### Education and inclusion



# Business Growth Hub are offering a Business Energy Advice (BEAS) service.

This provides Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with free energy and grants up to £100,000.

The **Business Energy Advice Service (BEAS)** is a pilot programme designed to help businesses save money and drive growth by providing **free** energy assessments and **50% match-funded grants**.

There is **no payback required on the grants**, and BEAS is part of a broader government initiative aimed at reducing carbon emissions nationwide.

The BEAS programme can help your business **save energy**, **reduce production costs** and **lower carbon emissions** by funding a variety of practical energy efficiency measures.

### Our Experience with the Grant Application Process for Energy Efficiency Improvements

"We recently completed a grant application process aimed at improving the energy efficiency of our building, and overall, we found the process to be quite straightforward and manageable.

The first step involved providing copies of our recent energy bills. These were used to establish our current energy usage and carbon footprint. Following this, an energy auditor was scheduled to visit our premises. The auditor conducted a thorough energy assessment, examining our current systems and identifying areas where we could reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This audit was not only informative but also essential for the next stage of our application.

A few days later, we received a detailed report from the auditor outlining recommended improvements. Using this report as the foundation, we prepared our grant application. As part of the application requirements, we obtained three quotes for each of the energy-saving works we planned to undertake.

We were pleased to learn that our application was successful. We received a grant covering 50% of the cost for two key upgrades: installing air conditioning in our first-floor room and replacing all our fluorescent tube lighting with energy-efficient LED alternatives. It's important to note that the grant operates on a reimbursement basis you need to be in a position to pay the full amount upfront. However, we found the turnaround time to be quite reasonable. Just a couple of weeks after making the payment, the 50% reimbursement was deposited into our account.

Overall, the process was clear, the support was helpful, and the outcome has significantly improved both our energy efficiency and comfort. We would certainly recommend exploring this opportunity to other organisations looking to reduce their environmental impact".

**Lisa Whitehouse owner of Tender Years Nursery** 

## BEAS can help businesses fund energy improvements such as: Solar panels

- Improved refrigeration
- Building insulation
- Water management
- Recycling and waste
- Heating

#### To qualify for the BEAS programme

- The business must classify as a SME
- Users must have an annual energy minimum gas/electricity consumption of 25,000 kWh.
- Be a commercial entity/profit-seeking enterprise.
- Operate from a commercial address for at least 12 months.
- Be responsible for paying the businesses energy bills.

#### How it works

Register - Start by completing a registration form online

<u>Business Energy Advice Service is providing energy saving grants to small businesses.</u>

You will receive a free energy assessment – A report will be made after an on-site review of your business with energy efficiency recommendations.

Grant applications – You will have the option to apply for a grant to fund the recommendations within the report, issued through the local authority.

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