



NISEP Vendor Requirements (2021-22)

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1. Glossary

Customer – An individual or company that agrees to the implementation of an energy efficiency improvement measure on their premises as part of the NISEP scheme.

Power NI – Power NI Energy Limited t/a Power NI, The Primary Bidder administering the following commercial NISEP schemes: LED lighting; Intelligent Heating Controls; Variable Speed Technology and Voltage Optimisation.

EST- The Programme Administrator appointed by The Utility Regulator to oversee the NISEP schemes.

UR- The Utility Regulator. The Utility Regulator is responsible for regulating the electricity, gas, water and sewerage industries in Northern Ireland, promoting the short- and long-term interests of consumers.

Vendor- Any supplier/installer participating in a project where NISEP funding applies.

Public Service Obligation – A Public Service Obligation (PSO) is a levy which is charged at a flat rate on all units of electricity demand and therefore paid by all electricity customers. The PSO levy is composed of a number of different components one of which is a charge for the NISEP.

2. Disclaimer

This document is a reference for vendors who plan to carry out commercial energy efficiency works where the customer is supported by Power NI under NISEP (Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme).

Power NI accepts no liability whether for breach of contract, negligence, health and safety violations or otherwise, in respect of any dispute or cause of action arising out of, or in relation to, any product, equipment, work, system or installation supplied or carried out by the installer under the scheme. The Vendor is entirely responsible for all such matters.

3. Background

NISEP has been running since 2010. A sum of money is collected from all electricity users yearly (£7,941,946) through a Public Service Obligation (PSO) and it is used to provide funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes. As a primary bidder, Power NI bids annually to administer funding for NISEP schemes.

4. Introduction

Meeting the quality assurance process outlined in this document is a requirement of all Vendors working on a project where their customer is availing of the NISEP grant. Failure to meet these minimum requirements may result in projects being rejected and grant funding being withdrawn from the customer.

This document is based on the **Plan – Do – Check – Act** Deming cycle which is used extensively throughout the energy management standard ISO 50001. This can be adapted to the process of carrying out a NISEP grant funded energy efficiency project as follows:

Plan: Carry out an Energy Audit at the customer's premises to determine the existing energy consumption of the chosen building and or equipment. Decide what energy efficiency measures are most suitable and complete audit tab on Power NI NISEP application. Measures must be CE marked. The audit must accurately detail the area being upgraded, description of existing product, the running hours, quantities, existing consumption, proposed products, proposed consumption and proposed product unit cost. Installation costs must not be incorporated on the application as the NISEP grant does not apply to installation. Provide this to your customer. The customer will then submit their application to Power NI for NISEP grant approval.

Do: Once the customer gives the go ahead, carry out said energy efficiency project(s), meanwhile documenting and recording any changes to the original project which

could change the original audit submitted to Power NI. Report any deviations from the initial plan to your customer immediately and update the energy audit tab of the application as required. Your customer will need to resubmit the revised application to Power NI for approval.

Check: Once the project is completed check that all measures installed are of good quality and that there are no issues. Before issuing an invoice to your customer please check that it contains: invoice number, date, site address including postcode, descriptions, unit costs and quantities. Invoices should not be issued prior to your customer receiving grant approval in the form of their Grant Offer Letter.

Act: Take corrective action to resolve any discrepancies from the check process.

5. Requirements

To work on NISEP grant funded projects, a Vendor must meet the requirements discussed below. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this document may result in the measures as outlined in Section 7 up to and including the immediate removal of a Vendor from any participation in Power NI's NISEP schemes.

5.1 Qualification Requirements^[GE1]

A Vendor:

- Must hold a valid Company Registration Number and Tax Clearance Certificate.
- Must have Public, Products and Employers Liability insurance cover.
- Must be suitable qualified to carry out any installation work.
- Will be liable for any damage sustained by a property as a direct result of the energy efficiency upgrade.

All Vendors are required to provide a competent workforce to carry out energy efficiency works. This includes all works supported by the scheme including, but not limited to, electrical, gas, plumbing, working at heights and the operation and storage of machinery.

