

GreenPlus Assignment Guidelines

**Index**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 Application Process | 2 |
| 2 Assignment Costs / Duration | 2 |
| 3 GreenPlus Progress Report & Claim | 3 |
| 4 Eligible Activities | 3 |
| 5 Ineligible Activities / Costs | 6 |
| 6 Environmental Legislation & Do No Significant Harm Compliance | 7 |

GreenPlus Assignment Guidelines

1 Application Process

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

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

1.3 As part of the application, applicants must provide an Organisational Carbon Footprint through completion of the [Climate Toolkit 4 Business Carbon Calculator](https://www.climatetoolkit4business.gov.ie/) / GHG protocol / ISO 14064-1 / similar.

1.4 Applications are subject to an evaluation process.

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

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

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

1.8 The assignment can then commence.

The following information is required in the Application form:

i Company background

ii Project details (to include brief details of any previous Climate Action Voucher/GreenStart/GreenPlus Assignments)

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

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

v **A** [**Training Plan**](https://www.leanbusinessireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/GreenPlus-Training-Application.xlsx) **is required in addition to the on-line application.** The training plan is emailed to [green@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:green@enterprise-ireland.com)

2 Assignment Costs / Duration

2.1 A GreenPlus Assignment will typically be 12 months in duration. The ‘Final Claim Date’ is given on the ‘Letter of Offer’ and is 18 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

Salary costs of up to 10 company green project team members (up to 50% of the total project cost), subject to a combined maximum of 250 days with a maximum of 100 days per internal project team member at a maximum supported rate of €200 per day

Training course fees where applicable for the specialized external course that support the project goals

Typically courses should be no longer than 30 days in duration

2.3 Total project cost up to €100,000 plus VAT, maximum EI grant up to €50,000 excluding VAT

2.4 It is the responsibility of the company to claim the GreenPlus funding support

2.5 The company is responsible for the payment of the green service provider’s and course fees before making a claim (proof of payment will be required).

3 GreenPlus Interim & Final Progress Report & Claim

3.1 The company downloads the ‘GreenPlus Claim & Director Statement’ and ‘GreenPlus Progress Report’ on [GreenPlus Claim page](https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Process/Companies/GreenPlus-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.

4 Eligible Activities

GreenPlus is a **training/advisory** project carried out by external Green Service Providers directly with an eligible company. The aim of the project is to improve the environmental performance of the company thereby increasing the agility and resilience of client companies to climate change impacts. The Service Provider provides training, advice and guidance to the company green project team on **one or more activities** as outlined in Sections 4.1 – 4.16. Projects may be a combination of activities as outlined below e.g. Environmental Management, carbon footprinting & sustainable strategy.

GreenPlus is open to companies who do not already have a GreenStart/Plus project under way. A follow-on GreenPlus project **may** be approved subject to the project bringing the company on a further **significant step up in terms of capability** rather than effectively continuing on with similar or closely related work. There is an absolute limit of 3 GreenPlus project approvals per company.

*Companies at the early stages of their green journey are recommended to*

* *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/)

