

SBCI Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme

Eligibility Application Form

SMEs active in Primary Agricultural Sector ¹



NOTICE

Please note:

1. The SBCI Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme (**EELS** or the **Scheme**) has been established to support eligible SMEs to invest in the energy efficiency of their enterprises. Assets listed on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's "Triple E Products' Register" (<https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/triple-e-register-for-products/>) are deemed to be eligible assets which may be financed under the Scheme, **except** for Electric Vehicles (**EVs**).
2. All applicants must firstly complete this Eligibility Application Form to check if they are eligible to apply for finance under EELS (STEP 1). If an applicant is assessed to be eligible, that applicant will then receive an eligibility confirmation letter from the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (**SBCI**), which the applicant then needs to present to its finance provider as part of its credit application (STEP 2).
3. **Confirmation of Scheme eligibility** (STEP 1) **does not confer credit approval**. Approval of finance under EELS is at the sole discretion of the relevant finance provider, following completion of the relevant finance provider's internal credit process (STEP 2).
4. This Eligibility Application Form relates to certain eligibility criteria for the Scheme. Additional Eligibility Criteria applicable to the Scheme is set out in the terms and conditions of the Scheme (please review these at <http://sbc.gov.ie/products/energy-efficiency-loan-scheme-eels#terms-and-conditions>).
5. If you receive State aid in excess of €60,000, there is certain information in respect of this aid which the SBCI is obliged to publish on its website, including the name of the Borrower and the amount of State aid granted.
6. This Eligibility Application Form contains mandatory binding declarations regarding eligibility for the Scheme. If a false or misleading declaration is made, or if false or misleading information is provided with this application, it may lead to a demand for repayment of any sums advanced under the Scheme by the relevant finance provider and to any State aid received being recovered with compound interest.
7. All declarations and documentation may be audited by the European Investment Fund (**EIF**), the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and/or any other European institution or body as part of periodic audits of European support schemes. Further details shall be provided in the terms and conditions to any financing made available under the Scheme.
8. The Scheme is established and offered by the SBCI and benefits from a guarantee provided by COSME² and the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) set up under the Investment Plan for Europe. The purpose of EFSI is to help support financing and implementing productive investments in the European Union and to ensure increased access to financing.

¹ Any applicant whose business is in a sector other than the Primary Agricultural sector should complete the Eligibility Application Form headed "SME Businesses including Fishery".

² The EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs.

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BORROWER DETAILS

Borrower Name *

Year of Establishment *

Borrower Legal Form³ *

Incorporated Unincorporated

Number of Employees * (min 1 – max 499)

Address Line 1 *

Total Turnover (last financial year)⁴ *

Address Line 2 *

Balance Sheet Total Assets (last financial year)⁵ *

Address Line 3

Company Registration Number or VAT Number *

Company Registration No VAT None

Eircode⁶ *

Company Registration Number / VAT Number

County *

Established and operating in Ireland⁷ *

Yes No

Country *

Is SME part of a group⁹ *

Yes No

Appointed Contact Name⁸ *

Contact Telephone Number *

Contact Email Address *

3. Choose between "Incorporated" and "Unincorporated" to best describe your business's legal form.

4. Annual Turnover relates to the € value of your business turnover in the last financial year. If you are in start-up phase and have not recorded any sales, please insert €0.00.

5. Total Assets relates to the combined € value of the Current Assets plus the Fixed Assets (also known as Non-Current Assets). Total Assets is **not** the Net Assets figure.

6. Go to the Eircode finder <https://finder.eircode.ie> to find your Eircode.

7. The Applicant must be established and operating in a Participating Member State for the purposes of COSME (which includes Ireland).

8. The authorised signatory or a nominated third party who can deal with any queries that arise following submission of this application.

