



Department of  
Energy and Economic  
Diversification

Energy  
Policy WA



# Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy Grants Program

Project Grants Funding Guidelines

April 2026

Working together for a **brighter** energy future.

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*An appropriate citation for this paper is: Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy Grants Program - Project Grants Funding Guidelines*

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# 1. Background and objectives

The energy sector in Western Australia exists to provide electricity and gas to consumers. It is central to energy production and delivery that the long-term interests of energy consumers are served.

While some large energy consumers have the capacity to influence policy and infrastructure investment decisions, smaller consumers face greater barriers to inclusion in informed, constructive debate about energy use. Given the critical role and impact energy has on households and small businesses, overcoming these barriers to enable the views of consumers to be heard is essential to improving and maintaining an effective energy sector.

In response to this need, Energy Policy WA co-ordinates and supports consumer advocacy through the Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy (WA ACE) Program, including through a grants program.

## 1.1 Program Objectives

The WA ACE Grants program distribute allocated funds to support consumer advocacy and research projects, with the intention to:

- support energy advocacy activities;
- build the knowledge and capacity of energy consumer advocates; and
- promote solution-focused consumer-centric research in the energy sector.

The WA ACE Grants program includes two funding streams: the Project Grants funding stream is designed to support larger consumer advocacy projects, whereas the Small Grants funding stream has been developed to support more discrete consumer advocacy activities, including the development of submissions and other contributions to energy sector review processes.

## 2. Eligibility for Project Grants

Individuals and organisations can apply for a Project Grant. Applicants will be required to declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest as and when they arise.

All applications for Project Grants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be eligible for funding. Applicants can submit more than one application at a time.

**E1** At least one of the applicants for each Project Grant must be based in Western Australia.

**E2** Applicants must outline a project plan.

**E3** Applications must be signed by the chief executive officer or authorised officer of the applicant's organisation (if applicable).

**E4** Applications must include a presentation to the WA ACE Forum in their scope.

Of note, is that there is no requirement for, nor is it expected that, applicants provide in-kind or financial co-contributions to a grant funding application.

### 2.1 Ineligible projects or applicants

The following projects will not be considered eligible for funding:

- Consumer awareness campaigns or advertising.
- Development of commercial products.

Individuals employed by or associated with energy sector participants or governance bodies, including the Australian Energy Market Operator and the Economic Regulation Authority, are not eligible to apply for a Project Grant.

Officers of the Western Australian Public Service are not eligible to apply for a Project Grant. Academic research without the support of a consumer advocacy organisation and/or member of the Expert Consumer Panel will not be supported.

### 3. Grant details

Project Grant applications can be made at any time. Supporting information may be attached to the application form.

There is no time limit on the duration of a proposed project.

A maximum grant value of \$80,000 (exclusive of GST) will be awarded per application. Applicants are advised to consider the expected time commitments of the various stages of their project, and other costs when completing an application.

Administration expenses cannot exceed more than 10 per cent of the project budget.

### 4. Selection criteria

The selection criteria against which all applications will be assessed are set out below. For a project proposal to be considered for a grant, it must *meet most of the criteria*. The ‘measures for assessment against the criteria’ outline how a criterion may be met. Not all measures need to be met.

For a project proposal to be successful, applications must demonstrate that the proposed work has value, supports the WA ACE Grant Objectives and that the applicant is able to achieve the project.

Criteria	Measures for assessment against the criteria
S1. Relevance to Western Australian energy consumers	<b>S1.1</b> Applicant has identified the size of the consumer group affected and has conveyed the potential impact to the consumer group <b>OR</b> the research aims to establish the size of a consumer group affected.
	<b>S1.2</b> A clear rationale has been made by the applicant that the work is a priority or of importance to Western Australian energy consumers.
S2. Promotes new solution-focused consumer-centric research in the energy sector	<b>S2.1</b> The project is solution focused, with the proposed outputs being materials and/or the forthcoming recommendations that can lead to improved customer outcomes.
	<b>S2.2</b> If the applicant has sought to investigate an issue, has the applicant demonstrated that other research has not addressed the issue in the Western Australian context?  OR If building on earlier research in the Western Australian context, has the applicant justified that additional research is required before a solution can be developed?

S3. Offers value for money: the benefits should outweigh the costs, and costs should be prudent.	<b>S3.1</b>	Project budget demonstrates value for money
	<b>S3.2</b>	Methodology and budget are appropriately aligned
S4. Builds capacity for future advocacy and offers partnership opportunities with other organisations where possible	<b>S4.1</b>	<i>Extent to which the applicant plans to build new and/or leverage existing partnerships/coalitions with advocates/decision makers.</i>
	<b>S4.2</b>	Capacity to share project findings/learnings with other energy consumer advocates, industry and/or segments of the public.
S5. The applicant will be able to deliver the project with an achievable project plan	<b>S5.1</b>	Project plan/ methodology will deliver/contribute to achievement of the project's objectives.
	<b>S5.2</b>	Applicant's track record of project delivery.

## 5. Application assessment and approval process

Energy Policy WA will appoint an independent, three-member panel to assess Project Grant applications with reference to these Guidelines. That panel will make a recommendation to the Western Australian Minister for Energy with secretariat support from Energy Policy WA. The Minister for Energy will make the final determination and these decisions are final.

Applicants may be contacted for further information about an application to support its assessment.

Energy Policy WA reserves the right to have third parties assist with assessment and administration of WA ACE Project Grants.

### 5.1 Assessment timeframe

Energy Policy aims to advise applicants of the funding decision between 60 and 90-business days following receipt of the application. All applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of their funding submission.

### 5.2 Feedback for unsuccessful applications

Feedback can be provided to unsuccessful applicants on request.

## 6. Grant conditions

Where an application is approved, the Grant Agreement will be formed utilising these Guidelines and the [Community Services Template – Grant Agreement](#) in line with the [Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy](#).

Successful application forms may become part of the funding agreement. Grant conditions and management protocols will apply to successful projects.

## 7. Publishing requirements

All project outputs will be made available on the Energy Policy WA website and presented to the WA ACE Forum and/or the Expert Consumer Panel. Reusable project outputs are to be provided

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with and without logos. Any white label material provided may be used by other parties, with appropriate referencing.

Funding agreements require all publications relating to the project to carry the following disclaimer:

*"This project was funded by the Government of Western Australia (Energy Policy WA) as part of its grants process for consumer advocacy projects and research projects for the benefit of consumers of electricity and gas.*

*The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Western Australia or Energy Policy WA."*

Confidential information or information impacting privacy will be removed prior to publication.

All grant agreement information is subject to Freedom of Information provisions.

## 8. Application support

Applicants seeking further information on the suitability of their proposed project for a Project Grant or requiring assistance with a grant application can contact the Senior Advisor Consumer Policy and Advocacy at Energy Policy WA for input or assistance. Please note that Energy Policy WA cannot provide any guidance as to the potential success of an application.

Applicants and potential applicants can submit feedback and complaints to Energy Policy WA via email at [epwa-grants@deed.wa.gov.au](mailto:epwa-grants@deed.wa.gov.au).

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