



Anseo chun gnó a fhorbairt

Corparáid Baincéireachta Straitéiseach na hÉireann

Here to build business

Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland

Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme

**Use Case Document for eligibility of Climate Action and
Environmental Sustainability support**

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In this document:

“Evidence of Use of Funds” means: documentation evidencing the cost(s) of certain relevant expenditure such as in the form of invoices, purchase contracts, price quotation/technical offer, project implementation documents etc. or a combination thereof.

“PDF Report Technical Documentation” means a “PDF Report generated by the SBCI Tool” confirming the eligibility of specific measure/s under the EIF InvestEU Sustainability Guarantee

“Other Technical Documentation” means documentation other than “PDF Report Technical Documentation” used to confirm the eligibility of an investment with certain thresholds, parameters, minimum reduction levels, certifications, etc. as further specified under the relevant eligibility criteria.

“Technical Documentation” means “PDF Report Technical Documentation” or “Other Technical Documentation” as the case may be.

Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability

Eligibility Criteria

1| Investments for climate change mitigation

1.1 | Renewable energy (RE)

Eligibility Criteria no 2.1

Investments in RE projects, production and/or transmission of RE, RE electricity storage solutions, RE heating and/or cooling systems, manufacturing of products, components and machinery for RE.

WHAT is eligible:

Investments in the purchase, storage, distribution, transmission, installation of equipment, systems, processes and/or RE components utilising renewable energy resources as described below.

Eligible renewable energy type:

Solar energy

- Energy generated through solar photovoltaics panels (PV)
- Heating and cooling solar thermal systems

Eligible investments examples:

- ✓ Solar panels and components;
- ✓ Solar thermal heating (space and water) systems and components;
- ✓ Solar thermal cooling systems and components
- ✓ All ancillary components (except investments for their production), such as: AC/DC convertors, transformers, inverters, power meters, batteries, installation expenses and grid connection costs
- ✓ Manufacture of electrical equipment for electricity from solar;

Wind energy

Energy generated through wind turbines or wind energy conversion systems

Eligible investments examples:

- ✓ Wind turbines and components;
- ✓ All ancillary components (except investment for their production) such as AC/DC convertors; transformers, inverters, power meters, batteries, installation expenses and grid connection costs;

Geothermal	Eligible investments examples:	
Heating generated from geothermal source	✓ Geothermal heat pumps; ✓ Geothermal plants operating at life cycle emissions lower than 100 CO2e/kWh; ✓ All ancillary components (except investments for their production) such as AC/DC convertors, transformers, inverters, power meters, batteries, installation expenses and grid connection costs;	
Renewable energy (RE) transmission, distribution and storage solutions	Investments in: ✓ Transmission, distribution, direct connection, equipment or expansion of an existing direct connection of renewable electricity generation; ✓ Equipment and infrastructure where the main objective is to increase the generation or introduce renewable electricity generation; ✓ Mini-grids, smart grids and components; ✓ Equipment to increase the controllability and observability of the electricity system and enable the development and integration of renewable energy sources, this includes: ○ Sensors and measurement tools (including meteorological sensors for forecasting renewable production); ○ Communication and control (including advanced software and control rooms, automation of substations or feeders, and voltage control capabilities to adapt to more decentralised renewable infeed); ○ Equipment to carry information to users for remotely acting on consumption; ○ Equipment to allow for exchange of renewable electricity between users; ○ Interconnectors between transmission systems, provided that one of the systems is eligible; ○ Thermal energy storage equipment; ○ Electricity storage equipments / Batteries for the use of renewable energy resources;	
HOW is the Borrower Transaction eligibility assessment made:		
Type of energy	Threshold requirement	Eligibility check for Borrower which are SMEs and/or Small Mid-caps

SOLAR	No specific eligibility/ threshold applicable	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; AND 2. Evidence of Use of Funds;
WIND	No specific eligibility / threshold applicable	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; AND 2. Evidence of Use of Funds;
GEOTHERMAL	Plants operating at life cycle emissions lower than 100gCO ₂ e/kWh	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; AND 2. Evidence of Use of Funds;
✓ In case of ancillary components, document evidencing the costs; AND ✓ Evidence of Use of Funds;		
RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE SOLUTIONS: The assessment of the Borrower Transaction eligibility is based on: ✓ Other Technical Documentation with key technical data; AND ✓ Evidence of Use of Funds;		
MANUFACTURING OF RE PRODUCTS: KEY COMPONENTS AND MACHINERY: The assessment of the Borrower Transaction eligibility is based on: ✓ Other Technical Documentation with key technical data; AND ✓ Evidence of Use of Funds;		

2.2 Green and energy efficient certified buildings - commercial

Eligibility Criteria no 2

Investment in the construction or renovation of commercial buildings, resulting in minimum qualifying energy performance or meeting minimum thresholds.

