

Strategic Consultancy Assignment Guidelines - To Develop a Carbon Reduction Roadmap (only)

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Strategic Consultancy Assignment Guidelines

1 Application Process

1.1 The company contacts their Enterprise Ireland Development Advisor to discuss their eligibility for Strategic Consultancy funding support.

1.2 The company may be invited to apply online for Strategic Consultancy funding.

1.3 Applications are subject to an evaluation process.

1.4 The client will be notified of the decision, normally within 3 - 4 weeks.

1.5 On approval, a ‘Letter of Offer’ will be emailed to the company.

1.6 To accept the offer the Letter must be signed and returned by the company’s Authorised Officer.

1.7 The assignment can then commence.

The following information is required in the Application form:

i Company background

ii Project details

iii A breakdown of tasks/activities to be undertaken during the project. This section should include details of internal and or external persons responsible for undertaking the tasks

iv Details on how the project will impact on the company’s development in terms of emissions reduction, new sales, exports, new investment/expansion or job creation (2000 chars)

v **A** [**Strategic Consultancy Plan**](https://www.leanbusinessireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Strategic-Consultancy-Plan.xlsx) **(& energy audit compliance scheme declaration) are required in addition to the on-line application. The consultancy plan & declaration are emailed** to **green@enterprise-ireland.com**

2 Assignment Costs / Duration

2.1 A Strategic Consultancy Assignment will typically be 12 months in duration. The ‘Final Claim Date’ is given on the ‘Letter of Offer’ and is 12 months from the ‘Letter of Offer’ date.

2.2 Eligible costs include;

Service provider costs capped at €900 per day inclusive of travel and subsistence and all out of pocket expenses

2.3 Total project cost up to €70,000 plus VAT, maximum EI grant up to €35,000 excluding VAT

2.4 It is the responsibility of the company to claim the Strategic Consultancy funding support

2.5 The company is responsible for the payment of the service provider before making a claim (proof of payment will be required).

3 Strategic Consultancy Interim & Progress Report & Claim

3.1 The company downloads the ‘Strategic Consultancy Claim & Director Statement’ (& Progress Report) on [Strategic Consultancy Grant Claim webpage](https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Process/Companies/Strategic-Consultancy-Grant-Claim-Forms.html)

3.2 The company emails the completed Claim Documentation to IndustryGrantClaims@enterprise-ireland.com prior to the Final Claim Date. A [**Strategic Consultancy Plan**](https://www.leanbusinessireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Strategic-Consultancy-Plan.xlsx) of activities carried out (similar to the application) is required in addition to the claim. Email the consultancy plan to green@enterprise-ireland.com

4 Eligible Activities

Strategic Consultancy project is carried out by an external expert/green service provider with an eligible company to develop an Organisational Carbon Reduction Roadmap as outlined below.

|  |
| --- |
| **Develop an Organisational Carbon Reduction Roadmap** Develop a consolidated opportunity lists for energy including ranking based on Emissions, Energy Efficiency, and payback. Quantify the Organisation’s Operational carbon footprint on existing energy data based on GHG Protocol, ISO 14064-1 or similar (Scope 1 & 2)Provide/curate a spreadsheet-based data collection model to enable the company project team to quantify carbon footprint going forwardProject out carbon emissions in a do-nothing scenario to 2030 using the client companies targets & projectionsGenerate carbon reduction road maps identifying the carbon reductions from the implementation of the projects on the consolidated opportunity listsInvestigate all potentially feasible technologiesProvide guidance on the economic case for any potential investments Advise on other technical and financial supports, e.g. SEAI supports & Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) |

Note

* Large companies are eligible for Strategic Consultancy to ‘Develop an Organisational carbon reduction roadmap’ only. Large companies are not eligible for other strategic assignments under the Strategic Consultancy Grant
* Eligible projects for ‘Strategic Consultancy Grant - Short Projects’ must relate to:

(a) an Identified pillar issue and/or action arising from a Client Development Meeting or

(b) Achieving Gender Balanced teams (actions arising from [www.levelproject.ie](http://www.levelproject.ie))

* Developing a carbon reduction roadmap can be supported under [GreenStart](https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Productivity/Build-a-green-sustainable-Business/GreenStart/) For companies with lower energy usage/less complex operations, GreenStart is more appropriate/better fit than Strategic Consultancy.

