

Community Choices Campaign 2021 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why does Essential Energy run this program?

Essential Energy are more than poles and wires. We're also about empowering local groups who contribute so much to their communities. Even the biggest hearts need a little boost, so we would like to take this opportunity to give back to our real local heroes.

Our Community Choices program provides our customers with an opportunity to vote on causes that can do with a little extra support in their area. A total of \$175,000 will be shared across [20 zones](#) in our network area.

What is the funding available for?

The intention of the funding is so Essential Energy can support a wide range of community-based groups and projects that increase social inclusion, assist communities in need and enhance community engagement within the Essential Energy network area.

Which groups are eligible to apply?

- Be located within Essential Energy's [network area](#)
- Be a charity, registered not-for profit group or community group. Note that community halls run by Council Section 355 Committees are eligible, however Councils are not eligible to apply
- Be able to receive payment via EFT only
- Be able to provide content such as photos and commentary about the stories associated with the nominated applicant as requested by Essential Energy
- Provide a photocopy of either a deposit slip or bank account header (with financial details covered) showing the BSB, account name and account number for the group or hall and
- Have a valid email address which will be used for communications relating to the Community Choices program.

How will the nominations be assessed?

At the close of the nomination period, Essential Energy will review all nominations and those nominations that meet the [eligibility criteria](#) will be confirmed as eligible participants and listed on the Good 2 Give platform for public voting. Access to the Good2Give platform is available at essentialenergy.good2givegrants.org

Note that Good2Give is the service provider who will facilitate the operation of the promotion by Essential Energy.

Who can submit a nomination?

A representative from a group can submit a nomination or a customer within the Essential Energy network can submit a nomination on a group's behalf.

How long does the online nomination form take to complete?

The online nomination form can take up to 20 minutes to complete. Before starting a nomination, make sure you have the following details:

- The group's details including the groups ABN (if any), postal address, details of the main contact
- Obtain details on what the grant will be spent on if the group is successful

Can I submit more than one nomination?

One nomination can be submitted per group per zone. The group will either need to be based in the zone or funds spent in the zone that the nomination is being submitted for to be eligible.



Will the group I nominated know I nominated them?

Yes, if you are not a group representative and submit a nomination on their behalf, your contact details will be shared with the nominated group.

Can I submit a paper application?

This is an online program, which is run through the program page of essentialenergy.com.au/choices and the Good 2 Give platform essentialenergy.good2givegrants.org/. For this reason, paper applicants will not be accepted.

What are the key dates for nominations and voting in the Community Choices program?

- Nominations open: 9am, Monday 12 April 2021
- Nominations close: 5pm, Monday 10 May 2021
- Voting opens: 9am, Tuesday 18 May 2021
- Voting closes: 5pm, Monday 31 May 2021

Who do I contact if I am having trouble submitting a nomination or vote?

You can contact Good2Give at grants@good2give.ngo if you are having an issues submitting a nomination or vote online.

Who is Good2Give?

Good2Give is the chosen grants partner working with Essential Energy to manage the Community Choices program. Good2Give may contact nominated groups during the program to gain additional information where required. More information on Good2Give can be found at <https://good2give.ngo/>

What is the process from nomination to voting?

- Nominations may be submitted by eligible groups and customers on behalf of these groups.
- These nominations will be reviewed to ensure they meet the program criteria, with eligible nominations proceeding to the voting stage, with votes open to the general public.
- The top votes in each zone will receive the relevant funding amount, in line with the program details.
- The funding amounts for each zone can be found at essentialenergy.com.au/choices

Nominations and voting will take place on the platform Good 2 Give which will be visible and accessible through essentialenergy.com.au/choices

What is the exact nomination period?

The nomination period will open at 9am on 12 April 2021 and close at 5pm on 10 May 2021.

How do I know if my nomination has been successfully submitted?

Good 2 Give will send through a confirmation email to the individual submitting the nomination that the nomination has been received. It will then be sent for review once the nomination period closes.



