

## **Strategic Investment Grants**

As of today, the Strategic Investments Grants which are funded through the Rural Development Programme for England have been extended and re-launched.

The Strategic Investment Grants (for grants of £62,500 and above) are available to land based businesses and can fund large scale and collaborative projects to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector, and improve the quality of life in rural areas, and diversification of the rural economy.

*The new areas are:*

### **Agriculture and Horticulture**

To improve the economic performance of agricultural and horticultural businesses through investments in technologies intended to improve the utilisation of power, heat, manures and water.

### **Organic Farm Wastes**

Can provide financial assistance towards the capital costs of plant, fixed equipment and infrastructure necessary for the processing of organic farm wastes. Assistance is intended to support technologies (such as biogas and anaerobic digestion).

### **Farm Diversification**

To directly support farm businesses seeking increased income from enterprises other than traditional agricultural enterprises and to generate benefits to the wider rural economy through on-farm investment.

### **Forestry**

To improve the economic value of forests and support the production, processing and marketing of primary forestry products through investment in improved efficiency, renewable energy, new technologies and new market opportunities.

*Relaunched:*

### **Livestock**

To improve the processing and marketing of livestock products.

### **Fruit & Vegetable Packing & Processing**

To improve the processing and marketing of fruit and vegetable products.

### **Centralised Storage and Processing Facilities for Combinable Crops**

To help the combinable crops sector to become more competitive.

Full details of each of these Strategic Investment Grants can be found by clicking the following link (they are listed as pdf files on the right hand side of the screen):

<http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/working-with-us/rdpe/how-do-i-apply/sig-bidding-rounds-and-grants.aspx>

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards.  
Victoria

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