



Our Ref: PQ 23844/24

12th June 2024

Mr. Darren O'Rourke T.D.

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

Dear Darren,

I refer to Parliamentary Question 23844/24 for answer on 27 May 2024: *'To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Trade and Employment if he will report on the supports available from his Department for businesses to decarbonise; if he will provide a breakdown of schemes; the amount of funding available to be drawn down per scheme ; the amount of funding drawn down per scheme; the number of grants awarded per scheme; the average amount awarded in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024, per scheme, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter''*.

Over the next decade the transition to a low carbon economy will substantially alter the business environment. My Department is actively promoting and financially supporting decarbonisation across our enterprise base. We have integrated climate action into all aspects of the Department remit and our enterprise agencies' activities. 'Integrating Decarbonisation and Net Zero Commitments' has been a key policy priority under the White Paper on Enterprise.

We are determined to ensure decarbonisation happens in a way that improves the competitiveness and resilience of our economy, businesses and employment. Government agencies such as Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland are already working together, and with many of our businesses across manufacturing, retail and the services sector, to promote the widespread uptake of decarbonisation technologies and energy efficiency initiatives.

All in all, 2,158 projects have been approved to date across all enterprise agencies, ranging from grants as small as €1,800 up to an average of €3.5 million for some of our larger capital decarbonisation investments. A full breakdown of supports, and the funding respective to each of them can be found in the Appendix accompanying my answer.

As with all funding, there remains an interim period between the allocation for a project and the payment drawdown, especially for larger decarbonisation investment projects. This can be noted in the figure from Table 1. Our agencies continue to accelerate support for

businesses through the Green Capital Grant, Energy Efficiency Grants, and Green for Business which was a relaunch of the successful Green for Micro scheme, expanded to included larger SMEs.

My Department continues to provide non-financial supports such as the Climate Toolkit 4 Business, which is a carbon calculator and action plan generator tool and it provides businesses with an understanding of their current carbon footprint and provides information on resources available to reduce their emissions. The target audience for the Toolkit is SMEs and micro enterprises who wish to start their decarbonisation journey and that do not yet have a sophisticated understanding of their carbon emissions or the steps they should consider to reduce their emissions. The Toolkit directs businesses to the appropriate financial support to their business size and sector.

My department and the agencies under its aegis will continue to accelerate the green transition through client company engagement, uptake of decarbonisation supports and public awareness campaigns.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Burke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Burke T.D.

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Appendix

Table 1: Total budget, project approvals, average amount awarder per project and drawdown per enterprise agency scheme							
			2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Environmental Aid Programme (2020-2023)	Budget: €150 million per annum	No. of projects approved	18 Projects				---
		Avg. Amount Awarded	€2.18m	€1.48m	€3.52m	€2.02m	---
		Amount Drawn Down	€0.92m	€1.47m	€0.37m	€0.53m	€0.15m
Climate Action Vouchers, GreenStart & GreenPlus (2020-2022)	Budget: None - funded from EI's overall annual budget	No. of projects approved	25 proj.	135 proj.	60 proj.	---	---
		Avg. Amount Awarded	€12,464	€6,387	€9,110	---	---
		Amount Drawn Down	€4,075	€4,704	€5,959	€15,353	€15,834
Green for Business (2021-present)	Budget: €4,825,500 total from annual budgets	No. of projects approved	---	293 proj.	415 proj.	554 proj.	317 proj.
		Avg. Amount Awarded	---	€1,873	€1,998	€2,054	€2,120
		Amount Drawn Down	---	€0.71m	€0.82m	€1.19m	€0.63m
Sustainable Recovery Scheme (2022-2023)	Budget: €5 million max per company (funded from overall annual IDA budget)	No. of projects approved	---	---	12 projects		---
		Avg. Amount Awarded	---	---	€1.13m	€0.75m	---
		Amount Drawn Down	---	---	---	---	---
Green Transition Fund (2022-2026)	Budget: €55 million over lifetime	No. of projects approved	---	---	82 proj.	181 proj.	71 proj.
		Avg. Amount Awarded	---	---	€22,973	€43,404	€31,685
		Amount Drawn Down	---	---	€0.03m	€1.13m	€0.51m
Energy Efficiency Grant (2023-present)	Budget: €2,075,000 from annual budgets	No. of projects approved	---	---	---	35 proj.	31 proj.
		Avg. Amount Awarded	---	---	---	€3,926	€4,409
		Amount Drawn Down	---	---	---	€0.06m	€0.33m
Green Capital Grant (2024-present)	Budget: €150 million per annum	No. of projects approved	---	---	---	---	7 projects
		Avg. Amount Awarded	---	---	---	---	€1.01m
		Amount Drawn Down	---	---	---	---	---

*2024 figures are based on various end dates in 2024 respective to agency reporting timelines.

Appendix (continued)

Table 2: Breakdown of Decarbonisation Schemes offered by enterprise agencies		
Name of Support	Agency Offering	Description
Environmental Aid Programme	EI*, IDA	Capital grant for large sustainability & decarbonisation projects. Replaced by the Green Capital Grant to account for updates to the General Bloc Exemption Regulation (GBER).
Green Capital Grant	EI, IDA	30%-50% Grant rate, no effective cap on support beyond an annual limit of €150 million for the scheme. Capital grant for large sustainability & decarbonisation projects, generally for projects in the millions of euros.
Sustainable Recovery Scheme	EI, IDA	30% grant rate, up to €5 million in grant support funded from IDA and EI' overall grants budget. A support for capital investments in sustainability.
Climate Planning Fund for Business	EI, LEOs* (GreenStart only)	Sub-stream of the Green Transition Fund, offers 4 grants, ranging from €1,800 to €50,000 with varying grant rates per stream. The fund is targeted at companies of different sizes and at different stages of engagement to accelerate their awareness of CO ₂ abatement opportunities, build capacity and put in place sustainability plans. Supports include: Climate Action Voucher, GreenStart, GreenPlus & the Strategic Consultancy Grant
Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund	EI, IDA	Sub-stream of the Green transition Fund, offers 6 grants, ranging from €5,000 up to €1 million in grant support with varying grant rates per stream. This stream targets manufacturing companies using fossil fuels and incentivises them to adopt CO ₂ abatement technologies in their processes. Supports include: Capital Investment for Decarbonised Processes, Energy Monitoring & Tracking Systems, RD&I Fund, Innovation Vouchers, Exploring Innovation Grant & Agile Innovation Fund
Green for Business (formally Green for Micro)	LEOs	Small and Micro enterprises (up to 50 staff) can avail of free expert advice and mentorship and a unique report for their business to understand and plan the next steps in their sustainability.
Energy Efficiency Grant	LEOs	50% grant rate, ranging from €1,000 to €5,000 , supporting the investment in technologies following on from a Green for Business Report or SEAI Energy Audit to increase resilience of the business.

*EI = Enterprise Ireland, LEOs = Local Enterprise Offices