WHAT is eligible:

2.2.1 Investment(s) in renovation of commercial buildings:

(A) Where savings in Primary Energy Demand (PED) are of at least 30% in comparison to the baseline performance of the building before the renovation, where the reductions in net primary energy demand through renewable energy sources are not taken into account.

2.2.2 Investment(s) in renovation of commercial buildings from a pre-defined list of standardized building renovation measures/eligible equipment, concretely:

(A) Installation of individual measures:

- Insulation;
- window and door replacements;
- heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment (HVAC); heating equipment based on fossil fuels are not eligible;
- replacement of boilers or stoves, except when based on fossil fuels;

Which comply with the minimum requirements set in the applicable national regulations transposing the Energy Performance Building Directive (EPBD) and also, in the case of products, comply with any applicable Commission implementing regulation under the eco-design Directive 2009/125/EC1.

(B) In addition to the above, the following individual measures are always considered eligible, if compliant with minimum requirements set for individual components and systems in the applicable national measures implementing Directive 2010/31/EU:

B.1. INSULATION MEASURES

- i. Insulation like external walls, roofs, green roofs and walls, lofts, basements, ground floors with low thermal conductivity, external cladding and roofing systems with U-value lower

or equal to 0.3 W/(m²K). Energy efficient windows (U-value lower or equal than 1 W/(m²K). This includes measures to ensure air-tightness, measures to reduce the effects of thermal bridges adhesive, etc;

- ii. In the case of replacement of external doors with new energy efficient doors, they shall meet the minimum requirements set for doors in the applicable national regulations transposing the Energy Performance Building Directive (EPBD);

B.2 HEATING/COOLING MEASURES

- i. Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and domestic hot water products or packages subject to an EU Energy Label requirement and rated in the highest two significantly populated classes of energy efficiency, or in higher classes as laid down in a delegated act under Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 or Directive 2010/30/EU. Heating equipments based on fossil fuels are not eligible;
- ii. Zoned thermostats, smart thermostat systems (hardware, communication systems and programming software applications) and sensing equipment, e.g. motion and day light control;
- iii. Products for heat metering and thermostatic controls for individual homes connected to district heating systems and individual flats connected to central heating systems serving a whole building;

B.3 BUILDING MEASURES

- i. Energy-efficient building automation and control systems for commercial buildings as defined according to the EN 15232 standard. E.g. Building Automation and Control Systems (BACS), Building Management Systems (BMS) and Energy Management Systems (EMS) e.g. All hardware, meters or sub meters, communication systems and software/programming needed for the supervision of the technical systems of the building and for the monitoring and improvement of the energy consumption of the buildings;
- ii. Façade and roofing elements with a solar shading or solar control function, including those that support the growing of vegetation, passive systems (for example thermal zoning, passive solar gains and daylighting through the glazed façade and natural ventilation strategies) and any other measures that reduce the energy demand of the building not covered elsewhere;

B.4. OTHER MEASURES

- i. Light sources subject to EU energy labelling rules² and rated in the highest two significantly populated classes of energy efficiency, or at higher classes and its associated equipment (Cabling, transformers, control systems, etc.);

2.2.3 Investment(s) in construction for commercial buildings: Buildings below 5000 m² upon completion, where the Primary Energy Demand (PED) defining the energy performance of the building is at least 10% lower than the threshold set for the nearly zero-energy building (NZEB).

2.2.A Additionally, the following ancillary, type of activities related to any of the eligibility sub-criteria under eligibility criteria number 2.2 are eligible:

- Technical consultations (architects, energy consultants, energy simulation, project management, production of energy performance certificates (EPC), dedicated training, etc.);
- For SMES, accredited energy audits; for Small Mid-Caps, accredited energy audits excluding mandatory energy audits carried out to comply with Directive 2012/27/EU³;
- Building performance assessments;
- Energy management services;
- Energy performance contracts;
- Investments of energy service companies (ESCOs) in equipment to deliver on the energy saving contracts;

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2015 of 11 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to energy labelling of light sources
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1575537561243&uri=CELEX:32019R2015>

³ To be noted that Directive 2012/27/EU excludes SMEs from its scope.

HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

The assessment of the Borrower Transaction eligibility is based on:

(A) In case of 2.2.1 and 2.2.3, ex-ante Other Technical Documentation such as:

- ✓ Energy performance certificate; OR
- ✓ External energy audit; OR
- ✓ External technical assessment/opinion;

In each case, performed by an independent expert/supplier.

