



# Edify<sup>®</sup>

## Community and First Nations Benefits Sharing Guide





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## At a Glance

### What is the Community and First Nations Benefit Funding?

Edify is proud to be part of the communities we operate in. To support our communities, we seek Community funding opportunities that aim to educate, enrich and advance a community. When assessing funding opportunities, we favour initiatives that are consistent with our values and principles. We look for initiatives that are well planned, have a wide-reaching benefit, promote a greener community and can be mutually beneficial and rewarding for the community.

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## Guiding Principles

The following Edify values and principles will guide our assessment of community support:

- Honesty: Respecting ethical and truthful partnerships
- Innovation: Championing forward thinking, adaptability and new approaches.
- Integrity: Supporting equality, inclusiveness and fairness.
- Environmental Responsibility Commitment to the environment and sustainability.
- Strong Relationships: Supporting and celebrating the community in which we operate.

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## Applying for Funding

### Who Can Apply?

Local community groups and not-for-profit organisations within the Local Government Area of the project can apply.

### Funding Prerequisites

Edify Energy will support associations, clubs, and groups in preference to individuals, so that the benefits flow across a broader group of people. We also look for mutually beneficial partnerships.

Sponsorship proposals we favour are those that:

- Are initiated and based within the communities where Edify operates
- Are consistent with our values and principles
- Promote awareness and/or adoption of renewable energy systems
- Create or demonstrate wide community value

Generally, we will not sponsor the following:

- Organisations that have not fulfilled previous sponsorship agreements
- Political organisations or events
- Sponsorships associated with gambling
- Events or organisations that are involved with dangerous activities.
- Projects that rely solely on recurrent/ongoing grant funding to continue.
- Projects that are considered of a commercial nature.
- Projects that cannot demonstrate community support and benefit.



- Events or programs that do not demonstrate an inclusive approach to community.
- Events that create environmental hazards.
- Programs that do not reflect community standards.

We support projects that make a positive impact. Edify will favour community initiatives in the following areas:

**1. Environmental Restoration Initiatives that may include (not limited to):**

- Tree planting
- Biodiversity projects
- Conservation projects
- Climate Change resilience measures
- Animal Habitat Restoration

**2. Local Initiatives that enrich and support the community may include (not limited to)**

- Indigenous Arts and Cultural
- Community Arts and Cultural
- Community garden projects
- Grant to act as seed funding for community projects
- Community development (e.g. local facilities, events)
- First Nations initiatives (e.g. cultural programs, health services)

**3. Sustainable Energy initiatives which support renewable energy practices may include (not limited to)**

- Solar panels or battery in education
- EV Charging point

**4. Education, training and work readiness programs that may include (not limited to)**

- Vocational education and training courses
- School STEM syllabus support
- Women in construction initiatives
- First Nations in the workforce initiatives

Funding recipients must have:

- Up to date and sufficient governing documents, annual accounts, a dedicated bank account and safeguarding policies where relevant
- Prove ability to provide reports on a funded project

**When Does Funding Open?**

Funding will begin once the project receives development approval and continue through construction and operations. Updates will be shared through the Project Website



### **How Do I Apply?**

1. Check your eligibility
2. Fill out the short application form via the Project Website
3. Submit your proposal either online on the project website or email to [communitybenefits@edifyenergy.com](mailto:communitybenefits@edifyenergy.com)

### **Contact Us**

[communitybenefits@edifyenergy.com](mailto:communitybenefits@edifyenergy.com)



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## Introduction

Edify Energy is a proudly 100% Australian owned renewable energy and storage company.

Edify has successfully overseen the development, structuring, financing and delivery into operation in excess of \$1.5 billion of investment in Australia, consisting of 773 MWp of utility scale solar projects and a 25 MW / 50 MWh battery energy storage system. These projects will produce enough electricity to power over 280,000 Australian homes. Edify is funding and developing a large portfolio of renewable energy and 3 storage projects and is committed to producing clean green electricity solutions for Australian electricity consumers.

Edify is involved in the full lifecycle of renewable energy and storage project development and operation, including greenfield development, project structuring and financing, construction management and long-term operational asset management. To learn more about Edify's positive impact and our renewable energy developments, head to our website at: [www.edifyenergy.com](http://www.edifyenergy.com).

