

APSE Energy Survey: Funding Application Process

Charlotte Banks,
Energy Research & Project Officer,
APSE Energy

Context

- APSE Energy has just carried out a survey with our member authorities, which asks opinions about the England PSDS replacing the SEELS in England
- We felt that it was important to gather your opinions about this change, as it has a big impact on financing renewable energy & energy efficiency projects for English councils
- Feedback to BEIS & Salix
- Briefing paper

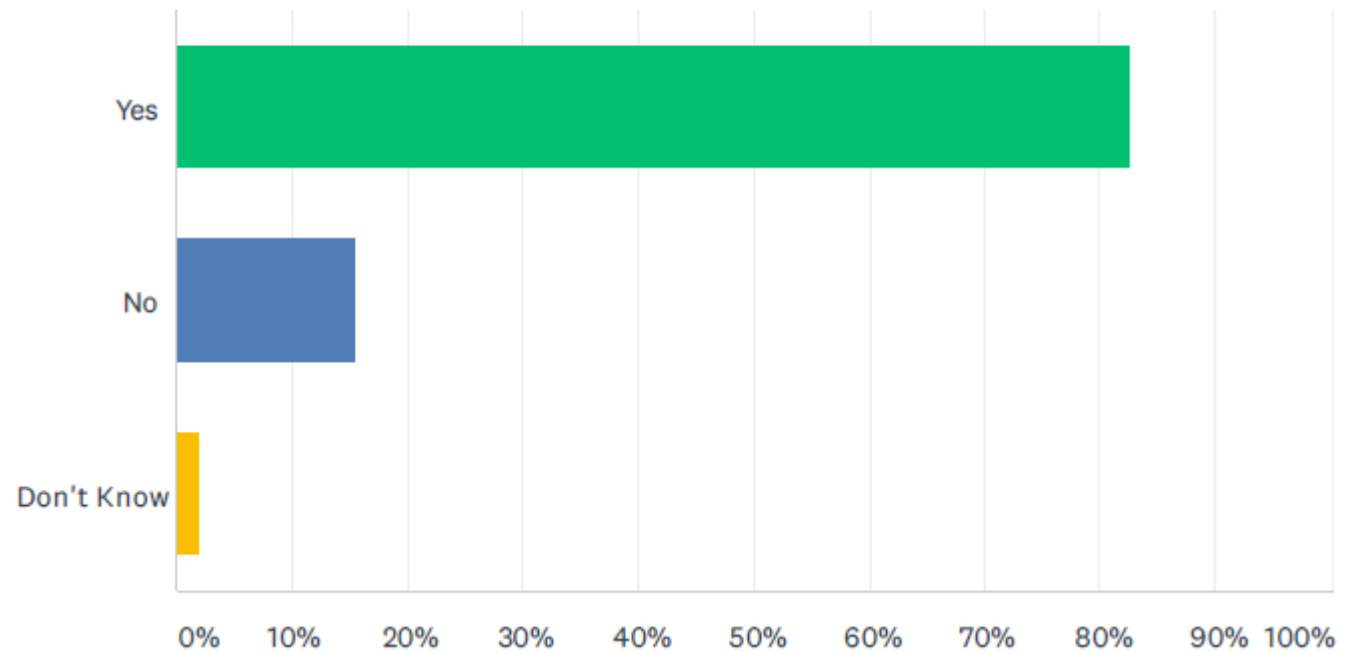


Survey Results

- The survey consisted of 12 questions
- We received a total of 52 responses, although not every respondent answered every question
- Some of the questions were yes/no answers, others provided an opportunity for in depth answers
- Lots of passionate responses!!

Q5 Did your local authority bid for money from the PSDF?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 7



Survey Results – Qs 7 & 8

Q7 - What are your thoughts on the bidding process for the PSDF?

- *“We welcome the funding but the timescales are very tight and therefore favour larger authorities/organisations that have projects already in the pipeline or have teams available to turn submissions around quickly.”*

Q8 - What are your thoughts on the principle of grants being made available for decarbonisation work?

- *“This is great, we need all the help we can get! But also, by making it so complicated and time-consuming it can be a barrier. It would be much simpler and fairer if an annual pot of money was allocated to each authority without the mad scrambling. Everyone needs it!”*

Survey Results – Qs 11 & 12

Q11 - What are your thoughts on the bidding process for the Skills Fund?

- *“Again the funding for this scheme was based upon how quickly the applications were made, and not to the most effective project options”*
- *“If funding for this could be awarded in tranches over time and by merit of the proposed schemes, it would be more a more efficient use of funds”*

Q12 - What are your thoughts on the principle of support from the Skills Fund being available to local authorities?

- *“This is crucial for many local authorities whose teams may be small and not have the capacity to be able to work up projects of such scale without outside support”*
- *“Support for project development should ideally be continuous to ensure a steady flow of projects each year”*

Survey Results – Qs 14 & 15

Q14 - What are your thoughts on the announcement that the scheme will no longer be available and will be replaced with the PSDS?

- *“We were very disappointed to hear the news about the closure of SEELS, as we were about to get sign off for a pilot phase of four schools to apply for SEELS for LED lighting, which has now been cancelled. at present the PSDS grant does not allow for LED lighting and other small scale energy saving projects as standalone schemes.”*

Q15 - What do you think are the most important elements of future funding of this type of work?

- *“1. There should be a more predictable stream of funding rather than random out-of-the-blue announcements, to allow sensible projects to be worked up properly and take account of timescale constraints (such as planning permission, grid connection etc.) 2. Allocation should be primarily on the basis of carbon-reduction cost-effectiveness. 3. Some bias towards smaller authorities should be built in to compensate for smaller teams and less flexible budgets.”*

Survey Results – Q 16

Q16 - Please write below any additional comments or further information you feel is relevant

- *“It's great that the government recognises the potential contribution of local authorities in the UK's overall decarbonisation, but needs to recognise the time, process, budgeting and staffing constraints we work under and make the system less ad-hoc/random.”*
- *“Demand for the funding has shown that there is a huge need for this type of funding. It needs to be sustained / permanent if we are to meet our Climate emergency targets.”*
- *“I'm grateful to APSE for looking out for us on this. It has been very frustrating putting in the days/weeks of work for the PSDS that we have done, only to see the funding disappear as quickly as it did.”*



Contact Details

Charlotte Banks, APSE Energy

Email: cbanks@apse.org.uk



www.apse.org.uk

Association for Public Service Excellence
3rd floor, Trafford House, Chester Road,
Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0RS.
telephone: 0161 772 1810
web: www.apse.org.uk



NEW MUNICIPALISM

Delivering for local people and local economies