 

Strategic Consultancy Assignment Guidelines – Sustainability/Environmental Studies Pre-Investment

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Strategic Consultancy Assignment Guidelines

1 Application Process

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

1.2 The company may be invited to apply online for Strategic Consultancy funding. Prior to submitting an application, a ‘draft’ application may be shared on the online application portal with the client advisor and green team ([green@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:green@enterprise-ireland.com)) for review and feedback.

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)

vA**Strategic Consultancy Plan** (& energy audit compliance scheme declaration if relevant) are required in addition to the on-line application**.** Download the strategic consultancy plan template [here](https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/supports/strategic-consultancy-assignment)or email [green@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:green@enterprise-ireland.com) for the template which should be completed and returned to [green@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto: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](mailto:IndustryGrantClaims@enterprise-ireland.com) prior to the Final Claim Date.

1. Eligible Activities

SMEs

* Eligible projects must be new assignments of strategic significance to the company.
* Environmental studies or consultancy services with an external expert(s) for improved levels of environmental protection, including decarbonisation, increased energy and resource efficiency and renewable energy generation.

Large Companies

* Environmental studies or consultancy services directly linked to investments for improved levels of environmental protection, including decarbonisation, increased energy and resource efficiency and renewable energy generation.

Note

* For companies with lower energy usage/less complex operations, GreenStart is more appropriate
* Large companies are not eligible for other strategic assignments under the Strategic Consultancy Grant

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. Aid shall not be granted for energy audits carried out to comply with Directive 2012/27/EU, unless the energy audit is carried out in addition to the mandatory energy audit under that Directive.
* Subsidising a client's regular operating expenses.

# 7 Environmental Legislation & Do No Significant Harm Compliance

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 that the supported project will comply with relevant EU and National environmental legislations and the ineligible projects listed above and that the project will do no significant harm and will comply with ‘Do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). A brief justification for compliance is required in the application (sample text is given below).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Declaration:**  I declare that this project will comply with relevant EU and national environmental legislation and the ineligible projects listed above. | 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 comply with EU and national legislation and the ineligible projects listed 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)