AND

- ✓ Evidence of Use of Funds;

(B) In case of 2.2.2:

- ✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation; OR
- ✓ Other Technical Documentation including the technical parameters (e.g. U-value), as applicable, of the relevant individual measure;
- ✓ In case of ancillary activities (2.2.A), document(s) proving the services to be provided;

AND

- ✓ Evidence of Use of Funds;

2.3 | Industrial energy efficiency

Eligibility Criteria no 2.3

2.3.1. Investments in standardized energy efficiency measures from a pre-defined list

2.3.2 Investment in technology, equipment or machinery that reduce significantly energy consumption/GHG emissions (including replacements).

WHAT is eligible:

2.3.1 Investments in standardized energy efficiency measures from a pre-defined list

(A) Investment in the purchase/installation of any of the items from the list of pre-defined energy efficiency standardised measures/eligible equipment as described in eligibility criteria number 2.2.2

(B) Investments related with the manufacturing of the following:

- Household appliances (e.g. washing machines, dishwashers) and of space or water heating appliances rated in highest two significantly populated classes of energy efficiency, or in higher classes as laid down in a delegated act under Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 or Directive 2010/30/EU;
- Energy efficient windows (U-value lower or equal to 1.0W/m²K);
- Doors with U-value lower or equal to 1.2 W/m²K;
- External wall systems (with U-value lower or equal to 0.5 W/m²K);
- Insulating products with a lower lambda value equal to 0.06 W/mK;
- Light sources rated in the highest two populated classes of energy efficiency in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 and delegated acts adopted under that Regulation;
- Space heating and domestic hot water systems;
- Cooling and ventilation systems rated in the highest two populated classes of energy efficiency in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 and delegated acts adopted under that Regulation;
- Presence and daylight controls for lighting systems;
- Heat pumps compliant with the technical screening criteria (a) refrigerant; threshold: GWP does not exceed 675; (b) energy efficiency requirements laid down in the implementing regulations under Directive 2009/125/EC are met.);
- Energy-efficient building automation and control systems for residential and non-residential buildings;
- Products for heat metering and thermostatic controls for individual homes connected to district heating systems, for individual flats connected to central heating systems serving a whole building, and for central heating systems;
- District heating exchangers and substations compliant with the district heating/cooling distribution activity, except those using natural gas;
- Products for smart monitoring and regulating of heating system, and sensoring equipment;

(C) Additionally, the following ancillary type of activities related to eligibility criteria number 2.3.1 are eligible:

- Technical consultations (architects, energy consultants, energy simulation, project management, production of energy performance certificates (EPC), dedicated training, etc.);
- For SMES, accredited energy audits; for Small Mid-Caps, accredited energy audits excluding mandatory energy audits carried out to comply with Directive 2012/27/EU⁴;
- Building performance assessments;
- Energy management services;
- Energy performance contracts;
- Investments of energy service companies (ESCOs), in equipment to deliver on the energy saving contracts;

2.3.2. Production, installation of products or application of technology that reduce significantly energy consumption/GHG emissions, incl. investment in replacing existing technology, equipment, machines providing at least a decrease in energy use (kWh) of at least 30% or GHG emission reduction of minimum 30%.

(A) In the case of industrial EE, - decrease in energy use (kWh) or GHG emission reduction.

Such investments may include:

- Electrical equipment;
- Electric motors with VSDs (variable speed drives);
- VSDs;
- Machines, compressors

(B) Examples of investments in the case of Borrowers operating in agriculture:

- The replacement of self-propelled or traction agricultural (farm/forest) machinery (heavy and light duty) if they can demonstrate a substantial reduction (min 10%) in GHG emissions reduction. Until 2025, no restrictions on type of fuel applies;
- Modernization of existing irrigation networks/systems involving energy savings (min 10%) including equipment coupled to such investment;

NB: New irrigation and/or expansion of existing irrigation systems are eligible only if the Borrower can demonstrate through relevant documentation, compliance with national rules/prior authorisations regarding the abstraction of fresh surface water and groundwater/ good status of the water bodies:

⁴ To be noted that Directive 2012/27/EU excludes SMEs from its scope.

HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

Applicable for:	Type of verification
2.3.1	✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation; OR ✓ In case of ancillary activities, document proving the services to be provided; AND ✓ Evidence of Use of Funds;
2.3.2	✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation; ✓ Other Technical Documentation; ➤ Including the technical parameters, as applicable; OR ➤ External ex-ante energy assessment/audit/opinion performed by an independent expert/supplier; OR ➤ Internal energy-efficiency plans certified by internal; OR external accredited technical expert or certified under an energy management system (e.g. ISO 50001); OR ➤ Energy (or GHG emission or fuel) ex-ante reduction certified by manufacturers, suppliers or installers, AND ✓ Evidence of Use of Funds.

