



3.6

MEASURE 3.6 CONSERVATION AND UPGRADING OF THE RURAL HERITAGE

Objective of the measure:

To create opportunities to preserve and upgrade Northern Ireland's rural heritage and to use the natural and built environment as the basis for sustainable economic growth in rural areas.

Eligible Applicants:

Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area. They may be:

- Private individuals, aged over 18 years
- Private companies or partnerships
- Social economy enterprises (SEE) - are viewed as those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a not-for personal profit status.
- Non Departmental Public Bodies
- Local Councils

Where the total project cost is greater than £10K Community/Voluntary groups must be registered as Community Interest Company, Limited Liability Partnership or Company limited by guarantee. Where the total project cost is £10K or less the Community/Voluntary group must have a constitution in place. In all cases a lease must be in place to cover the duration of the project (1 year, 2 years etc).

Non Eligible Activities:

- Any activity that could be funded by another statutory body/council.
- Projects which are not uniquely rural.
- Employment grants
- Training - except bespoke training when linked to a project

Renewable Energy Sources

Renewable energy sources may be funded. Refer to separate Guidance Note.

Aid Intensities:

Activity	Level of support	Maximum Funding
Grant aid towards Capital and resource costs	Up to 50% for the private sector Up to 75% for social economy enterprises, including Community / Voluntary Groups Up to 75% for non departmental public bodies and local councils	£ 50,000 £250,000 £250,000
Marketing support to raise awareness of environmental and cultural heritage	Up to 50% for the private sector	£5,000 in any one of the activities, or as a composite of two or three
Bespoke training intrinsic to individual applications which is not on offer from any other provider	Up to 75% for social economy enterprises, including Community/ Voluntary Groups	
Technical support to investigate project potential or consolidate a project/business	Up to 75% for non departmental public bodies and local councils	

Planning Permission

Down Rural Area Partnership policy is that if planning permission (to include change of use) is required for a proposed project then applicants must have formally started the planning process. If a planning reference number is not in place then the application will be rejected.

Social economy enterprises and non departmental public bodies may provide match funding in the form of contribution-in-kind (up to 20%) when matched with a 5% cash contribution.

Please Note: The maximum funding per application is:-

- £50,000 for applications from the Private Sector
- £250,000 for applications from Social Economy Enterprises (inc Community/ Voluntary Groups), Non Departmental Public Bodies and Local Councils

Type of support: one-off or in instalments

Interest rate subsidies and financial engineering systems will not be eligible.

No advances will be paid, except to SEE's @ a maximum of 20% of total grant award.