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| **4.1 Environmental Management System**  Training to implement ISO 14001 or similar  Review environmental activities and practices at the site  Establish a baseline assessment to identify possible savings and KPIs  Identify resource, emissions and cost savings opportunities  Assist with preparation of an Environmental Policy and an Environmental Management System (EMS) based on a ‘Plan, Do, Check, Act’ philosophy  Provide suggestions on the format and frequency of reports, including KPI check for performance evaluation  Provide training and guidance on the implementation of software tools to measure, manage and report  Provide advice on risks (financial, reputational, regulatory or physical) and how to mitigate them  Provide introductory training for relevant staff  Assist with access to other tools and resources to maintain performance and to improve resource efficiency |
| **4.2 Energy Management System**  Training to implement ISO 50001 or similar  Review energy activities and practices at the site, identify energy sources and significant energy users  Establish a baseline assessment to establish Energy Performance Indicators (EnPIs)  Provide suggestions on the format and frequency of Energy Reports, including EnPI check for performance evaluation  Provide training and guidance on the implementation of software tools to measure, manage and report  Assist with preparation of an Energy Policy and Management System based on a ‘Plan, Do, Check, Act’ philosophy  Advise on other technical and financial supports, e.g. SEAI supports & Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) |
| **4.3 Carbon Management System / Carbon Footprinting**  Training to implement ISO 14064-1, GHG Protocol, ISO 14067 or similar  Quantify the Organisation’s/Product(s) carbon footprint; Scope 1, 2 and 3 (if data available)  Provide/curate a spreadsheet-based data collection model to enable the company project team to continue to quantify the Organisations/Products  carbon footprint going forward  Provide training and guidance on the implementation of software tools to measure, manage and report  Assist with preparation of a Carbon Policy and Management System based on a ‘Plan, Do, Check, Act’ philosophy  Assist with developing a Decarbonisation strategy and action plan |
| **4.4 Water Stewardship**  Provide training to implement European Water Stewardship Standard (EWS), Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard (AWS) or similar  Review water stewardship activities and practices at the site  Provide advice on water risks (financial, reputational, regulatory or physical) and how to mitigate them  Assist with preparation of a Water Stewardship Map, Targets and Action Plan  Establish a baseline assessment to identify possible savings and KPIs  Provide introductory training for relevant staff  Assist with access to other tools and resources to maintain performance and to improve water stewardship |
| **4.5 Corporate Sustainable Strategy**  Provide training/advice to develop a corporate sustainable / decarbonisation strategy  Advise on the development of corporate sustainability policies, objectives, and plans  Guidance on setting appropriate sustainability performance measures, KPIs and targets  Provide training and guidance on the implementation of software tools to measure, manage and report  Guidance on the development of stakeholder engagement and materiality programmes to assess key sustainability priorities  Guidance with aligning to global & national sustainability frameworks, pledges, and disclosure systems e.g. UN SDGs, Science Based Targets Initiative, TCFD,  SME Climate Action Hub, PAS 2060, B Corps, CDP, GRI, Origin Green. |
| **4.6 Climate Adaptation**  Provide training to develop skills on identifying and understanding climate risks and opportunities based on the Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), ISO 14090 or similar  Guidance on implementing the appropriate Governance structures, strategy, climate scenario planning and metrics & targets |
| **4.7 Product Environmental Footprinting and Organisation Environmental Footprinting**  Provide a Product Environmental Footprint for a company’s manufactured goods and/or an Organisation Environmental Footprint for a particular production site/organisation, to act as a benchmark for further improvements, and to report footprints to the market  Provide training on use of an environmental footprinting tool based on the Life Cycle Methodology (LCA, relevant standards ISOs 14040, 14044, 14025, ISO 14067, PAS 2050). The tool will express the environmental footprints in CO2 as well as several other environmental indicators  Assist the company in using the LCA tool to generate, interpret and use the footprint results to identify environmental hotspots and understand their own Scopes 1, 2 and 3 (direct and indirect) CO2 and other emissions; thus enabling the company to footprint their own products and organisation, and monitor and report the improvements in their environmental performance to the market  Assist the company with preparation of Environmental Product Declarations (relevant standard EN 15804), Ecolabels or similar environmental footprint declarations |
| **4.8 Circular Economy thinking**  Provide training to understand the circular economy principles, designing for a circular economy, the transition to circular business models and how to communicate the business value in a circular economy  Advise on key challenges and opportunities in transitioning to a more circular business model  Provide training on understanding the systemic changes required in buyer and supplier relationships and contracts necessary to accelerate the circular economy transition  Assist with developing a resource efficient innovation project for a more circular product, process or service  Assist with the design of a new circular economy pilots or trials, including the facilitation of collaboration between suppliers and customers.  Assist with access to tools for measuring the impact of the Circular Economy; LCA and product carbon accounting |
| **4.9 Ecodesign**  Provide training/advice in innovative design for sustainability e.g. designing a product from concept taking into account sustainability |
| **4.10 Green Procurement/Tenders**  Provide training/advice in Green Procurement/tendering, integrating sustainability into the procurement/tendering process |
| **4.11 Sustainable Packaging**  Raise knowledge and understanding around Sustainable Packaging, including design processes, strategies, tools and opportunities for development of more sustainable and circular packaging solutions  Enable companies to understand what adopting a Sustainable Packaging means for them and how to make Sustainable Packaging a reality in their company  Guidance on assessing and measuring sustainability in packaging in particular relating to end of life and recycling options  Assist with developing more sustainable innovative packaging |
| **4.12 Plastic Management**  Review and document plastic used across each Department  Implement a plastic indexing tool to map and track the types, quantities and fates of each type of plastic encountered  Establish the baseline of current plastic used and identify the opportunities and challenges to improve performance  Establish key metrics for measuring performance overtime  Develop Roadmap of plastic improvement across each Department  Provide training and guidance on the implementation of software tools to measure, manage and report  Provide introductory training to relevant staff  Assist with access to other tools and resources for responsible plastic management |
| **4.13 Sustainable Logistics**  Provide training/advice to measurably reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants & improve fuel efficiency based on GLEC framework or similar. Scope may include all modes (road, rail, sea, air), sub-suppliers, city and reverse logistics, and their internal and external impacts |
| **4.14 Biodiversity**  Provide training/mentoring on biodiversity awareness  Gain an understanding of the environmental impacts of the business and of upstream and downstream activities, e.g. extraction of raw materials, processing and use of products/service, to identify areas to focus improvement activities on  Develop a biodiversity policy and action plan  Provide training and guidance on the implementation of software tools to measure, manage and report  Provide introductory training to relevant staff  Assist with access to other tools and resources to protect Biodiversity, natural environment, species and natural habitats |
| **4.15 Communications**  Provide training/advice on internal and external sustainability communications, messaging & reporting |
| **4.16 Employee & Customer Engagement**  Provide training and advice to engage employees and customers, create an environmental awareness and achieve long term sustainable behavioural change |

5 Ineligible Activities / Costs

* Technical Feasibility Studies, Capital costs e.g. meters, General Consultancy including Market research, IT implementation e.g. installation and customisation of analytic platforms, Financial review and planning, HR consulting or Health and Safety training are not eligible.
* Energy audits by companies already required to carry out an energy audit under the Energy Efficiency Directive are not eligible

# Environmental Legislation & Do No Significant Harm Compliance

6.1 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.

6.2 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,  Or  Investment 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)