

The eleventh round of the Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP) capital grants stream has taken place and BRE is pleased to announce that 101 projects have been offered funding for the installation of microgeneration and energy saving technologies. The Selection Panel reviewed 149 projects and awarded approx £2 million to the projects which it felt best demonstrated the aims of the programme. Successful applicants included approx 32 schools and colleges, as well as numerous charities, trusts, community and faith organisations. A third hydro turbine project was also successful for a wildlife trust centre in London.

A further £1.1 million has also been awarded in project development grants. This allowed nearly 490 community organisations to undertake feasibility studies and decide if their buildings could benefit from renewable energy and suggest a suitable mix of technologies including energy efficiency measures.

CSEP is an open grants scheme run by BRE and funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme, which is designed to help community based organisations in England reduce their energy bills and environmental impact. The Programme will provide over £8 million to community-based organisations for the installation of microgeneration technologies, such as solar panels or biomass boilers and energy efficiency measures including loft and cavity wall insulation. Capital grants are awarded on a competitive basis at quarterly Selection Panel meetings. It will also provide over £1 million for project development grants that will help community organisations decide if they could benefit from a microgeneration and energy efficiency installation.

Project Development grants were awarded on a first-come first-served basis until all funds were allocated. The programme was launched in April 2008 to provide funding for three years. The last deadline for Capital grant funding was 17th December 2010. The Development grants were closed on 8th October 2010. Please visit the CSEP website for a Frequently Asked Questions document for information on this closure.

Further information and programme statistics can be found at www.communitysustainable.org.uk.