



Ararat Wind Farm Sustainable Grants Program INFORMATION SHEET

The Ararat Wind farm is located on rural land located approximately 180km northwest of Melbourne and between 9km – 17km northeast of Ararat in Victoria.

The 240 MW Ararat Wind Farm, developed by RES Australia, is a \$450 million project financed during construction by RES, GE, Partners Group and OPTrust. The Ararat Wind Farm produces enough electricity to power around 120,000 homes per annum or approximately six per cent of Victoria's households. The ongoing operation of the wind farm will benefit the local community through the creation of 51 full time jobs (13 direct and 38 indirect Full Time Equivalent jobs) to support the operation and maintenance of the wind farm, including local employment through a dedicated Ararat-based site office.

The Ararat Wind Farm Pty Ltd. is proud to provide the sustainable community grants fund to provide financial support to promote social and environmental sustainability initiatives for the benefit of the communities within the municipalities of Ararat, Northern Grampians and the Pyrenees. This fund is part of the Ararat Wind Farm's community investment program.

Aims of the fund:

- To provide the opportunity for community groups and organisations to develop innovative and sustainable projects
- To provide the opportunity for improved health and education across the community by developing long term partnerships and cohesive community projects
- To strengthen community connections and social wellbeing in developing projects focussing on long term sustainability
- To develop projects that enhance and encourage healthy and active communities
- To develop projects which enhance cultural diversity, creative community activities and projects

How to apply

To apply there are 3 easy steps

1. Obtain an application form by calling Ararat Rural City Council's Community Development Co-ordinator on (03) 5355 0257 or download an application form from www.ararat.vic.gov.au.
2. Obtain an information fact sheet to find out more details on the requirements for your grant application and eligibility for funding. It is important to contact Council's Community Development and Client Services Co-ordinator to discuss your proposal as they can assist you through the process. Fact sheets will also be available to download on www.ararat.vic.gov.au.
3. Complete the application form and return it to:

'Ararat Wind Farms Environmental and Sustainability Grants'
C/ - Ararat Rural City Council
PO Box 246
Ararat Vic 3377

When can I apply for funds?

Ararat Wind Farm Sustainable Grants Program is open to receive applications once per financial year and open for a period of **six weeks** commencing on Monday 17th July 2017 and closing on Monday 25th August 2017.

Important dates to remember

- **Monday 17 July 2017 – applications are invited to apply**
- **Friday 25 August 2017 at 5pm application close**

Please note that late applications will not be accepted

How much funding is available?

The total funds available for the Ararat Wind Farm Sustainable Grants Program 2017 is \$65,000.00 shared across three municipalities of Ararat Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire and Pyrenees Shire Councils.

You can apply two ways for a grant under this program.

1. Applications up to **\$5,000.00** are invited, as a one off grant for projects that do not require matching dollar for dollar funding contributions. In-kind contributions will not be considered under these applications.

A project completion report confirming the final project budget matched to the initial project budget will be required at the completion of the project.

2. Applications up to **\$20,000.00** is dependent on the individual request (project) and available funding at the time. Matching contributions can be from the community group or from another confirmed grant. It is expected that a proportion of the funds will come from the group or organisation applying.

In-kind support, as part of the applicant's contribution will not be considered.

The objective of this particular grant is to help community groups leverage dollar-for-dollar funding with government and non-government funding programs. Grant allocations are often conditional on groups receiving funding from other sources. Funding partnerships should be discussed with the Community Development Coordinator before submitting applications. For unconfirmed grant monies from external parties being part of full project costs, this program's contribution, if successful, will be conditional upon **confirmation** of those funds.

Please note: Two applications from the same organisation within the same year will not be accepted.

Will I need to provide anything else?

Once your application is completed, you will be contacted by Ararat Rural City Council's Community Development Co-ordinator for any additional information. Do not include original documents with your application; copies will be sufficient unless otherwise specified.

What happens once my application is submitted?

- A notification letter will be sent acknowledging your application within 14 days of receipt.
- Applications are assessed for their eligibility.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be notified as soon as practicable.
- Assessment panel will meet to assess applications against the funds selection criteria.