9. An SME is an enterprise which (i) employs less than 250 persons and (ii) whose annual turnover does not exceed €50m and/or whose annual balance sheet total does not exceed €43m. If a company is part of a group of companies, the employee, annual turnover and annual balance sheet limits apply to the group, and the group's consolidated figures should be inserted into this Application Form. Further information can be found at <https://sbc.gov.ie/products/energy-efficiency-loan-scheme-eels>

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BUSINESS DETAILS

Sector *

Sector NACE Code¹⁰ *

Forecast Number of Employees Post Financing *

If the Project Address (being the address at which the asset which is to be financed will be installed) is the same as the Borrower Address provided on page 2, please tick here

Project Address Line 1 (if different)

Project Address Line 2 (if different)

Project Address Line 3 (if different)

Project Eircode (if different)

Project County (if different)

Project Country (if different)

10. NACE codes are commonly used within the EU to classify business activities for statistical purposes. Please select the NACE code from the list available at https://sbci.gov.ie/uploads/downloads/2022_03_15_EELS_NACE-Code-Listing-Final.pdf that best reflects the primary activity of your business.

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PROJECT RELATED PREVIOUS STATE AID¹¹

I Name of authorised agent * an authorised agent of Borrower Name * confirm that:

Name of authorised agent¹²

Borrower Name¹³

Borrower Name

* has received Euro Amount *

Borrower Name

Euro Amount

of State Aid in relation to this project, details of which are as follows:

Date Received	State aid Provider	Amount(€)
DD/MM/YYYY		Euro Amount
DD/MM/YYYY		Euro Amount
DD/MM/YYYY		Euro Amount
DD/MM/YYYY		Euro Amount
DD/MM/YYYY		Euro Amount
DD/MM/YYYY		Euro Amount

11.For SMEs in the primary agricultural sector, Article 14 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 702/2014 of 25 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, 2014 OJ L 193/1 (ABER) states that aid for investments in tangible assets on agricultural holdings linked to primary agricultural production cannot exceed €500,000 per undertaking per investment project and the aid intensity must not exceed 40% of the amount of the eligible costs. If you have received previous State aid in relation to your project, please insert the relevant details here.

Where the SME is part of a group, the threshold limits referred to above apply to the group collectively.

State aid can be granted by any State body, State agency or Government Department.

Further information on State aid can be found at <https://sbci.gov.ie/about-us/regulation>.

12.The "authorised agent" is the person who will sign this Eligibility Application Form.

13.The "Borrower name" needs to match the borrower name inserted on page 2 of this form.

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Eligibility Criteria

PLEASE NOTE - Under EELS, any credit advanced can only be used for the purpose of investing in the energy efficiency upgrade of your enterprise. To be eligible, the asset which is being financed must be listed on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) "Triple E Products' Register", available at <https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/triple-e-register-for-products/>. Please check the Triple E Products' Register before completing the section below.

TRIPLE E PRODUCTS' REGISTER - CATEGORY

Please choose **only** the predominant category *

1. Building Energy Management Systems

2. Lighting

3. Motors and Drives

4. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

5. Heating and Electricity Provision - Please **choose** the relevant sub-category from the list below:

a) Wind Turbines

b) Biomass Boilers

c) Solar Thermals

d) Other

If you have selected either a), b) or c) from the list above, then you must complete the relevant Additional Heating and Electricity Provision Declarations set out in the Table below.

6. Process and Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning (HVAC) Control Systems

7. Electric Vehicles' Charging Equipment¹⁴ and Alternative Fuel Vehicles

8. Refrigeration and Cooling Systems

9. Electro-mechanical Systems

10. Catering and Hospitality Equipment¹⁵

¹⁴Whilst included on the Triple E Products' Register, Electric Vehicles (EVs) are **not** eligible assets which can be financed under EELS. However, charging equipment for EVs are eligible assets which can be financed under EELS.

¹⁵Comprises: commercial combination ovens; commercial dishwashers; commercial water boilers; commercial laundry dryers and/or commercial laundry washers.

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Eligibility Criteria

PLEASE NOTE – If you selected any of sub-category a), b) or c) from the "Heating and Electricity Provision" category set out at option No. 5 above, then please follow the instructions below:

If you selected **5 a)** above, you **must** complete declarations 1 and 3 below.

If you selected **5 b)** above, you **must** complete declarations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 below.

