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# CheltenhamZero Carbon reduction audit grant

Application guidelines  
March 2025

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## **CheltenhamZero Carbon reduction audit grant March 2025**

In 2019, Cheltenham Borough Council declared a climate emergency and a commitment to be a Net Zero council and borough by 2030. This ambitious target cannot be achieved without the support of residents, businesses and other organisations within the Borough.

Following the success of the CheltenhamZero Business Grant, we are delighted to announce the CheltenhamZero Carbon reduction audit grant. This grant will support businesses on their carbon reduction journey by providing specific tailored guidance on the most efficient and effective actions businesses can take to achieve net zero, reduce costs and futureproof their businesses.

The Council is releasing a total of £12,000 for use by Cheltenham based businesses to employ Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) to conduct a carbon reduction audit of their business. The audit will be either in person or remote as appropriate for your organisation.

### **Full Energy Efficiency Audit and Decarbonisation Plan**

Our Energy Efficiency Study and Recommendations Report provides a detailed assessment of your current energy use and offers tailored solutions to reduce consumption and carbon emissions. A Business Energy Specialist will conduct an on-site survey, including historical energy analysis, discussions with management, and a full site inspection covering heating, lighting, insulation, and renewable energy opportunities. The final report categorises recommendations into no-cost, low-cost, and capital investment measures, highlighting potential grant funding where available. Our independent advice comes with no obligation, and additional research can be provided upon request.

The cost for this usually starts at £1,000+VAT

### **Desktop / Remote Analysis**

A report as per the above is produced, including energy data analysis and recommendations, but does not include a site survey. It may involve the client sending information or photos of heating systems, equipment, building construction etc. This may suit organisations who are already on the journey to net zero, have access to data and information of this type, and need advice on where to begin.

The cost for this usually starts at £650+VAT

### **Example reports**



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## [Business Community centre](#)

Many businesses want to make the transition and make improvements for energy efficiency, carbon reduction and cost saving but simply do not know the right place to start. Therefore, Cheltenham Zero want to support as many businesses as possible to make the right changes through offering this grant paying 80% of the total cost of the audit.

We have set the grant at 80% and therefore ask for 20% match funding from the organisation to ensure we have businesses bought into the process and ready and willing to take action.

We are now inviting applications for funding to audit your organisation to support carbon reduction across Cheltenham.

The grant is available on a first come first serve basis.  
You will be entering into a contract and the invoicing party will be SWEA, with the net value of your audit paid by the grant.

The opening date for applications is 9am on the **21<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

Apply [here](#)

Who can apply?

Organisations which meet the below criteria can apply for 80% of their total audit to be paid by the organisation

- is a business, community group or charity operating or based in the borough of Cheltenham
- has a registered premises within the borough of Cheltenham
- is signed up to the [CheltenhamZero Partnership](#)

### **Terms and Conditions**

The applicant will

- enter into a contract with SWEA, and the invoicing party will be SWEA, with the net value of the audit paid by the fund
- agree to match 20% of the total cost.
- the Council accepts no responsibility for the contents of the reports, or any associated information provided by SWEA
- the applicant consents to SWEA sharing the applicants audit with the Council



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- the applicant must report on any actioned activities as a result of the report to CheltenhamZero 1 year after audit completion
- agree to the [SWEA Terms and Conditions](#)

### **How much can be applied for?**

Organisations are applying for an Energy Efficiency Audit and Decarbonisation Plan from SWEA. SWEA will assess whether the organisation requires a Full Energy Efficiency Audit and Decarbonisation Plan which includes a site visit starting at £1000+VAT or a Desktop / Remote Analysis starting at £650+VAT.

All applications are to be matched funded on a 20:80 ratio (CheltenhamZero Fund: applicant).

### **The purpose**

The purpose of this grant is to support organisations to determine what actions they can take to reduce energy and carbon, and which are the most impactful. With an end view to drive impactful change across Cheltenham borough.

### **What the Council will fund**

Any business, community group or charity within the Cheltenham Borough who commit to funding 20% of the total cost of the audit to deliver an energy efficiency and decarbonisation plan from Severn Wye Energy Agency.

### **What the Council won't fund**

Energy audits conducted by other parties

### **The Assessment Criteria**

There is no closing date for applications, however there is a finite amount of funding. This grant is delivered on a first come first served basis, to all applicants who meet the desired criteria and agree to the terms and conditions.

### **How to apply**

#### **Can a business make more than one grant application?**

Organisations can apply for more than just one audit.

#### **Making an application**

Please complete all questions of the online application form. Incomplete applications will not be considered.



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### **Agreements and performance management**

The applicant will enter into an agreement with SWEA and Cheltenham Borough Council. The agreement with the council is that the applicant agrees their action plan from the audit is shared with Chelt Zero, and that the applicant reports to CBC on actioned activities 1 year after audit completed.

### **Grant payments**

For successful applicants grant funds will be deducted from their final invoice from SWEA.

### **CheltenhamZero**

Successful Applicants are required to work with Cheltenham Zero to publish case studies of their project work. These will be shared publicly online, including on social media. Examples of information which would be included in a case study would be:

- Any energy efficiency measures which are installed following on from the audit, and associated energy and carbon savings because of these.
- Your experience with getting an audit done.

### **Other considerations**

Please be aware that as this is public money, the grant funding will be subject to inspection and audit. Any fraudulent activity will be quickly identified and reported to the police.

CheltenhamZero Carbon reduction audit grants can be applied for [here](#)



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