

# Vital Impact Collaborative Energy Fund Application Form - July 2026

## Form Preview

### Vital Impact Collaborative Energy Fund (VICE) grant application

Kia ora

You have been invited to submit a funding application to the Trust Vital Impact Collaborative Energy Fund. In making that invitation we believe that the work you are doing contributes to the Trust aims and this is an opportunity to support your organisation with more efficient and less costly energy use.

Through this fund the Trust is interested in being a pro-active collaborator and contributor in funding community organisation energy/electricity related projects that will have a direct positive impact on the economic and/or social wellbeing of the region.

**The aim of the fund is to support sustainable energy initiatives that will result in more efficient generation, storage and use of energy/electricity in the WEL Energy Trust region.**

Funding support is available to eligible community organisation projects that involve one or more of the following

- Distributed Generation (DG) of electricity: solar, wind, wave etc
- Installation of solar arrays on buildings that are owned and used by your organisation
- Electricity storage and batteries in conjunction with a solar panel array
- Initiatives that encourage efficient use of electricity
- Energy efficient lighting for stadiums, sports fields, courts etc
- Installation of EV charging for fleet vehicles

PLEASE NOTE: We are not able to support solar, batteries or EV charger installation on buildings that are not owned by the applicant. The only exception may be a long-term lease with an organisation such as the HCC. In which case we would need confirmation and approval by the building owner.

As well as contributing to our key aims and pillars the main alignment with this fund is energy efficiency and sustainability.

**Healthy Environment - He Taiao Hauora** Our taiao is healthy through prioritising waste minimisation, environmental education and locally-led initiatives.

**Application form information** Please complete this form answering all questions. Depending on the type of project selected, some sections will not apply and can't be accessed. Where you have detailed information, you can refer to it in an attachment.

Where possible with budget items provide supporting information; we will require quotes etc if seeking capital funds for solar installations, lighting etc. Please note depending on the size and cost of the project that we may not fund the full cost of project.

The key aspects for our assessment will be

- The viability and sustainability of the project
- For generation, system requirements approved by WEL Networks Ltd
- Alignment with the Trust's [2025-2028 Community Investment Strategy](#)
- Alignment with the purposes and activities above
- Benefit to the wider community

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- The financial benefit to your organisation, e.g. electricity cost saving with solar or LED lighting
- The capacity, capability and history of the applicant
- The contribution and support of collaborators and/or stakeholders

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**As part of assessment we may seek external review and comments.**

### **SOLAR INSTALLATION IMPORTANT NOTE**

All Distributed Generation (solar) and/or battery installations require approval by WEL Networks Ltd. This process has just been simplified, and all information is available via the following link to the WEL portal. This DG application is usually done by your solar installer.

For installations under 10kW generating capacity it is an automated on-line process which can be completed in about 10 minutes free of charge. For over 10kW it is a streamlined process which involves manual involvement and fees starting at \$500.

Whatever size capacity system as part of this application assessment process we will seek a review of your application by WEL Networks Ltd. This is to ensure that the installation, specifications, capacity, and viability is consistent with your requirements and use. We will alert you to any feedback we receive regarding possible potential issues.

[WEL Network DG \(solar\) portal](#)

**If you have any queries, please contact David Cowley - Grants Manager, WEL Energy Trust.**

## Organisation Details

\* indicates a required field

**Organisation Name \***

Please put the full legal name of the applicant entity, which may be an "umbrella" organisation.

**Trading name if different from above**

**Organisation Address \***

Address

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Address Line 1, Suburb, Town/City, Postcode, and Country are required.

**Postal Address**

Address

  

**Website**

Must be a URL

**Head of organisation  
- (Manager, CEO, or  
Coordinator) \***

First Name

Last Name

May be President or Chair if applicable

**Position \***

**Phone number \***

**Mobile phone number**

**Email address: \***

### Main Contact for your application

All communication regarding the application will be to the contact person. If the contact person is the same as above, please click below and there will be no need to complete the next section.

**Contact person details  
are above.**

**Contact name \***

First Name

Last Name

**Position title \***

**Phone number \***

**Contact email address \***

Must be an email address.  
Must be an email address

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### Legal entity and charities or tax exemption status

**Please tick which category your organisation falls into \***

- Charitable Trust
- Incorporated Society
- Other:

**If this is your first application to the Trust please attach a copy of your trust deed, constitution and/or other similar organisational document.**

Attach a file:

### Charities Services Registration

**Please enter your Charities registration number, starting with CC**

The Charity Registration Number provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the Charity Registration Number correctly.

New Zealand Charities Register Information
Charity Registration Number
Organisation Name
Other Names
Status
Street Address
Postal Address
Telephone
Fax
Email
Website
Date Registered

Must be formatted correctly.  
ie CCxxxxx

**If not registered or registration is pending please provide details**

### Annual Report

If your organisation has produced an annual report, please either attach this below or include a website link.

