

# Energy Saving Trust eBike Loan (Business)

## 2023/24 Eligibility Criteria

The eBike Loan for business is funded by Transport Scotland and managed by Energy Saving Trust, with the support of Home Energy Scotland advice centres. The scheme is open to businesses (of all sizes) and other organisations in Scotland, including not-for-profits and charities.<sup>1</sup>

After receiving an offer, your organisation **must** be able to submit an invoice – and claim your funding – **on or before** the drawdown deadline date specified in the loan agreement, **Sunday 4 February 2024**.

To be eligible for funding, please consider the additional criteria:

- Your organisation must be based in Scotland, or you must be able to demonstrate that your organisation currently and actively operates in Scotland. You must also demonstrate that your employees working in Scotland will benefit from the implementation of the ebike(s).
- Your organisation must have been trading or operational for at least 12 months.
- Loans are only available and can only be used for the purchase of new, road legal:
  - ebike(s) – electric assisted pedal cycle
  - cargo or ecargo bike(s) – specially designed to carry a load
  - adapted cycle(s) or electric adapted cycle(s) – specifically adapted to meet mobility needs, including those of standardised design, such as tricycles and recumbent cycles
- The purchased ebike(s) must comply with UK Government requirements: <http://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules>
- The maximum loan support available to your organisation is £30,000, unless otherwise agreed in writing by us.
- The maximum loan amount available to fund one ebike is £3,000.
- The maximum loan amount available to fund one cargo or ecargo bike is £6,000.

- If your organisation is seeking funds for cargo or ecargo bike(s) that will replace a road vehicle, such as a car or van, there is no maximum limit to the loan amount; however, the maximum loan support available remains £30,000.
- The loan value only covers the cost of purchasing the basic, standard- specification of the ebike(s); it does not cover delivery costs, optional extras, upgrades or other non-standard changes made to the ebike (whether during or after manufacture). This is exclusive of adapted or electric adapted cycles, which are built to specific customer requirements.
- The loan cannot be used for the purchase of any second-hand ebike(s), or for any other purpose.
- Except for an initial deposit, your organisation must not purchase or take ownership of the ebike(s) prior to receipt of the loan offer. Failure to comply will result in the rejection of your application.
- Your organisation must be able to repay the loan and thus be in good financial standing. We are supplied with your credit score and credit information by credit reference agencies at submission of the application.
- The maximum repayment period is four years; however, where the payback is likely to be less than four years or, where we otherwise determine a shorter repayment period is appropriate in all circumstances, then a shorter repayment period will be set.
- The favourable terms of the loan (including interest foregone, the amount of interest you are saving by not paying interest on the loan) may constitute a public subsidy in terms of the laws, regulations, rules and guidance applying in the UK and/or the UK's international obligations in relation to public subsidies (which place restrictions on the circumstances in which public funds may be granted to businesses or other organisations carrying out economic activities).

The loan is being provided in accordance with Article 364.4 of Chapter 3 of Title XI of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the UK. This allows single economic actors to receive less than £315,000 of public subsidies over any three fiscal period without the subsidy having to comply with the other provisions set out in that Chapter. Further details are provided in the loan agreement.

We may be required to withhold payment of or reclaim all or any part of the loan from you to the extent necessary to ensure the loan, either on its own or when taken

together with any other financial assistance given or to be given to you by us or any third party, complies with public subsidy restrictions. To confirm your organisation meets this requirement, you must be able to declare the full amount of any public subsidies you have received in the past two fiscal years, in addition to the current fiscal year.

- Where the applicant is a limited company, partnership or charitable trust, your organisation (according to its constitutional documents and any applicable laws) must have the power to enter into a loan agreement with us, governing the receipt and repayment of a loan under the scheme.
- Application forms can only be issued by us and are to be completed and returned, with supporting documentation, by you. Third party submissions are not accepted.
- If you are **applying as a sole trader**, your application must be submitted with your most recent tax document, SA103/SA100.
- If you are **applying as a partnership**, your application must be submitted with your most recent tax document, SA800.

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<sup>i</sup> Organisations operating primarily in agriculture, coal and fisheries sectors do not automatically qualify. Additionally, public sector bodies that are funded by the Scottish Government or one of their agencies do not automatically qualify and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.