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## Purpose

The purpose of the Benefit Sharing Guide is to ensure that the local communities surrounding the Kooyong BESS receive tangible benefits. The program aims to build long-term relationships, enhance community support, and create lasting positive impacts.

This guide has been developed considering the NSW Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) *Benefit Sharing Guide*<sup>1</sup> (November 2024) and Clean Energy Council's (CEC) '*Guide to Benefit Sharing for Renewable Energy Projects*'<sup>2</sup>.

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## Overview of Benefit Sharing

Benefit-sharing refers to various strategies and mechanisms designed to distribute financial and other benefits between a project applicant and the host community. These benefits are often shaped through mutually agreed opportunities.

In the context of large-scale renewable energy projects, benefit-sharing arrangements with landholders, local councils, and nearby communities, including First Nations communities, create pathways for community members to directly participate in the project's benefits. For Edify, a Community Benefits Fund strengthens our relationships with the community and ensures they share in the benefits of new energy development in the region.

Tailored benefit sharing programs can amplify the positive impacts for people in the project's vicinity, particularly those who may be most affected by the development. This includes nearby neighbours as well as the wider community hosting the project.

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<sup>1</sup> [Benefit-Sharing Guideline](#)

<sup>2</sup> [guide-to-benefit-sharing-options-for-renewable-energy-projects.pdf \(cleanenergycouncil.org.au\)](#)



Additionally, benefit-sharing programs help to offset broader intangible impacts of projects that may be challenging to prevent, such as potential concerns highlighted in the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Benefit Sharing Guide.






By focusing on positive social and economic outcomes, these programs enhance the well-being of the host communities. However, benefit-sharing is not meant to address specific impacts on individual properties or landholders.

If a consent authority identifies significant negative impacts on the environment or community, it will ensure that suitable actions are taken, such as requiring project design changes or imposing mitigation measures as part of the project's approval.

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## Government Priorities for Renewable Energy Projects

The NSW Government identifies social licence, local employment, training, and First Nations empowerment as key priorities for benefit sharing in renewable energy projects. Edify's approach aligns with these priorities by fostering strong, respectful relationships with local communities, creating job and training opportunities that support regional growth, and working in genuine partnership with First Nations peoples. Through meaningful engagement and tangible local outcomes, we are committed to ensuring that our projects deliver lasting social, economic, and cultural benefits to the communities that host them.

	Cost	Low-cost solutions to drive down electricity prices.
	Deliverable	Technical deliverability with limited scope for cost and schedule delay. Strong track-record.
	Jobs and industry	Employment, upskilling workforce, training and local procurement
	Social licence	Shared benefits and opportunities for host communities and First Nations people.
	Manufacturing	Expanding clean energy technology manufacturing



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## Policy for Benefit Sharing

The following Policies are taken from NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) *Benefit Sharing Guide* (November 2024) <sup>3</sup> and will be used when developing, assessing, and managing benefit-sharing programs for Edify Energy's projects.

### **Benefit-sharing is standard practice**

Edify acknowledges that benefit-sharing should be incorporated as standard practice. In doing so, Edify strives to offer a reasonable rate that is consistent with the value prescribed in this guideline.

### **Benefit-sharing is collaborative**

Edify strongly believes that the most effective and meaningful outcomes are achieved when benefit-sharing programs are developed in close collaboration with Councils and local community groups. By engaging key stakeholders from the outset, these programs can be tailored to address the unique needs and priorities of the community, ensuring that the benefits are both targeted and impactful.

Furthermore, Edify emphasises the valuing of establishing some centralised administration of such programs. Streamlined administration allows for greater efficiency in managing resources and helps to pool funds in ways that maximise their impact. By working with Councils to adopt a centralised approach, it becomes possible to leverage additional opportunities, such as Council's combining resources across various projects or initiatives, thereby amplifying the overall benefits delivered to the community.

This commitment to partnership and efficiency underscores Edify's dedication to not only supporting local communities but also fostering long-term, sustainable outcomes that align with shared goals and values.