If you selected **5 c)** above, you **must** complete declarations 1 and 3 below.

Additional Heating and Electricity Provision Declarations *

	Please Tick
1. I declare that the financing shall be linked to the production:	
a) at farm-level of biofuels	<input type="checkbox"/>
OR	
b) of energy from renewable sources, and that such production shall not exceed the average annual consumption of fuels or energy of the relevant farm.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Where the financing is made for the production of biofuels, I declare that:	
a) the production capacity of the production facilities shall be no more than the equivalent to the annual average transport fuel consumption of the agricultural holding; and	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) any biofuel produced shall not be sold to any third party.	
3. Where the financing is made for the production of thermal energy and electricity from renewable sources on agricultural holdings, I declare that:	
a) the production facilities shall serve only the energy needs of (Insert Borrower name ¹⁶) <input type="text"/>	
b) the production capacity of the production facilities shall be no more than the equivalent to the combined average annual energy consumption of thermal energy and electricity on the agricultural holding, including the farm household; and	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) (Insert Borrower name ¹⁷) <input type="text"/> shall only sell electricity to the national grid in circumstances where the annual self-consumption limit is respected.	
4. I declare that the financing's primary purpose is not for the production of electricity from biomass.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Where the financing is linked to the production at farm-level of biofuels, I declare that:	
a) the maximum proportion of the crop used for bioenergy production, including biofuels, does not exceed the threshold set out by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, SEAI or any other relevant national body or authority; and	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) the project shall meet all applicable sustainability criteria set out in EU and Irish law	

¹⁶The "Borrower name" needs to match the borrower name inserted on page 2 of this form.

¹⁷The "Borrower name" needs to match the borrower name inserted on page 2 of this form.

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Eligibility Criteria

Financing Purpose Declarations *

Please Tick

1. I **declare** that the purpose of this financing is for investment in the business. In addition, I **confirm** that work on this Project has not yet commenced.

2. I declare that the financing will be used to fund **eligible costs** applicable to this Scheme, being the purchase or lease purchase of machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.

Ineligible costs are as follows:

a) costs, other than those connected with leasing contracts, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges;

b) working capital; and

c) VAT (except where it is non-recoverable under Irish law)¹⁸

3. It is necessary to maintain detailed records of the information and documentation required to support the list of total project costs and eligible costs. I **declare** that I will keep such records for a period of ten years from the date the offer letter for this financing is issued.

4. Please choose **only** the predominant specific financing purpose applicable to you from a) or b) below:

a) Improvement of the overall performance and sustainability of the agricultural holding, in particular through a reduction of production costs or the improvement and re-deployment of production.

OR

b) Creation and improvement of infrastructure related to the development, adaptation and modernisation of agriculture, including access to farm land, land consolidation and improvement, the supply and saving of energy and water.

PLEASE NOTE – Financing under the Scheme cannot be used for the purpose of drainage works, land acquisition and/or the purchase of animals.

Proposed Project Start Date¹⁹ (DD/MM/YYYY) *

Proposed Project End Date (DD/MM/YYYY) *

Proposed Credit Amount Requested²⁰ (Min. €10,000 and max €150,000) *

¹⁸VAT may be included as part of your financing; however, it cannot be included as an eligible cost for the purposes of calculating State aid intensity.

¹⁹The Project is not eligible under the Scheme if it has commenced before the date the application is received by the SBCI.

²⁰The minimum and maximum credit amounts available under the Scheme respectively are €10,000 and €150,000 per eligible enterprise. The maximum credit amount is subject to the condition that the Gross Grant Equivalent derived from the credit advanced remains below the applicable maximum aid intensity as provided for in Art. 14(12) of ABER.

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DECLARATION

1. I confirm I am an SME²¹ *

2. It is necessary for the SBCI to process certain information (including personal data) to process your application.

I confirm that I have read and understand the SBCI Data Protection Statement²² *

3. Acting further to its statutory functions under the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland Act 2014, the SBCI compiles a database of its applicants so that the SBCI can send communications to such applicants for the purposes of: (i) direct marketing of similar products and services in future; and (ii) to conduct market analysis and surveys related to your application.