This requires that vendors and sub-contractors are equipped with all the relevant training and certification to carry out each element of works being carried out. Evidence of installer qualification/certification must be provided to your customer (who in turn will send this to Power NI).

5.2. Product Requirements

All products used must be fit for purpose, improve the energy efficiency of the building and have no detrimental impact on the safety and quality of the building, equipment, installer or operators. Adherence to applicable regulation and standards must be followed. Prior to the installation of any measure the property must be assessed to ensure that it is suitable for the measure proposed and that the recommended measure is likely to achieve the desired effect.

5.3 Health & Safety Requirements

It is the sole responsibility of the Vendor to ensure that they comply with all relevant Health and Safety Legislation, Regulation and appropriate Guidelines and that their staff are appropriately trained to operate to these standards. In addition to the above it is required that any Vendors performing works which are supported by the Scheme:

- Has a current written Health and Safety Statement available for inspection if required.
- Carries out a Risk Assessment prior to beginning work.
- Follows safe working practices for employees, customers and the public at all times in accordance with current Health and Safety Legislation and relevant Health & Safety Authority guidelines.
- Uses the appropriate equipment safely and properly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

6. Quality Assurance

6.1 Energy Audit

- All calculations must be completed on the 'energy audit' tab in the latest version of the application – the application will be provided to your customer by Power NI.
- All grants must be approved by Power NI and a Grant Offer Letter issued to the customer before work can start or an invoice is issued. Work must be completed within 3 months of Grant Offer Letter issue. If work cannot be completed in this time your customer will need to notify Power NI who may extend the date subject to availability of funding.
- Please run through the detail on the energy audit with your customer to ensure they understand the calculations and are happy that the detail is correct.

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- Please check with the customer regarding confirmed running hours – these need to be as accurate as possible.
- Please ensure that area descriptions are as accurate as possible to allow Power NI to identify the area easily at site visit.
- Please check with the customer for their energy rates per kWh.

6.2 Invoices

- The Vendor must provide a detailed invoice to the customer. These must be written in a clear language and include all applicable VAT rates.
- All invoices must be submitted with an invoice number, date, customer name, customer site address (this must be the address where the work has been carried out and must include the postcode).
- Invoices must detail the product descriptions, quantities and unit costs. These should match the detail provided on the energy audit.
- No Invoices should be generated from quotes without amending date and title.
- No pro-forma invoices to be submitted.
- **Invoices MUST NOT be generated or paid prior to the customer receiving a Grant Offer Letter from Power NI.**

6.3 Audits

Power NI will continuously conduct quality and performance checks on all work supported by the NISEP Scheme and site visits to check completed projects will be carried out regularly throughout the grant year.

When a Vendor is audited by Power NI, the audit will be carried out by a member of the Energy Services team (or its nominated subcontractors) and will take place in the Vendors office. Vendors should be able to demonstrate that they are compliant with the guidelines and requirements set out by Power NI including proof that the Vendor meets the legal requirements and standards required to carry out energy efficiency measures.

7. Vendor non-compliance

In the event that Power NI is not satisfied with the standard of work undertaken by a Vendor they may be subject to Power NI's compliance procedures. Refusal of grant projects may occur where Power NI has sufficient evidence of repeated or serious failures to deliver

quality work or provide customer satisfaction and where little or no attempt has been made to rectify these failures by the vendor or sub-contractors working on their behalf.

A primary element of this is the Penalty Point Systems. Power NI is also entitled to share information concerning the removal of a Vendor from its scheme with EST (Energy Saving Trust). Power NI will also inform the customer that the Vendor cannot be used for their NISEP project.

7.1 Penalty System

Power NI's penalty system follows a yellow to red classification system. In this case Yellow is considered the least serious type of non-compliance issue, Orange is a significant issue and Red is the most critical failure to comply with Power NI's NISEP requirements referenced throughout this document.

In the event that a Vendor receives a Yellow warning this will be recorded and the Vendor will be sent an email informing them of the issue and asked to rectify it as soon as possible.

If an Orange warning is issued this will be recorded and will result in an email and a phone call from a member of the Power NI Energy Services Team to discuss the issue and the Vendor will be asked to rectify the issue immediately.