### **Benefit-sharing is transparent**

Information on benefit-sharing arrangements will be publicly available, including clear details on the administration and distribution of proceeds.

### **Benefit-sharing is community focused**

Benefit-sharing will be informed by consultation with the community or community representatives, tailored to the local context and the community's needs and produce outcomes that align with the priorities of the public.

### **Benefit-sharing is proportionate**

The distribution of community benefits will reflect the scale of the project and the level of change experienced by the community.

### **Benefit-sharing delivers a positive outcome**

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<sup>3</sup> [Benefit-Sharing Guideline](#)





Benefit-sharing will have a positive, lasting, and meaningful impact on the community and provide tangible social, environmental, and economic outcomes.



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## Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the development and implementation of this Benefit Sharing Program, as outlined in Clean Energy Council's *A Guide to Benefit Sharing Option for Renewable Energy Project*<sup>4</sup>.

### **Appropriate**

Programs and initiatives will be designed to address the unique needs of Edify's local community. This means resources will be allocated to projects that matter most to the local community, such as enhancing local amenities, supporting cultural activities, or addressing specific challenges faced by community members. For example, tailored funding could support improvements to local parks, establish scholarships for students, or provide grants for community groups.

### **Flexible**

The programs will evolve over time to reflect changing community needs and priorities. This ensures that as the community grows or faces new challenges, the initiatives will adapt to stay relevant. For instance, if new training opportunities or infrastructure projects become important, the program can shift focus to address these priorities.

### **Transparent**

Community members have access to clear and open communication about how decisions are made, how funds are distributed, and the impact of the programs. Regular updates will be shared through public meetings, reports, or online platforms. This means the community know where funds are going and how they're benefiting the community, ensuring trust and accountability.

### **Mutually Beneficial**

The benefits of this program are designed to create value for both the community and the project. This could include job opportunities, improved local facilities, or educational programs for residents, while also building a stronger relationship between the community and the project team.

### **Integrated**

These programs will align with broader community initiatives to maximise their impact. For example, community benefits might complement council development plans, support local sustainability goals, or enhance existing educational programs. This ensures that the efforts contribute to a cohesive vision for the future of the community.

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<sup>4</sup> [guide-to-benefit-sharing-options-for-renewable-energy-projects.pdf \(cleanenergycouncil.org.au\)](https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/guide-to-benefit-sharing-options-for-renewable-energy-projects.pdf)



## Benefit Sharing Arrangements

This section offers guidance on how different benefit-sharing arrangements can distribute the benefits of renewable energy projects to neighbours, local communities, and regional areas surrounding the proposed Project

These benefit-sharing mechanisms typically vary in terms of:

- the proximity of beneficiaries to the development and its potential impacts.
- the scale of benefits distributed (such as the financial value and the number of beneficiaries); and
- the administrative processes for distributing project proceeds (including who receives or manages the funding and how program funds are allocated and used).

These elements can be configured in several ways to ensure that benefit-sharing aligns with the needs of the community.

Edify aligns our project benefit sharing arrangements with NSW DPHI's *Benefit Sharing Guide* (November 2024)<sup>5</sup> these arrangements are summarised the Table below:

Distribution	Beneficiaries	Administered by
<b>Neighbourhood Benefits</b>	Directly benefit those closest to the project.  Typically impact smaller communities or businesses near the development.	Edify Energy
<b>Local Community Benefits</b>	Cover a broader area, often at the local government level.  Benefits are larger in value and reach more people	Edify Energy / Council via VPA
<b>Council-Managed Programs</b>	Pool resources from multiple projects to fund larger community initiatives.  Should not replace existing council services.	Council via VPA
<b>Community-Led Programs</b>	Developed in collaboration with Edify and local institutions  Can include scholarships, training courses, sponsorships, and community projects	Edify Energy / Council via VPA  Edify Energy / Council via VPA

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<sup>5</sup> [Benefit-Sharing Guideline](#)