As an applicant, we will add your contact details to our database but if you would prefer not to be included, you can opt-out by following the instructions below.

You have the right at any time to opt-out from such processing for the purposes described above, by notifying SBCI by email at: marketingoptout@sbc.gov.ie

Otherwise, we will retain your personal data in our database of applicants so that we can contact you in future for the marketing purposes described above based on the following criteria: (i) whether you choose to opt-out; (ii) the availability of similar SBCI schemes / products / services in future; (iii) SBCI's market analysis and research requirements; and (iv) otherwise in accordance with our data retention policy.

The SBCI works closely with other statutory agencies, including but not limited to Enterprise Ireland, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and Microfinance Ireland (together the "**SBCI Marketing Partners**"), for the common purposes of supporting enterprises by facilitating the provision of credit and related products and services to enterprises and contributing to the diversity of the types of finance available in Ireland. An up to date list of SBCI Marketing Partners is available on the SBCI website at: <https://sbc.gov.ie/about-us/sbc-marketing-partners>.

From time to time SBCI issues a shared marketing statement by email which contains information on both SBCI's new and existing schemes, products and services as well as information on financial services and supports provided by the SBCI Marketing Partners, which we consider are relevant and potentially of interest to you and your enterprise given the common purposes of the SBCI and the SBCI Marketing Partners. Please note that such emails are sent only from SBCI and your contact details are not shared with our SBCI Marketing Partners for this purpose.

You have the right at any time to withdraw your consent or to opt-out from receiving the shared marketing statement from the SBCI, simply by notifying SBCI by email at marketingpartnersoptout@sbc.gov.ie

Otherwise, we will retain your personal data for a period of up to 10 years after the end of the Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme, based on the following criteria (i) availability of other similar SBCI schemes / products / services and availability of financial services and supports of the SBCI Marketing Partners in future and (ii) whether you choose to opt out before then.

If you would like to receive the shared marketing statement by email from SBCI, please tick the box.

5. I declare that the investment to be made pursuant to the financing shall be in conformity with both EU and Irish law on environmental protection. *

²¹ An SME is an enterprise which (i) employs less than 250 persons and (ii) whose annual turnover does not exceed €50m and/or whose annual balance sheet total does not exceed €43m. If a company is part of a group of companies, the employee, annual turnover and annual balance sheet limits apply to the group, and the group's consolidated figures should be used to determine whether the enterprise can be classified as an SME or not. Further information can be found at <https://sbc.gov.ie/products/energy-efficiency-loan-scheme-eels>

²² Visit <https://sbc.gov.ie/information-access/data-protection-notice> to access the full SBCI Data Protection Statement.

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6. I confirm I am aware that EELS is being established and offered by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland and benefits from a guarantee provided by COSME and EFSI set up under the Investment Plan for Europe.

I confirm that any credit advanced will not be used in contravention of any of the terms and conditions of the Scheme * .

7. I declare that I am authorised by the Borrower to complete this application form and that all information provided in this application form is accurate and up to date. * .

8. I declare that the asset to be financed is listed on the SEAI "Triple E Products' Register" and is not an Electric Vehicle. * .

²¹ An SME is an enterprise which (i) employs less than 250 persons and (ii) whose annual turnover does not exceed €50m and/or whose annual balance sheet total does not exceed €43m. If a company is part of a group of companies, the employee, annual turnover and annual balance sheet limits apply to the group, and the group's consolidated figures should be used to determine whether the enterprise can be classified as an SME or not. Further information can be found at include here link to the scheme webpage once available
²² Visit <https://sbci.gov.ie/information-access/data-protection-notice> to access the full SBCI Data Protection Statement.

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DECLARATION

Authorised Signature

Position

Date

When completed and signed, please return this application form to the SBCI via email or post at the relevant address set out below.

Email:

applications@eels.sbc.gov.ie

Post:

SBCI

PO BOX 504

Freepost FKY 101

Killorglin

Co Kerry

* Mandatory Field