Finally, in the event that a Red warning is issued this will be recorded and the Vendor will be sent a letter by registered post informing them of the reason this warning was issued and they may be required to meet the Energy Services Team to discuss the problem. A potential outcome of this meeting may be that the Vendor is removed from the scheme and customers will not be able to avail of NISEP funding should this Vendor be used to carry out the work.

Some examples of different types of Yellow, Orange and Red warnings are listed below but this list is subject to change and alterations / additions to this list will be made at Power NI's discretion.

7.1.1. Yellow

- Not including customer name on invoice
- Not including date on invoice
- Not including site address with postcode on the invoice.
- Not including breakdown on invoice showing description, quantity and unit costs for each product.

7.1.2. Orange

- Vendors offering grants to customers before Power NI has given its approval for the project or made an offer towards the project.
- Invoice dated prior to go ahead from the customer.
- Project not completed as per application
- Invoice not matching installation.
- Invoice not matching application.
- Not notifying customer of changes to the type or quantity of fitting.

7.1.3. Red

- Using Power NI's and the NISEP brand without written approval.
- Contractor / Vendor claiming to be Power NI representative.
- Installing different specification or quantity of fittings than have been approved in the NISEP grant application and approved by the client and invoiced.
- Not following H&S guidelines.

7.2 Termination

When a member of the Power NI Energy Services team comes across persistent or serious failures to comply with the NISEP requirements, an email will be sent informing the Vendor of the issue and of the penalties that have been given. Three yellow, two orange or 1 red penalty may exclude the Vendor from carrying out future projects where the customer wishes to avail of NISEP funding.

8. Appendix

NISEP Grant Process

- 1 Power NI issue customer with application, T&Cs and **Vendor Requirements document** (this should be passed on to vendor).
- 2 **Customer has a survey carried out by supplier.**
- 3 Customer submits completed application (which includes survey) to Power NI (energysaving@powerni.co.uk) and submits signed T&Cs via AdobeSign. Applications will not be considered until signed T&Cs have been received. Vendors should assist with completing the '**energy audit**' tab on the application.
- 4 Customer submits **Declaration of Conformity, product files and warranties for proposed fittings.**
- 5 Customer submits '**before photos**' along with application. These should show each area and each type of fitting. Applications will not be considered until photos are received.
- 6 Power NI assesses cost effectiveness and confirms if the project will qualify for 20% grant (towards the cost of the fittings – installation is not included). Please note that funding will not be provided where work has gone ahead before approval and issue of Grant Offer Letter.
- 7 A **Grant Offer Letter** will then be issued via AdobeSign and this is valid for 3 months, (or until 1st March 2023, whichever is sooner), within which time the project must be completed. **Vendors should not generate invoices or begin work until their customer has received this.**
- 8 An email will be sent by Power NI to the customer with a pdf of the grant offer letter and signed T&Cs for reference.
- 9 A **bank form** will also issued to the customer via AdobeSign and this should be completed and signed by 2 people in the company.
- 11 Customer submits **installer certification/commissioning certificate.**
- 12 Customer submits **supplier invoice** to Power NI within 30 days from date of invoice (but no later than 1st March 2023). Invoices must be dated no earlier than the date of the grant approval letter. This must match the application and show measure descriptions, quantities and unit costs. Invoices must specify the address where the work was carried out and include the postcode.
Invoices which do not match the latest grant application may not be accepted and the grant offer may no longer be valid.
- 13 Customer submits proof of payment. This can be a highlighted bank statement or a screen shot of the transaction. **Receipt of payment emailed from the supplier** must also be provided. Total payment must match the total on the invoice submitted. If this does not match please provide additional invoices for justification.
- 14 Customer sends '**after photos**' showing each area and type of fitting.
- 15 Power NI issue **claim form** to customer and also **satisfaction survey.**
- 16 Customer completes claim form and online satisfaction survey.
- 17 **Grant payment** made to customer by BACS transfer.
- 18 At any stage a project may be subject to a **site audit** by Power NI or a representative. If selected for site audit then payment may not be processed until the site visit has been completed.