

Generators

Advice Note



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Generators may seem like a simple and ideal solution to provide power at a Community Hub during an emergency however thought needs to go into whether this is the best solution for you.

Is a generator actually needed?

Purchasing a generator is not a small undertaking and may not be the solution you need; the use of a generator should be considered as part of your overall resilience plan. As a Community Group you should ask yourselves the following questions to establish whether this would benefit your community.

- What are the risks in your community, what is the likelihood of them happening?
- Would a generator mitigate those risks?
- Would the majority of the community be able to be resilient in their own households for 72 hours, with prior planning and education?
- Are there any other groups/organisations in your area that already have generators?
- Are there cheaper, easier alternatives for example battery packs or portable indoor gas heaters?
- Have you got volunteers with capacity and capability to operate the generator and community hub?
- How many people do you expect would come along to a community hub?
- What support are you trying to offer from a Community Hub that would require a generator?

If you feel a generator is the optimum solution for your community resilience plan you need to consider the following:

Technical Specification

What size or specification of generator do you require? A qualified electrician (SELECT OR NICEIC certified) will be able to make this assessment for you.

What will it be powering? for example powering gas heating takes less power than electric heating.

Is the wiring in the building you are powering suitable? If not, you will need to have work undertaken by a qualified electrician. Contractors must be certified by either SELECT or NICEIC.

How will you 'plug in' the generator? Does work need to be undertaken – do you have permission to do this to the building? If the building is not owned by you, you will need permission to undertake this work.

What is the generator's capacity, how will you ensure this is not overloaded?
Do you need a mobile or fixed generator? If fixed do you need planning permission?

You can check if you need planning permission here [Check if you need planning permission - Aberdeenshire Council](#) or you can contact the local office for your area.

For general help and advice with planning issues you can call 01467 534333 or email planning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or contact the appropriate local office

[Banff office – Banff and Buchan Team](#)

[Ellon office – Formartine Team](#)

[Inverurie office – Garioch Team](#)

[Peterhead office – Buchan Team](#)

[Stonehaven office – Kincardine and Mearns and Marr Teams](#)

If mobile, where and how will it be stored and transported?
If fixed, how will you house and secure the generator and how can prevent its theft?

Purchase

Where will you buy the generator from, how will you fund it and who will own it?
Who will insure the generator and at what cost?

Ongoing

Who will maintain the generator? How often will it be tested? You should document this in your Community Resilience Plan.

How and who will be trained to use it in an emergency?
How and where will you store, rotate and use fuel?
How much fuel will the generator use? What will your 'opening hours' be on this basis?
Risk assess the hazards of using the generator