



Acorn Bioenergy Limited Community Fund Offer Policy

August 2024

Community Fund Offer Policy Statement

Acorn Bioenergy Limited (“**Acorn**”) is a developer of renewable gas (biomethane) generation facilities with plans to develop new generation projects across the UK to feed into the national gas network.

Acorn’s plan for growth within the UK renewables sector is driven by our commitment to protecting the environment by accelerating the UK’s energy transition away from its heavy reliance on damaging fossil fuels, replacing them with renewable sources of energy including green gas. As such, Acorn strives for the highest standards possible across all business areas and activities.

Scope

Acorn is focused on being a force for good to all our neighbours and local communities. All our renewable gas projects are designed to a high standard, embed best practice and minimise impacts to acceptable levels.

Alongside the benefits that Acorn’s projects bring in terms of energy sustainability, security and affordability, Acorn also aims to bring localised benefits to the area by working with those local communities hosting our projects through offering a community fund.

Acorn will look to distribute community funds to provide financial support for community activities or projects local to our facilities. Acorn is committed to contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (“**SDGs**”) as detailed in Acorn’s Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy. Acorn seeks to support projects that improve the local community or anything which promotes the economic, social or environmental sustainability of the local area, and are aligned with Acorn’s ESG Policy. The funding approach will be determined on a project-by-project basis.

Acorn aims to work with the local community to establish arrangements for the fund, including the area and scope of delivery of the funds that best works for the local community. The fund available is typically in the region of £20,000 and can support a large single project or be disseminated across a number of smaller projects.

Examples of the types of potentially suitable community projects include:

- a. Additional support for training and employment (SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth);
- b. Education and Culture including support for local facilities and organisations (SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth);
- c. Social Assistance to support projects involved with care and health (SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing);
- d. Local Sports, including improvements to facilities and sponsorship for local teams (SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, and SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities);
- e. Promotion of Renewable Energy Locally including promoting the use of renewable energy in local municipal buildings through initiatives like

photovoltaic roofs, energy efficiency measures in public buildings and establishing Renewable Energy classrooms (SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, and SDG 13 Climate Action);

- f. Improvements to local Infrastructure such as playgrounds and the local environment (SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Policy Status

This Community Fund Offer Policy has the commitment of both Acorn's Board of Directors and Acorn's Management Committee, who will provide the resources and support necessary to implement this policy effectively. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its continued relevance to Acorn's operations.

Administration

The overall fund is administered by Acorn and the arrangements will be approved by Acorn. Acorn will work with strategic local partners to establish arrangements for the administration and scope of the fund for each project on a site-by-site basis (a "**Local Fund**").

Generally, Acorn will establish a Working Group formed of local stakeholder representatives (including landowners, parish and town councils or any other identified local stakeholders) and Acorn and the working group will consider funding applications from the local community.

The allocation of funding from the Local Fund will be made in accordance with the decision of the Working Group.

Typically, the Local Fund will be available on the first anniversary of the facility generating and exporting green gas and, thereafter, every year for the lifetime of the facility.

The policy covers all biomethane gas generation sites that Acorn develops and operates.

Application

Each of the Local Funds will feature on Acorn's main website along with details of how to make an application and eligibility. No employee of Acorn will be eligible to make an application. The funds will normally be awarded on commencement of operation, and on each anniversary of operational commencement after that for the life of the facility.

Acorn reserves the right to publicise the award and the subsequent works.

The following projects cannot be supported:

- Projects which are inconsistent with the SDGs;
- Projects which are inconsistent with Acorn's company policies;
- Projects which do not support the identified local community;



- Projects which relate to the advancement of politics or religion; and
- Anti-renewable energy activities, including activities contrary to the interests of Acorn

Planning

Community Fund Offers are a voluntary initiative by Acorn, and are entirely separate to any project planning application, and is not a material consideration to the determination of any such planning application. The offer is not contingent upon receiving local community support; nor is it necessary to make the project planning application acceptable in planning terms; and nor should it be relied upon as a reason to grant or refuse planning permission.

Document Identification	Community Fund Offer Policy
Application of this Document	United Kingdom
Document at this moment repealed	N/A
Related documents	Acorn's ESG Policy
Responsible for the application of this Document	Management Committee
Date of approval	XX/XX/2024
Procedure for approval of this Document	Minutes of the Management Committee
Version	V. 1