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## Governance

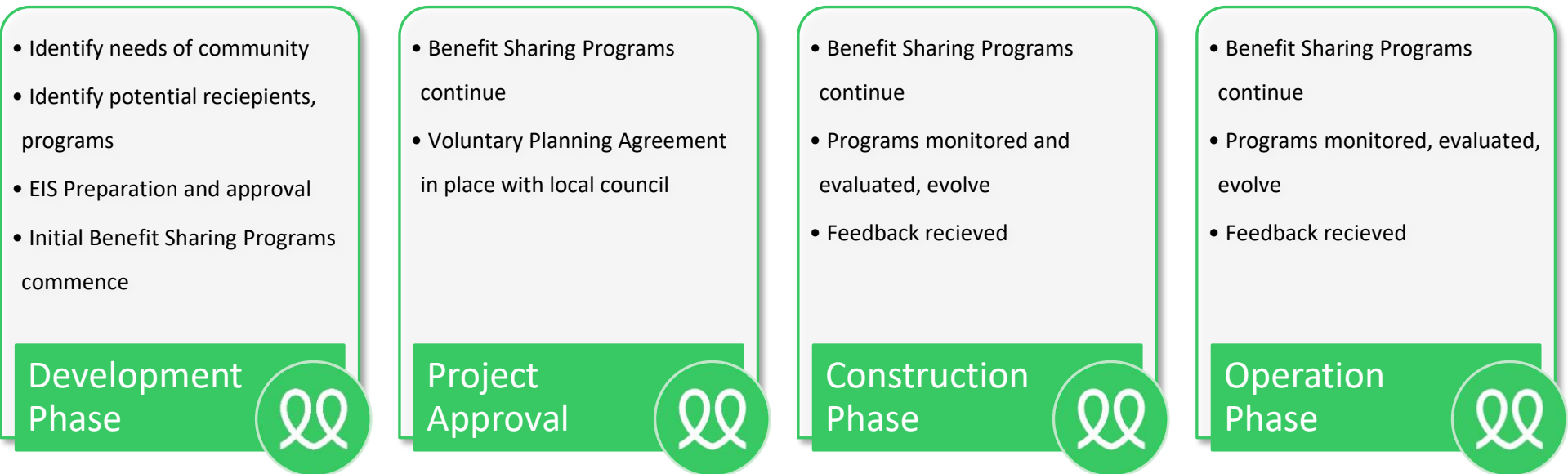
Edify has established a Benefit Sharing Committee that will oversee the program to ensure transparency and accountability. The committee includes representatives from Edify's Development team, Community engagement team and Senior Management. Responsibilities include:

- Reviewing applications for sponsorships and grants.
- Ensuring equitable distribution of benefits.
- Monitoring and evaluating the program's impact.
- Reporting on Benefit sharing as required in NSW DPHI's *Benefit Sharing Guide* (November 2024)