**Please attach a copy of your Annual Report**

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Attach a file:

**Annual Report website link:**

Must be a URL.

## Project details

\* indicates a required field

**Project Title \***

**Please confirm what type of energy related project you are seeking fund for: \***

- Solar installation
- Battery(s) to support solar
- Field/stadium lighting
- Electric vehicle charger(s)
- Energy efficiency initiative
- Other:

At least 1 choice must be selected.

Depending on the options tagged this will determine questions below

## Specific proposal details

The next sections seek specific details of the proposal in order to assess the overall outcomes, cost benefits and viability. There are a couple of generic questions and then questions that will be specific to the type of proposal ticked above.

**NOTE - We will require you to attach a quote for any one of the following:**

- **Generation - solar, wind etc**
- **Batteries**
- **Field/Stadium Lighting**

**What is your annual electricity usage - kWh (kilowatt hours) and cost \***

**Are any council consent/approvals required and if so where are you at with these:**

## Solar installations

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**NOTE:** Grant funding for solar installations is only available to organisations that own and operate from the building proposed. The only exception may be for buildings that are subject to long term lease agreements usually with local councils or similar organisations.

The following questions relate to the installation of solar panels on a building that your organisation owns and uses. As indicated this fund is in collaboration with the local lines company owned by the Trust - WEL Networks Ltd. As part of the assessment process of your application we will consult with WEL Networks regarding the type and size of system proposed and its compatibility with ideal Network requirements. This will take into consideration your current power usage and the viability of solar.

To do this, we require your permission to extract data regarding your usage from your electricity retailer. You will be asked in this section to agree to this. As part of this we will need to know your connection ICP number. This can be obtained from an electricity bill, or it will be on or near your electricity meter.

**Brief project description - what are you proposing to do? \***

**What building(s) will the solar panels be installed on: \***

**What is the address of the building: \***

Address

  

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

**Please confirm that your organisation owns and uses the building**

Our organisation owns and operates from the proposed building

Please note we will not support solar installation on buildings that are not owned by the applicant.

The only exception may be a long-term lease with an organisation such as the HCC. In which case we would need confirmation and approval by the building owner.

**What is the total generating capacity (in kW) of the proposed solar installation: \***

**How much do you estimate you will save annually from solar generation, kWh and saved \$: \***

**Who is your electricity retailer:**

This is the company you pay for your electricity

**What is your electricity supply connection number ie. your ICP \***

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This can be obtained from an electricity bill, or it will be on or near your electricity meter. The number will start with ICP

**Permission to use your ICP number to obtain current usage details.**

I give permission for WEL Networks Ltd to obtain electricity usage details from my retailer.

**Please attach a quote from a certified and accredited solar installer \***

Attach a file:

The quote must include system specifications, eg the panels, inverter etc.

**WEL NETWORKS DG (Distributed Generation) REQUIREMENTS**

To generate electricity through solar or any other generation and connect to the electricity network you need the approval of the network lines company WEL Networks Ltd. This may require the installation of a WEL Networks smart meter on your meter board if you don't have one already.

Please use the following link which will guide you through the WEL Networks DG application requirements and answer any related questions.

[WEL Networks Ltd DG \(solar\) portal](#)

## Batteries

Please complete this section if you are seeking funding for batteries to be used in conjunction with a solar array installation.

Please provide details on the number of and type of battery(s) as well as the capacity.

We require supporting information regarding the benefits that battery storage will provide related to your daily electricity usage, and when this occurs. This is a critical aspect for consideration as if most of your usage is during the day, the benefit of battery storage will be less. Please note the storage of electricity for the main purpose of selling back to the grid is not necessarily a sufficient supporting factor.

**Please attach a quote from a certified supplier/installer if not attached above**

Attach a file:

## Stadium, Field or Court Lighting details

**Project Description - please provide details of the lighting requirements and whether this is an upgrade or replacement etc.**

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**What is the location where you wish to install and/or upgrade lighting - i.e. what stadium or field:**

**Does your organisation own the field and/or stadium where the lighting will be installed? If not, please specify owner and lease/usage details.**

**If for an outdoor field, please describe the field and especially the surface and its resilience or not to winter weather:**

If a grass field, please comment on plans (if any) to install turf in the future

**Please comment on installation details, e.g. consents/permits, cabling, transformers etc if required**

**Please comments on the specific benefits of the extra/improved lighting, eg. increased availability and usage in evenings etc**

**Please attach a quote from a certified supplier/installer**

Attach a file:

## Electric Vehicle Chargers

This is a resource available to organisations who operate a fleet of Electric Vehicles which are used by staff. The number, type of vehicles and their use will be considered as part of the assessment. Consideration of various site aspects, current electricity capacity and security will also be taken into consideration. The chargers are installed by WeEV, a company owned by WEL Networks Ltd.

If you haven't already discussed this aspect with our staff, please ensure you do before progressing.

