

UK MANUFACTURERS

Could your business cut electricity costs by up to 25%?

The British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme is open now.

Eligibility is specific, the application cannot be amended once submitted, and the deadline is 30 November 2026.



**UP TO
25%**

Potential electricity-
bill reduction



**30
NOVEMBER**

Application deadline



ONE SHOT

No amendment
after submission

BICS is the scheme behind it. This report explains who should check, what evidence you need and what to do before you submit.

WHAT CHANGED

What does BICS actually offer?

The British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme (BICS) is designed to reduce electricity costs for eligible manufacturing activity by exempting qualifying electricity from the indirect costs of the Renewables Obligation, Feed-in Tariffs and the Capacity Market.

**UP TO
25%**

Potential electricity-bill reduction

Not a guaranteed flat discount. The percentage depends on the underlying electricity price paid by the eligible business.

1 OCT 2026 Applications open.	30 NOV 2026 Applications close at 11:59pm.	JAN 2027 Eligibility decisions expected.
APR 2027 RO + FiT exemptions begin.	OCT 2027 Capacity Market exemption begins.	

WHAT MATTERS

“Up to 25%” is not a flat 25% discount. Applicant guidance also allows for partial relief where only part of a site’s grid electricity relates to eligible manufacturing activity.

Primary evidence: [BICS business guidance](#) | [Government announcement, 1 October 2026](#)

WHO SHOULD CHECK

Being a manufacturer is only the starting point

The scheme tests the business, the manufacturing sector, the product and the electricity used at the site. Product eligibility matters.

COMPANY Registered at Companies House and operating in an eligible manufacturing sector (SIC code).	SITE Manufacturing site in Great Britain.
PRODUCT Manufacture an eligible product identified by the relevant HS code.	ELECTRICITY At least 33 MWh of grid-supplied electricity per year at the manufacturing site.

OFFICIAL CHECKER

The official BICS eligibility checker is the sensible first route. It asks for the Companies House number, site postcode, products manufactured and HS codes where known, annual grid electricity consumption, and an estimate of electricity used to manufacture each type of product.

The checker provides an initial indication only. Final eligibility is determined after a full application has been assessed by the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade.

Primary evidence: [BICS guidance for applicants](#) | [Eligibility for the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme](#) | [Official BICS eligibility checker](#)

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

Why checking first matters

The application requires more than a statement that the business manufactures an eligible product. The government checklist includes company, site, meter, bill, product and supporting evidence information.

Once submitted, the application cannot be amended.

Only one application may be made per legal entity in a year, although that application can cover multiple sites.

SITE + METER

Manufacturing site details and relevant MPANs.

BILLS

The most recent six consecutive months available within the previous 12 months.

PRODUCT

Details of products manufactured and the relevant supporting evidence.

SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT

Extra evidence may be needed for shared meters, third-party supply or mixed activity.

That makes this a poor candidate for a 30 November afternoon job.

There is no need to manufacture urgency around BICS; the deadline and the application rules do that job on their own.

Primary evidence: [BICS guidance for applicants](#)

UNUSUAL SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS

Landlord or shared supply?

Do not assume you are excluded.

BICS has specific arrangements for third-party supplies and shared meters. An unusual electricity arrangement is a reason to check the guidance early, not a reason to stop checking.

MANUFACTURER

Submits the BICS application and supporting evidence. Shared meters may require evidence showing the manufacturer's relevant share of electricity use.

LANDLORD / THIRD PARTY

May need to provide consumption or billing information. Where the exemption is applied to a third party's bill, the financial benefit is expected to be passed to the eligible manufacturer.

GOVERNMENT

The Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade assesses and monitors eligibility. FundingFunnel does not make that decision.

CHECK EARLY: Private-network and private-wire arrangements require separate checking.

Primary evidence: [Annex C: landlords and other third parties](#) | [Official BICS eligibility checker](#)

WIDER ELECTRICITY CHECK

BICS is the immediate question. It is not the only one.

Once the bills, consumption information and contract details are already in front of the business, it is sensible to understand the wider electricity position too.

CONTRACT When does the current electricity contract end?	CONSUMPTION Does the business understand what it is consuming and paying for?
PURCHASING Are the current purchasing arrangements still appropriate?	CHARGES Are there charges on the bill that need explaining?

SEPARATE STORY

Are you being charged the correct VAT on your business energy?

HM Revenue & Customs introduced a temporary zero rate for qualifying supplies of electricity in Great Britain from 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027. The relief is not a blanket zero rate for business electricity. Whether a supply qualifies depends on HMRC's existing qualifying-use rules.

Primary evidence: [HMRC temporary zero rate of VAT for domestic electricity](#) | [VAT Notice 701/19: Fuel and power](#)

FREE SUPPORT FOR BICS APPLICANTS

Get free, practical help before you submit

Applying for BICS can feel complex. FundingFunnel provides initial, no-charge support to help you understand what needs to be in place before you submit your application.

WE CAN HELP YOU

- ✓ Check the information and evidence you need
- ✓ Understand how your site, product and electricity use fit the scheme
- ✓ Spot potential issues before submission
- ✓ Use the official government route with a clearer picture of what is required

**Talk to FundingFunnel
before you press submit**

GET FREE INITIAL HELP

FundingFunnel does not decide whether a manufacturer qualifies for BICS. Government does.

If you think BICS might apply but want to make sure you know what needs checking before you submit, that is a sensible point to speak to FundingFunnel.

Primary evidence: [Official BICS eligibility checker](#) | [BICS guidance for applicants](#)

EVIDENCE TRAIL

Sources and references

Research cut-off: 3 October 2026. These are the primary sources supporting the report.

1. BICS guidance for applicants

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-industrial-competitiveness-scheme-business-guidance/british-industrial-competitiveness-scheme-guidance-for-applicants>

2. BICS business guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-industrial-competitiveness-scheme-business-guidance>

3. Government announcement, 1 October 2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/applications-open-for-scheme-to-slash-electricity-bills-for-over-10000-manufacturers>

4. Eligibility for the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eligibility-for-the-british-industrial-competitiveness-scheme>

EVIDENCE TRAIL

Sources and references

Primary government and HM Revenue & Customs sources.

5. Official BICS eligibility checker

<https://check-eligibility-for-bics.service.gov.uk/check>

6. Annex C: landlords and other third parties

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-industrial-competitiveness-scheme-business-guidance/annex-c-british-industrial-competitiveness-scheme-further-guidance-for-landlords-and-other-third-parties>

7. HMRC temporary zero rate of VAT for domestic electricity

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-zero-rate-of-vat-for-domestic-electricity-in-great-britain>

8. VAT Notice 701/19: Fuel and power

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-on-fuel-and-power-notice-70119>

FundingFunnel does not determine BICS eligibility. Government guidance and the official application route remain the controlling sources.