## Timeline

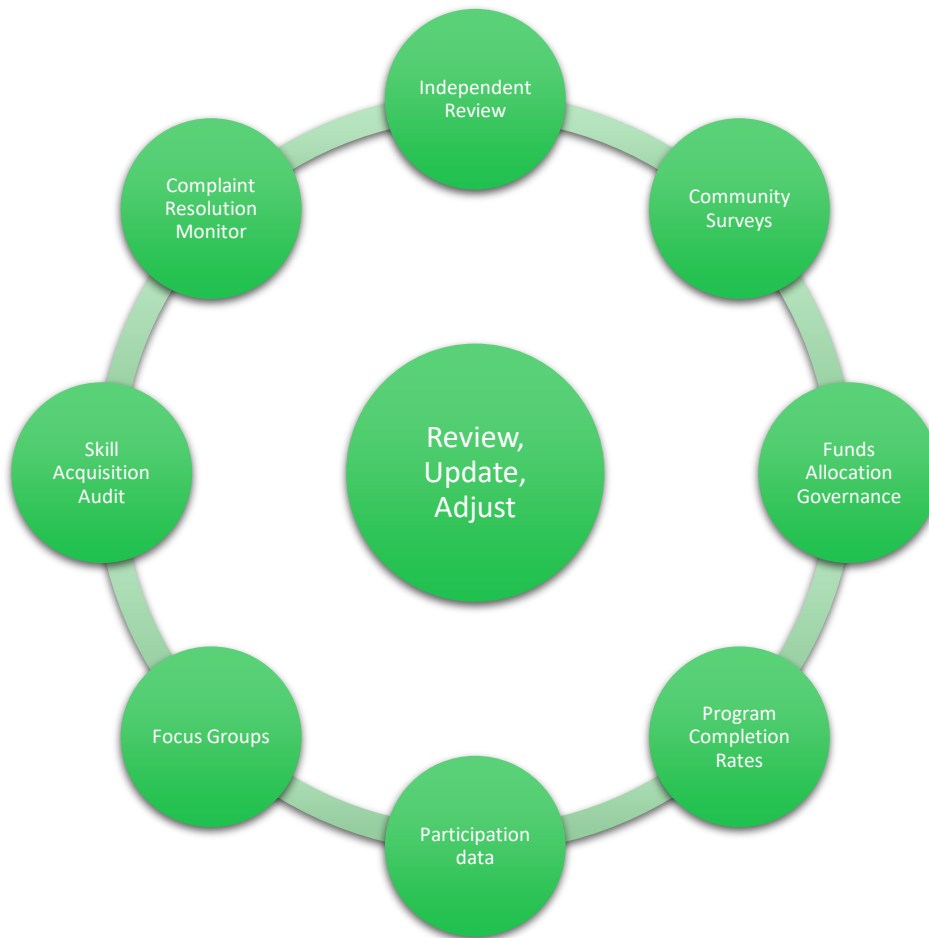
The Benefit Sharing Program will commence during the preparation and approval of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), aligning with the Development and Project Approval phases. It will continue through the project's construction and operation phases, unless otherwise specified and mutually agreed upon. Periodic reviews will ensure the program remains responsive to evolving community needs.





## Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular assessments may be conducted to track the effectiveness of the Benefit Sharing Program. Feedback from the community and local Council will be actively sought to adjust as needed.





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## How Can I Get Involved

### Eligibility

Applications are welcome from local community groups and not for profit organisations located within the LGA of the Project.

### Criteria

The fund is to be used to provide support for projects in the communities in which Edify are developing and/or operating a Renewable Energy Project (i.e. Solar Farm and/or Large-Scale Battery).

The following focus areas have been established. Successful application will address one or more of the following areas:

- 1. Environmental Restoration Initiatives that may include (not limited to):**
  - Tree planting
  - Biodiversity projects
  - Conservation projects
  - Climate Change resilience measures
  - Animal Habitat Restoration
- 2. Local Initiatives that enrich and support the community may include (not limited to)**
  - Indigenous Arts and Cultural
  - Community Arts and Cultural
  - Community garden projects
  - Grant to act as seed funding for community projects
  - Community development (e.g. local facilities, events)
  - First Nations initiatives (e.g. cultural programs, health services)
- 3. Sustainable Energy initiatives which support renewable energy practices may include (not limited to)**
  - Solar panels or battery in education
  - EV Charging point/s
- 4. Education, training and work readiness programs that may include (not limited to)**
  - Vocational education and training courses
  - School STEM syllabus support



- Women in construction initiatives
- First Nations in the workforce initiatives

### Exclusions

Generally, Edify will not sponsor the following.

- Organisations that have not fulfilled previous sponsorship agreements
- Political, Religious organisations or events
- Sponsorships associated with gambling
- Projects that rely solely on recurrent/ongoing grant funding to continue
- Projects that are considered of a commercial nature
- Projects that cannot demonstrate community support and benefit
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Funding recipients must have:

- Up to date and sufficient governing documents, annual accounts, a dedicated bank account and safeguarding policies where relevant
- Prove ability to provide reports on a funded project

### When Does Funding Open?

Funding will begin once the project receives development approval and continue through construction and operations. Updates will be shared through the Project Website

### How Do I Apply?

1. Check your eligibility
2. Fill out the short application form on Edify's Community Webpage

<https://edifyenergy.com/our-communities/>

3. Submit your proposal to [communitybenefits@edifyenergy.com](mailto:communitybenefits@edifyenergy.com)



### Contact Us

[communitybenefits@edifyenergy.com](mailto:communitybenefits@edifyenergy.com)