**The application process requires a site visit from WeEV, who will have further questions about the technical elements of the request.**

**Explain why you require on site EV Chargers, and the impact it would make to your organisation/community.**

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### Vehicle Requirements & Use

What will the vehicles be used for?

i.e. fleet, staff, public or community use

What type of EV is being considered?

- BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle)
- PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle)

What is the expected daily driving distance (km)?

What are the main locations your vehicles would be travelling?

Please note WEL Energy Trust does not cover the whole of the Waikato. Check our website for a searchable map.

How many vehicles are being considered at this time?

How many vehicles need to be charged simultaneously?

Do you plan to purchase more EVs in future? If so, please provide details.

Please give rough timeframe for expansion and potential number of vehicles

### Charger Location & Access

How will the chargers be mounted?

- Wall-mounted
- Pedestal-mounted

What security does the charging location have?

- Lighted area
- CCTV
- Secure Fencing
- Other:

Select all that apply

Does the site have existing electrical infrastructure?

- Yes
- No

Who will have access to the chargers?

- Assigned staff only
- All staff members
- Public
- Visitors/clients of organisation

Please be aware of ongoing requirements such as annual WorkSafe inspections, maintenance and other operational costs associated.

There may also be costs for software you may choose to use for monitoring vehicle use and access (i.e. key fobs, tracking apps etc.).

### Energy efficiency or other related initiative:

Please provide details regarding the energy related project you are seeking funds for. We don't have any specific questions for this but please ensure you provide full details of the project, and it's benefit to you organisation and the wider community.

### Please attach a quote (if relevant)

Attach a file:

### Wider outcomes and benefits

**What specific community outcomes are you expecting? Please comment on the benefits for your organisation, your members/clients and the wider community: \***

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Please include the estimated cost savings in electricity costs

**How does this proposal align with and contribute to the Trust's aims and pou/pillars? \***

Word count:

**Project collaborators - Please provide brief details of any partners or collaborators - if applicable:**

Additional supporting information, if any

**Please do not add quotes here as they can be added in the next section - Budget**

**If you wish to provide any other documents to support your application, please attach here.**

Attach a file:

Where possible please use document file names that reflect the name of the document.

**If you wish to provide a link to any supporting material please add it here.**

Must be a URL.

## Budget details and confirmation/submission

\* indicates a required field

This section aims to gather budget and financial details regarding the project. The main aim is to set it in a context where the feasibility and cost benefit can be demonstrated. We are aware that all projects differ and that there can be many influencing and often uncertain factors on both income and expenditure. The only one we can directly influence at this stage is the level of grant support from the Trust, but we would hope that you are able to present a realistic and largely supported budget noting any variables and unconfirmed items.

Please present the budget in a spreadsheet with notes if required. If you are seeking funding for an aspect or stage of a large project, please indicate this and your notes could elaborate on the larger picture and its feasibility. We are appreciative that this may include some estimates regarding funding that may have not been sought yet but information on this will assist consideration.

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### Project budget spreadsheet or other financial supporting clarification information:

Attach a file:

All figures should be GST exclusive. If not GST registered, please indicate below.

### We assume most organisations are registered for GST - If NOT registered for GST please tick

NOT GST registered

Project cost: \*

\$

Must be a whole dollar amount

Funding amount requested: \*

\$

Must be a whole dollar amount and GST exclusive

## Project funding

**Please give details of how you intend to fund the overall initiative if Trust funding would not be sufficient. Briefly outline other funding applications you have made, or intend to make, and list any confirmed funding. It is expected that specific details regarding other funding would be included in the attached spreadsheet.**

\*

## Annual accounts

**The Trust requires your latest annual financial statements to be submitted. These need to be certified, independently reviewed or audited, depending on your annual level of expenses.**

If your annual accounts are for a period end that is more than 18 months ago, and the subsequent accounts have not been finalised please ALSO attach a set of your latest draft accounts.

PLEASE NOTE - We may not accept applications where the submitted accounts year end date is more than 24 months ago.

**Please attach a copy of your latest annual accounts and other associated documents:**

Attach a file:

## Bank account

All grant payments from the Trust are direct credited to a verified bank account. Even if you have previously submitted a bank deposit slip or signed bank verification, we require this again.

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**Bank Account name \***

**IRD number**

**Bank Account Number**

Please enter number in the following format xx-xxxx-xxxxxxx-xxx

Deposit slip:

**Please attach a scanned deposit slip or bank verification form with your organisation's name and bank account number**

Attach a file:

Confirmation and submission

I confirm that all details contained in this application form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I have the authority to make this submission.

**Authorised Person's Name \***

First Name

Last Name

Pursuant to the Privacy Act 1993, you are advised that the information supplied will be used by the Trust to make such inquiry as it sees fit to establish the accuracy of the details supplied and such other information as it considers appropriate to make a decision on the application.