2.4 | Zero and low emission mobility

Eligibility Criteria no 2.4

Investments in low and/or zero emission transport assets, in renewal and retrofitting of transport assets and infrastructure for zero-emission and clean energy vehicles and vessels.

WHAT is eligible:

For Target Borrowers, which are SMEs or Small Mid-caps

(A) Vehicles

Passenger cars (category M), light commercial vehicles (N1 such as vans)

- Until 31 December 2025, vehicles with tailpipe emission intensity of max 50 g CO₂/km (WLTP), or zero tailpipe emission vehicles (e.g. electric, hydrogen).

- From 1 January 2026, only zero tailpipe emission vehicles (e.g. electric, hydrogen).

In the case of vehicles under category M1, the cost of the vehicle – TVA excluded- must be up to EUR 60,000.

(B) Motorbikes (L)

For category L vehicles:

Zero tailpipe emission vehicles (incl. hydrogen, fuel cell, electric).

(C) Heavy duty vehicles (N2 and N3)

For category N2 and N3 vehicles:

C.1. Heavy Duty Vehicles: N2 vehicles, as defined by (Heavy duty CO₂ Regulation (EU) 2019/1242), maximum loaded weight < 7.5 tonnes:

i. Zero direct emission heavy-duty vehicles that emits less than 1g CO₂/kWh (or 1g CO₂/km for certain N2 vehicles);

C.2. C.2. Heavy Duty Vehicles: N2 and N3 vehicles, as defined by (Heavy duty CO₂ Regulation (EU) 2019/1242), maximum loaded weight > 7.5 tonnes:

i. Zero direct emission heavy-duty vehicles that emits less than 1g CO₂/kWh (or 1g CO₂/km for certain N2 vehicles);

ii. Low-emission heavy-duty vehicles with specific direct CO₂ emissions of less than 50% of the reference CO₂ emissions of all vehicles in the same sub-group as per table below:

Group description	Vehicle Group	Vehicle sub-group*	50% of Reference value CO ₂ [g/tkm]
Rigid, 4x2 axle, GVW > 16t	4	4-UD	153.61
		4-RD	98.58
		4-LH	52.98
Tractor 4x2 axle, GVW > 16t	5	5-RD	42.00
		5-LH	28.30
Rigid, 6x2 axle	9	9-RD	55.49
		9-LH	32.58
Tractor, 6x2 axle	10	10-RD	41.63
		10-LH	29.13

(D) Waterborne

D.1 Inland passenger water transport:

- i. Zero direct (tailpipe) CO₂ emissions;
- ii. Until 31 December 2025, hybrid and dual fuel vessels derive at least 50% of their energy from zero direct (tailpipe) CO₂ emission fuels or plug-in power for their normal operation;

In any case, Vessels are not built, retrofitted and acquired with the explicit intention to predominantly transport or store fossil fuels over the life of the project.

(H) Infrastructure

Infrastructure that is dedicated to the operation of vehicles, aircraft, vessels or personal mobility devices with zero tailpipe CO₂ emissions: electric charging points, electricity grid connection upgrades, hydrogen fuelling stations or electric road systems. Infrastructure and installations that are dedicated to transshipping freight between the modes: terminal infrastructure and superstructures for loading, unloading and transshipment of goods.

HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

The assessment of the Borrower Transaction eligibility is based on::

- ✓ Other Technical Documentation: manual/certificate evidencing type of transport asset and CO₂ emission and the Financial Intermediary verification of the relevant threshold (s);

OR

- ✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation; OR

- ✓ Only for the renewal and retrofitting of vessels, Other Technical Documentation: ex-ante external energy audit, performed by an independent expert/supplier;

AND

- ✓ Evidence of Use of Funds.

5.1 Water resources

Eligibility Criteria no 5.1

Investments in water resource management and efficiency and related technologies.