The Assessment panel is made up of seven people represented by the following:

1. One officer from Ararat Rural City Council
2. One officer from Northern Grampians Shire Council
3. One officer from Pyrenees Shire Council
4. One member of the public who resides within the Ararat municipality
5. One member of the public who resides within the Northern Grampians Shire municipality
6. One member of the public who resides within the Pyrenees Shire municipality
7. One member from the Ararat Wind Farm

If you are successful

You will receive a letter and where possible a telephone call, indicating your application has been successful shortly after the Assessment Panel have made their final decision. On acceptance of your grant and agreement to the terms and conditions that are contained within your letter, the grant will be paid at a cheque presentation ceremony before the end of September 2017.

Timeframe: All projects are to be completed and acquitted by 30th June 2018. If for unforeseen circumstances there is a problem with completion, notification to the Community Development Officer of Ararat Rural City Council is required.

If you are not successful

You will receive a letter indicating your application was not successful. If you wish to discuss your application further regarding other options for your project, you can contact Ararat Rural City Council's Community Development Co-ordinator.

Acquittal Process

1. **Successful applicants** will be required to enter into a written agreement with the Ararat Wind Farm to receive funding. This Agreement will provide details of when the acquittal process including a full project report to be completed.
2. **Successful applicants** will be required to complete and acquit their activity within the date stipulated in the funding agreement. If the activity is not going to be completed within the prescribed timeframe, an extension must be requested in writing prior to the original expiration date. Payment arrangements will be negotiated depending on the size of the project and level of investment.
3. Offer of a grant by Council in no way implies any ongoing funding commitment or obligation by Ararat Wind Farm Incorporated.
4. Any variations to the original application must be approved in writing by Ararat Wind Farm and Ararat Rural City Council.
5. The activity must incur the full expenditure as outlined in the application budget in order to guarantee full funding of the agreed amount. If the project budget falls short of this amount, Ararat Windfarms via Ararat Rural City Council reserves the right to make a pro-rata payment only.

General Information

1. Ararat Wind Farm must be acknowledged in any promotional material in relation to your project or activity.
2. Late applications will not be accepted.
3. Ararat Wind Farm staff or representatives on the assessment panel are not to be lobbied by applicants.
4. Applicants will be required to comply with GST legislation.
5. Applicants will be required to comply with OH & S legislation.
6. No activity will be funded retrospectively. Any activity or project that has been commenced or is already completed will not be eligible for financial support.
7. Application forms will be available from Ararat Rural City Council's Customer Services Department and on Councils website at www.ararat.vic.gov.au.
8. Applications can be submitted by post, email or hand delivered to Ararat Rural City Council's Customer Service
9. If terms & conditions are not adhered to, grant funds can be withdrawn at the discretion of the Ararat Wind Farm via Ararat Rural City Council.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible to apply, group/organisations must demonstrate that:

- The group/organisation is based within the municipalities of Ararat, Northern Grampians or Pyrenees.
- The group/organisation is a not for profit entity or local community group.
- The group/organisation must have the permission of their whole of the Committee or organisation they are representing
- Be able to demonstrate financial viability and competence
- Individuals cannot apply for themselves
- Relevant project/program within the selection criteria
- Cannot be a Council or a Council Section 86 Committee

Examples of applications considered ineligible for funding include:

- Requests for retrospective funding (if a project has commenced it is deemed retrospective)
- Recurrent operating costs
- Salary subsidies
- Routine/cyclical maintenance funding
- Applications to purchase food for catering, and events management, or alcohol
- Sponsorship

Selection Criteria

As the Ararat Wind Farm Sustainable Grants Program is a competitive application process, the Program will receive more funding applications than it can support.

Applications that best meet the criteria will have the greatest chance of success.

What projects will be supported?

Type of project	Examples of projects	Weighting for assessment
Sustainable environmental projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Infrastructure projects that provide sustainable outcomes- Environmental projects that promote energy efficiency- Environmental projects that have sustainable outcomes	40%
Educational, Social, Youth, Health and Wellbeing projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Equipment purchase that would assist with the operation of a community group or organisation- Programs targets at young people- Community projects that promote health and wellbeing- Projects that promote community access and inclusion	30%
Sport and Recreational projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sporting and safety equipment- Projects that promote active ageing activities	15%
Cultural Diversity and community arts projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- -Community projects that encourage and promote cultural diversity- Creative arts projects that promote broad community participation and outcomes	15%

The Ararat Wind Farm Sustainable Grants Program is unable to support general running costs associated with events, festivals or programs, however these projects are eligible to seek funding for materials, equipment or other items.

Please note: It is important to have your project well planned in advance to allow for the time to be completed within the timeframe of the agreement. For large projects, the Assessment Panel will request more than one quote.