Will people be notified if their nomination has been successful and therefore eligible for the voting and funding allocation within their area?

Yes, if your nomination meets the eligibility criteria then it will proceed to the voting stage. You will receive an email once nominations have been reviewed, following the nomination closing date and once voting has taken place to let you know the results of your nomination to advise whether your organisation is eligible. Ineligible nominations will also be advised.

How will people know that the voting period is open?

Voting will open from 9am on 18 May 2021. Public voting will take place on the voting site

<https://voting.essentialenergy.good2give.ngo>

When is the voting period? Can I vote multiple times? Can I vote for different organisations?

Voting will open from 9am on 18 May 2021 and close at 5pm on 31 May 2021. Votes will take place on the same platform as the nominations, which is on the Good 2 Give website. Visit essentialenergy.com.au/choices for a direct link to the voting page.

You can vote once in a 24-hour period. You can vote for different organisations or the same group, but only once per day.

Can I vote on behalf of someone else?

No - you cannot vote on behalf of someone else – even if they have given you permission to use their email address. You can only use your own email address for the purpose of voting and vote once within a 24-hour period.

How are winners decided/how will nominations be assessed?

Nominations are eligible if they meet the criteria set-out by Essential Energy.

Customers will then vote for their preferred group to receive the funding. The winners in each zone will be determined by number of votes received during the voting period.

How will winners be selected if an equal number of votes is given to 2 groups?

If there is an equal vote between two groups in the final voting stage, Essential Energy reserves the right to select a winner upon their discretion.

When will payment be made to the winning groups?

Successful groups will be notified once nominations, voting and a validation period of voted groups has been carried out. Winning groups will be notified in June 2021 with funds received during July.

What is the validation period?

After the voting period has closed, there will be a validation period where groups voted on may need to provide additional information on their eligibility. During this period groups may be contacted by Good2Give.

How will I let Essential Energy know about how the funds were spent if successful?

If your group is successful for a grant, the successful email includes details to an online completion report. Once funds are spent the group can use this link to answer questions and let Essential Energy know how funds were spent.

What is the funding breakdown per zone?

There is a total of \$175,000 in funding which will be shared across [20 zones](#) in the Essential Energy network area. Each zone will receive a portion of the total funding pool, being \$8,500, to be allocated to the first six Eligible Participants for each zone ranked in order of valid votes received from highest to lowest as follows:

- First funding allocation: \$2,500;
- Second funding allocation: \$2,000;
- Third funding allocation: \$1,500;
- Fourth funding allocation: \$1,000;
- Fifth funding allocation: \$900; and
- Sixth funding allocation: \$600

The remaining \$5,000 of the total funding pool will be allocated to the 'Small Communities' category which is reserved for groups located in areas with populations less than 20,000 people. Within this category there will be 10 funding allocations of \$500 each with funding allocated to the top 10 Eligible Participants within the Small Communities category ranked in order of valid Votes received. This category will not be separated into zones, and groups who qualify for this category are also eligible to receive funding through the zone allocations if they are ranked in first six eligible participants.

How can a group nominate for the Small Communities category?

During the nomination process the individual completing the nomination can elect for the group to be included in the Small Communities category. They can do so by answering the question in relation to whether the group resides in an area with a population of less than 20,000 people.

Can I be eligible for the zone funding and the Small Communities category funding?

Yes. All groups must be allocated to one of the 20 zones in the Essential Energy network area. If the nominator answers yes to include the group in the Small Communities category they may be eligible to receive an additional funding boost.

How do I vote for a group in the Small Communities category?

All votes submitted through the voting process (across the 20 zones) will count towards the Small Communities category, so long as the Group was nominated in that the Small Communities category. You cannot vote for the Small Communities category separately.

Where can I view the leader board to see who has the most votes?

The leaderboard can be viewed by zone in the voting platform. This can be accessed at essentialenergy.com.au/choices.