WHAT is eligible:

Investments in:

(A) Modernisation of infrastructures if designed to improve water conservation, efficiency, reuse and discharge reduction:

- i. Water-saving systems and their components (incl. technologies) that will lead to at least a 10% decrease in water use;
- ii. Installation of water-saving new modern machines, equipment and fittings (e.g. irrigation machines, pumps, filters, pipelines, fittings, remote control systems, meteorological station, ground probes, water meters);
- iii. Water treatment technology for water reuse;
- iv. Implementation of measures resulting from compliance with a certification scheme, such as: EWS Standard, <http://www.ewp.eu/ews-standard>, Sustainability Certification Program <https://www.wqa.org/Sustainability>
- v. Water efficiency of buildings;
- vi. Water savings technologies (smart water meters, pressure control technologies);
- vii. Water flow and level measurement and monitoring and water quality monitoring;
- viii. Improvement and digitisation on water monitoring networks;

(B) Reduction of runoff, increment of percolation and retention measures:

- i. Collection of run-off water for later use;
- ii. Runoff control measures for improving infiltration;
- iii. Investment in enhancing infiltration of rainwater;
- iv. Drainage systems, combination of drainage with water retention;
- v. Improving watershed management;
- vi. Water storage (including insulation) and harvesting (e.g. design and construction of a reservoir, for the retention and storage of precipitation and accumulated inland water falling on the area);
- vii. Shift from combined to separated sewer/storm water systems;

(C) Support for more precise management of irrigation that results in water savings and efficiency:

- Irrigation that leads to water savings of at least a 10% decrease in water use;
- Precision irrigation technologies (e.g. variable rate irrigation, micro-irrigation, combination with liquid fertilisation);

- Development and reconstruction of irrigation infrastructure and related structures;

NB: New irrigation and/or expansion of existing irrigation systems are eligible only if the beneficiary can demonstrate through relevant documentation, compliance with national rules/prior authorisations regarding the abstraction of fresh surface water and groundwater/ good status of the water bodies.

Investments in:

(D) Modernisation of infrastructures if designed to improve water conservation, efficiency, reuse and discharge reduction:

- Water-saving systems and their components (incl. technologies) that will lead to at least a 10% decrease in water use;
- Installation of water-saving new modern machines, equipment and fittings (e.g. irrigation machines, pumps, filters, pipelines, fittings, remote control systems, meteorological station, ground probes, water meters);
- Water treatment technology for water reuse;
- Implementation of measures resulting from compliance with a certification scheme, such as: EWS Standard, <http://www.ewp.eu/ews-standard>, Sustainability Certification Program <https://www.wqa.org/Sustainability>
- Water efficiency of buildings;
- Water savings technologies (smart water meters, pressure control technologies);
- Water flow and level measurement and monitoring and water quality monitoring;
- Improvement and digitisation on water monitoring networks;

(E) Reduction of runoff, increment of percolation and retention measures:

- Collection of run-off water for later use;
- Runoff control measures for improving infiltration;
- Investment in enhancing infiltration of rainwater;
- Drainage systems, combination of drainage with water retention;
- Improving watershed management;
- Water storage (including insulation) and harvesting (e.g. design and construction of a reservoir, for the retention and storage of precipitation and accumulated inland water falling on the area);
- Shift from combined to separated sewer/storm water systems;

(F) Support for more precise management of irrigation that results in water savings and efficiency:

- Irrigation that leads to water savings of at least a 10% decrease in water use;
- Precision irrigation technologies (e.g. variable rate irrigation, micro-irrigation, combination with liquid fertilisation);
- Development and reconstruction of irrigation infrastructure and related structures;

NB: New irrigation and/or expansion of existing irrigation systems are eligible only if the beneficiary can demonstrate through relevant documentation, compliance with national rules/prior authorisations regarding the abstraction of fresh surface water and groundwater/ good status of the water bodies.

(D) ICT applications and solutions that are dedicated to:

- Hydrological modelling and forecasting;
- Smart water management, including advanced metering and monitoring technologies;
- Increasing water savings, conservation and efficiency, or improving water quality;

5.2 | Pollution prevention and control

Eligibility Criteria no 5.2

Investments in reduction, control and prevention of pollutant emissions into air and noise reduction

WHAT is eligible:

Investment in cleaner production technologies or end of pipe mitigation technologies including manufacture of essential products, key components and new tech that reduce emissions of pollutants into the air and investment in noise reduction.

This includes:

- Investments in equipment that will substantially reduce air pollution (PM 2.5, PM 10 particles, NH₃ (ammonia), CH₄ (methane)) such as: boilers, scrubbers, multiclones dust collectors, manure storage, biogas installations (NH₃ and CH₄ emissions);
- End-of-pipe solutions to reduce particulate emissions to air such as filters;
- Low-emission techniques to incorporate manure in the soil and nitrogen inorganic fertilisers, the measure with the greatest potential to reduce NH₃ emissions;
- Investments in industrial noise abatement such as: acousting enclosures (machine guards), acrylic glass, noise barriers;
- In aviation, centralised de-icing pads to avoid contamination of groundwater;

HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation, if available as notified by SBCI to the EIF OR
- ✓ Description of the investment:
AND
- ✓ Other Technical Documentation as applicable
AND
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants: