



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT112550
Project Type:	SA 2.1 Capital Investment in existing and start-up technology, graduate orientated rural businesses.
Project Name:	Biomass Log Drier 11
Promoters Name:	O.K. Fuels
Address:	Deerpark Road, Lismore, Co. Waterford
Description:	The project a renewable energy project, where wood cuttings are prepared and dried in a large drier to make them suitable for burning in home/private stoves to heat family homes. The project involves the purchase of a second Biomass Log Drier to dry the chopped wood to requisite moisture content.
Theme:	LO2 Enterprise Development
Sub-theme:	SA 2.1
Link to LDS	LO2 Enterprise Development, SA 2.1

Total Project Costs	€26,000
Eligible Project Costs	€26,000
Funding sought by promoter:	The promoter has requested funding of €13,000 or 50% of eligible costs whichever is the lesser.
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	Deferred
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	A maximum of €13,000 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.
Details of private funding:	Own Funds
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No
Synopsis of project:	The project a renewable energy project, where wood cuttings are prepared and dried in a large drier to make them suitable for burning in home/private stoves to heat family homes. The project involves the purchase of a second Biomass Log Drier to dry the chopped wood to requisite moisture content.

Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 50%
	Biomass Log Dryer	E26,000	E13,000 @ 50%
Total Funding		E26,000	E13,000
Was an assessment completed?: Date: <u>24/07/2020</u>	The Evaluation Committee agreed that the project assessment was completed on the 24 th July 2020		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	The Evaluation Committee agreed that the promoters followed Category 2 LEADER Specific Guidelines and therefore is applying for 50% funding.		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	N/A		
Innovative Element of the project:	It was agreed that the idea is innovative, as the promoters will be building on 12 years development of the business. This next phase is using technology to improve the product to meet the demands of a growing market.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that deadweight is not an issue as this is a capital-intensive business that is expanding. For them it is a significant investment.		
Consideration of Displacement:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that displacement is not an issue as this is the only major business of its type in the region.		
Economic justification for project:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that this project fits under the Local Development Strategy for Enterprise type projects.		
Average Score for Project:	After achieving an overall score of 80 out of 100, the Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend this project for approval to the Board of Waterford LCDC.		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €13,000 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.		
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:- 1. The project scored 80/100 2. The project fits the Local Development Plan (LDS) for supporting Enterprise projects. 3. The promoters have the skills and expertise to successfully implement the project.		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
8 FTE	4FTE	13,000	E27,650 Nov 17
			E29,544 Sept 18

--	--	--	--

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Waterford Local Enterprise Office	24/07/2020	B Kirby

Meeting 14 08 2020 Detail of Discussion: The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -

- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that the promoters wished to purchase an additional log drier to increase production.
- The Evaluation Committee noted that the accounts look quite good and that there seems to be a lot of movement between both accounts.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that they provided accounts for both businesses but that this one is being run by the son and his father is a director. While it is a tough job he is doing well and providing employment for low skilled workers in a rural area.
- Since previously funding the company has done well and employment increased. Currently they have 8 full time staff, 1 part time and 4 seasonal. With funding these jobs will be sustained and may grow by 1 to 2 this year.
- The currently supply both Lidl and Aldi but are only going to deal with one as they do not have the storage capability to supply both now. Next year they plan on building additional storage.
- The Evaluation Committee queried the lease? Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that it is going to be renewed and extended to the 7 years required.
- It was clarified that the winning tender was an UK company therefore no VAT.
- The Committee stated that in principle they agree about supporting this project but would like to see the lease. Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that he would have it for the next meeting.

The Evaluation agreed to defer this project until confirmation on the extended lease is received.

Meeting 26 08 2020 Detail of Discussion: The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -

- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that confirmation that the lease is being drawn up has been circulated to the Committee for review.

The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project subject to the following condition: -

- A fully signed lease for the duration required by the Leader programme must be on file prior to payment.

A maximum of **€13,000** or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Amount Recommended: €13,000 or 50%, whichever is the lesser amount	50% of Eligible Project Funding:
---	---

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Evaluation Committee

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Committee Member

Date: _____

Issues / Queries raised by Evaluation Committee	Project Officers Response
Extension of Lease for 7 Years	Requested

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

WLP Project Officer

Please insert photos below of reference purposes:

(for example a photo of the building to be renovated/machinery being purchased, etc)

Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Date: 24/8/2020

Time: 11 -

Project Title: Bio Mass Log Order

Project Reference Number: 31020207112550

Assessment Criteria	Objective	Issues raised by Evaluation Committee	Weighting	Score
Compatibility with Local Development Strategy	Do the project proposals meet the criteria set out in the LAG business plan for the relevant measure?		Yes / No	
Innovation	Is the product innovative in its nature and does it displace existing enterprises? - Product / Service 9/19 <u>5</u> - Displacement 5/19 <u>5</u> - Job Creation 5/19 <u>5</u>		19	15
Promoters experience	Does the promoter have the training/skills, track record or experience to deliver? - Standards of Operation 6/25 <u>5</u> - Track Record 6/25 <u>5</u> - Structure of Business 6/25 <u>5</u> - Necessary skills base 7/25 <u>6</u>		25	21
Financial Viability	Are the project costs justifiable (reasonableness of costs) and / is funding available to co-fund the project? - Overall Costs 7/25 <u>5</u> - Co Funding 6/25 <u>5</u>		25	20

	Financial Plan	6/25 <u>5</u>			
	Deadweight	6/25 <u>5</u>			
Sustainability	Is the project viable and will the service continue to be delivered?		13		16
Requirement	Does the proposal target a specific need or address a specific gap in the market?		18		14
Total			100		80

N.B. Project must receive a minimum score of 65% prior to being recommended for approval.

- Has the potential level of deadweight been assessed for this project? YES / ~~NO~~
- i.e. would the project proceed without LEADER funding? YES / NO

Recommendations of the Evaluation Committee: Approved.

Signature: [Signature]

Signature of Evaluation Committee Chair

Date: 24th August 2020.

Denise Walsh

From: pclerkin@cablesurf.com
Sent: Thursday 27 August 2020 19:00
To: Denise Walsh
Subject: Draft minutes of Evaluation Committee meeting on 26th August 2020.

Dear Denise,

I have reviewed the draft minutes of the above meeting and I am in agreement with them.

Regards,

Paul Clerkin
Chairperson,
Evaluation Committee.

