected to be in line with 2021 levels.

12.1.2 Is the grant limited by funding - will the scheme close if grant funding runs out for the year?

It is not expected that the €14m funding available for 2021 payments will be fully allocated before the end of the year. However, as there is an additional €7m available for 2022 commitments made in 2021, there may be an option of issuing a grant offer with a payment date in 2022.

12.2 Type of funding available

12.2.1 Are the grants purely transactional (i.e. professional services) or are there capital grants made available towards the assets being installed

EXEED offers grants for both professional fees and capital investments. Full details of the funding available and eligible and ineligible costs are available in Sections 4 and 5, respectively, in the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

12.3 Average costs

12.3.1 What is the average project cost in EXEED and what was the largest project cost?

The average project cost from 2017-2019 was €400,000. The projects with the highest costs were approximately €2-3m each.

Note that, from 2023, the maximum grant support has increased from €1,000,000 to €3,000,000 per projects, which – together with the change to project timelines – may increase the average project cost.

12.4 Interaction with other grants

12.4.1 Can this grant be combined with other grants from other agencies i.e. Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland

EXEED grant funding is a form of State aid. The EXEED maximum grant amounts are based on the maximum amounts permitted under GBER. Projects are not eligible for maximum EXEED grant support in cases where other sources of public funding are being applied to the same energy-related opportunities. However, in these cases, depending on the level of other public funding being availed of, EXEED grant support can be provided that will bring the total State aid up to the maximum levels set out in Section 4 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

13 Timelines

13.1 Application windows

13.1.1 What are the time frames in terms of the EXEED programme opening and closing per year?

The EXEED grant scheme is open year-round. There are no closing dates. It is open for applications.

13.2 Projects longer than 1 year

13.2.1 What facility is there for larger projects that might start mid-year and extend over 1 - 2 years?

The EXEED programme can support projects submitted in 2023 with a completion date up to 1 October 2024.

Longer projects which cannot be completed by 1 October 2023 but which can be delivered in multiple phases can be supported where:

- a separate grant application is submitted for each phase; and
- the works included within an application can be fully completed by 1 October of the calendar year following application (e.g. if the application is submitted in 2023, phase to be completed by 1 October 2024).

13.3 Project delays

13.3.1 If you don't get all the approved work done the first year (e.g. 2020 and going to finish in 2021) can grant be paid on completed work to date?

Interim payments can be made for works which have been completed. Further details are available on page 42 of the [EXEED Grant Scheme Guidelines](#).

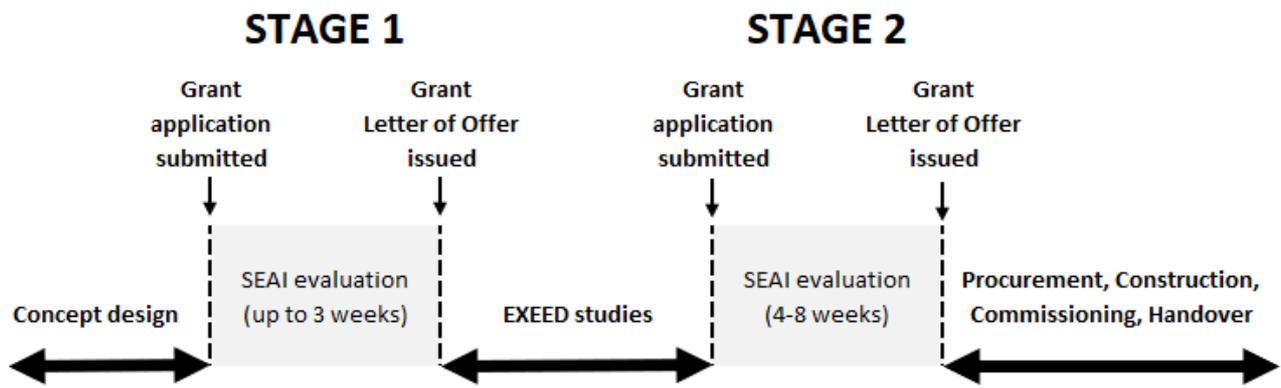
The grant offer is subject to the agreed scope of works being completed within the grant agreement window. Where there is a change to the project schedule which will mean the agreed scope of works will not be completed by the Project Completion Date set in the grant agreement, the Applicant must submit an extension request.

13.4 Stage 1 timelines

13.4.1 How long typically does the 'EXEED design stage' take? In other words, the time between Stage 1 and Stage 2 applications. Obviously, this is project specific but just to get an idea of how long it takes to get to installation stage.

Typically, the Stage 1 grant offer gives a period of 3 months for the EXEED pre-investment studies to be completed and paid for. The actual time taken will depend on the specific project and the availability/capacity of the EED Expert that has been appointed. Stage 1 applications received in 2021 have indicated that there will be 2-3 months between Stage 1 letter of offer and Stage 2 grant application being submitted.

The diagram below shows the typical evaluation timings for Stage 1 and Stage 2. Only works which commence after a letter of offer has been issued are eligible for support.



13.5 Works before grant offer

13.5.1 Can any design work be completed before applying for grant?

Works which do not require any grant support can be undertaken before applying for the grant.

14 Measurement and verification (M&V)

14.1 M&V rationale

14.1.1 Why is M&V important for EXEED projects?

Measurement and Verification provides clarity on the real impact of a project in terms of energy and CO₂ savings achieved. This is important to determine the value for money of the investment made and the grant support provided.

M&V can also help identify which types of energy reduction measures are most effective in practice. This information will be important in better targeting future energy saving reductions.

For those EXEED projects where M&V has been available to date, the verified energy savings achieved have been 13% to 70% higher than the savings expected at the project evaluation stage. It will be useful to see if this pattern is more widespread.

The EXEED grant scheme is one of Ireland's policy measures for achieving compliance with the EU's Energy Efficiency Directive. Measurement and verification of energy savings is necessary to ensure the energy savings achieved can be counted towards the Article 7 target. It also helps to accurately assess the achievement of the EXEED scheme towards national energy saving targets.

14.2 M&V options

14.2.1 How can I satisfy the M&V requirement in order to release the 10% retainer on the EXEED grant?

There are a couple of different options for measurement and verification (M&V) in order to release the retainer on the EXEED grant:

Companies can achieve EXEED Verified or EXEED Managed certification. This will include implementing the M&V Plan that is developed under EXEED Designed, in accordance with *ISO50015 - Energy management systems – Measurement and verification of energy performance of organizations*.

Alternatively, companies which receive support from an obligated party, can meet the M&V requirement if the obligated party submits an application for energy credits to SEAI, including an M&V report carried out in accordance with the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol (IPMVP), and that application is approved by SEAI. In this case, it will also be necessary to achieve EXEED Designed certification in order to release the 10% retainer on the EXEED grant.

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