5 Eligible Companies

To Develop a Carbon Reduction Roadmap under Strategic Consultancy, eligible companies are Enterprise Ireland SME & Large client companies with a high energy spend.

Companies with a lower energy spend/less complex operations/at the early stages of their green journey are recommended to

* Carry out an initial assessment of their carbon footprint using the [Climate Toolkit 4 Business](https://www.climatetoolkit4business.gov.ie/)

This Toolkit provides companies with practical ways to start taking action and provides links to relevant supports from EI, SEAI, Skillnet and Irish Water etc

* Avail of energy training on [SEAI Energy Academy](https://www.seai.ie/energyacademy/)
* Carry out an energy audit - SMEs with an energy spend >€10,000/annum that are not already mandated to get an audit are eligible for €2000 voucher towards an [SEAI Energy Audit](https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/small-and-medium-business/supports/energy-audits/)
* Avail of [GreenStart](https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Productivity/Build-a-green-sustainable-Business/GreenStart/) to develop an Organisational Carbon Reduction Roadmap

6 Ineligible Activities / Costs

* Consultants engaged as an integral component of a training or R&D project. (There are other specific programmes available in these instances)
* The costs of consultants hired for continuous or routine consultancy activities such as legal, financial, market research and PR
* Energy audits mandated under the European Energy Efficiency Directive and transposed into Irish legislation in SI 426 of 2014 and amended by SI 626 of 2016 and SI 599 of 2019.
* Subsidising a client's regular operating expenses.

# 7 Environmental Legislation & Do No Significant Harm Compliance

7.1 All projects supported under the Green Transition fund and the EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) must comply with relevant EU and national environmental legislation and in particular with the ‘Do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).

Specifically the following projects are not eligible:

* activities related to fossil fuels, including downstream use[[1]](#footnote-2)
* activities under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant benchmarks[[2]](#footnote-3);
* activities related to waste landfills, incinerators[[3]](#footnote-4) and mechanical biological treatment plants[[4]](#footnote-5); and
* activities where the long-term disposal of waste may cause harm to the environment.

Applicants are required to confirm compliance with relevant EU and National environmental legislations and the ineligible projects listed above.

7.2 The EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) requires that no measure (i.e. no investment or reform) should lead to significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives set out under Article 17 of the EU Regulation on the framework for sustainable investment (‘Do No Significant Harm’)[[5]](#footnote-6).

Applicants are required to confirm that the supported project will comply with these requirements., i.e. that the project will do no significant harm (DNSH) to the environmental objectives under each of the six headings. These are set out in the table below, with a description of each objective provided.  A brief justification for compliance with the objectives is required in the application (sample text is given below).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective** | **Description of DNSH objective** |
| 1. Climate change mitigation
 | Investment will not lead to significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions |
| 1. Climate change adaptation
 | Investment will not lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the activity itself or on people, nature or assets |
| 1. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
 | Investment is not detrimental to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater, or to the good environmental status of marine waters |
| 1. The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling
 | Investment will not lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources, OrInvestment will not significantly increase the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, Or Investment will not lead to long-term disposal of waste that may cause significant and long-term environmental harm; |
| 1. Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land
 | Investment will not lead to a significant increase in emissions of pollutants into air, water or land; |
| 1. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems
 | Investment is not significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems, or detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest. |
| **Declaration:**I declare that this project will comply with the above objectives  | Yes/No |
| Justification - Please provide a short justification to support the declaration above in respect of the project*Sample text: The project being supported is for the development of a decarbonisation plan, delivered through consultancy, and will have an insignificant foreseeable impact on any of the six environmental objectives above.* |

1. Except projects under this measure in power and/or heat generation, as well as related transmission and distribution infrastructure, using natural gas, that are compliant with the conditions set out in Annex III of the ‘Do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Where the activity supported achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not substantially lower than the relevant benchmarks an explanation of the reasons why this is not possible should be provided. Benchmarks established for free allocation for activities falling within the scope of the Emissions Trading System, as set out in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in plants exclusively dedicated to treating non-recyclable hazardous waste, and to existing plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency, capturing exhaust gases for storage or use or recovering materials from incineration ashes, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants’ waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in existing mechanical biological treatment plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency or retrofitting to recycling operations of separated waste to compost bio-waste and anaerobic digestion of bio-waste, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants’ waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. REGULATION (EU) 2020/852 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment [↑](#footnote-ref-6)