

**Criteria of the 2nd and 3rd degree merit evaluation of applications submitted under the Environment, Energy and Climate Change Programme implemented as part of the EEA Financial Mechanism for 2014-2021
“The construction of an installation for fuel (pellets) production from agricultural and forestry biomass“**

MERIT CRITERIA – STAGE II

State aid appraisal – to be filled in by the technical unit responsible for the assessment in the field of state aid

No.	Criterion name	Criterion description	Assessment rules: Yes/No	Comments
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
	The financing is in line with the state aid rules	<p>Criterion description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the appraisal if the co-financing constitutes state aid; ▪ if the co-financing constitutes state aid, the appraisal if the aid complies with the provisions/regulations governing state aid. 	Yes/ No/Non-applicable	

Financial evaluation – to be completed by the technical unit responsible for the financial evaluation of the project

No.	Criterion name	Criterion description	Assessment rules: Yes/No/Non-applicable	Comments
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
	Applicant's financial standing – current and forecasted - including feasibility and financial sustainability analysis	<p>Criterion description:</p> <p>Under the criterion, the following will be assessed, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)the applicant's ability to ensure the feasibility and financial sustainability of the project on the basis of analysis of the applicant's financial reports and projections; 2)the correctness of the assumptions used for financial analysis; 3)confirmed, reliable sources of project co-financing (if applicable); 4)the possibility of establishing a financial security (if applicable). 	Yes/ No/Non-applicable	

		<p>The criterion will be assessed using the provisions of the Instructions: "Securing the NFEPWM's claims arising from contracts for project co-financing", regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rules for setting collaterals for any claims under loans/subsidies arising from concluded contracts and contracts in the process of conclusion for co-financing projects from the NFEPWM, including projects co-financed from non-returnable foreign funds, and - defining the general rules for carrying out financial evaluations of grant applications. <p>Basis for assessment: the application form with attachments.</p>		
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Assessment whether the project assumptions comply with the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination – to be filled in by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management

No.	Criterion name	Criterion description	Assessment rules: Yes/No/Non-applicable	Comments
1.	The project complies with the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination	<p>As part of the criterion, it will be assessed whether the project has a positive (or at least neutral) influence on, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the principle of accessibility for people with disabilities; • the principle of gender equality. 	Assessment rules: Yes/No/Non-applicable	

MERIT CRITERIA – STAGE III

No.	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Criterion evaluation rules</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Max number of points</u>	<u>Max score</u>
1.	Prevention of energy poverty	<p>The criterion will be assessed as follows:</p> <p>Option 1 – (the entirety of produced pellet is planned to be distributed free of charge to households affected by energy poverty)</p> <p>3 points: the entirety of produced pellet will be distributed to households affected by energy poverty. Any possible surplus cannot exceed 20% of production and will be used to meet the energy needs of the local government units, which are not related to any economic activity (under EU law).</p> <p>0 points: the applicant has not documented that the entirety of produced pellet will be distributed to households affected by energy poverty and that the possible surplus (which cannot exceed 20% of production) will be used to meet the energy needs of the local government units, which are not related to any economic activity (under EU law).</p> <p>Option 2 – (at least 50% of the produced pellet will be distributed to households affected by energy poverty, the remaining part of the pellet production can be used as part of economic activity)</p> <p>1 point: at least 50% of pellets production will be donated to people suffering from energy poverty.</p> <p>0 points: less than 50% of pellet production will be donated to people suffering from energy poverty.</p> <p>If 0 points are obtained under this criterion the proposal shall be rejected.</p>	1	3	3
2.	Availability of biomass for pellet production	<p>An inventory of biomass carried out in the area of the applicant has demonstrated that:</p> <p>5 points: the planned production of pellets will be based solely on agricultural and forestry biomass resources originating from the area of the applicant (a municipality or a union of municipalities)</p> <p>2 points: the quantity of available agricultural and forestry biomass in the area of the applicant (a municipality or a union of municipalities) is not sufficient to produce the planned quantities of pellets but the applicant has presented the possibility of obtaining the missing raw material from the neighbouring municipalities</p> <p>0 points: the quantity of available agricultural and forestry biomass in the area of the applicant is not sufficient to produce the planned quantities of pellets and the applicant has not presented the possibility of obtaining the missing raw material from the neighbouring municipalities</p>	4	5	20
3.	Availability of pellet boilers ¹	<p>The analysis of the pellet users capacity guarantees that their installations are adapted to/will be adapted to enable</p>	1	5	5

¹ The criterion is assessed on the basis of the declaration submitted by the applicant together with the project concept note/ grant application.

		<p>combustion of this type of fuel by the end of the project's implementation period.</p> <p>5 points: it has been confirmed that at the time of submission of the proposal all the potential pellet users have 5th emission class boilers enabling pellet combustion</p> <p>4 points: it has been confirmed that at the time of submission of the proposal more than 75% of the potential pellet users have 5th emission class boilers enabling pellet combustion and that the applicant implements a complementary project involving the replacement of existing heat sources with 5th emission class pellet boilers or better as part of available assistance/loan programmes or the applicant has indicated how in some other manner it will ensure the availability of an installation on the users' premises by the end of the project implementation period.</p> <p>3 points: it has been confirmed that at the time of submission of the proposal 41% to 75% of the potential pellet users have 5th emission class boilers enabling pellet combustion and that the applicant implements a complementary project involving the replacement of existing heat sources with 5th emission class pellet boilers or better as part of available assistance/loan programmes or the applicant has indicated how in some other manner it will ensure the availability of an installation on the users' premises by the end of the project implementation period.</p> <p>2 point: it has been confirmed that at the time of submission of the proposal 15% to 40,99% of the potential pellet users have 5th emission class boilers enabling pellet combustion and that the applicant implements a complementary project involving the replacement of existing heat sources with 5th emission class pellet boilers or better as part of available assistance/loan programmes or the applicant has indicated how in some other manner it will ensure the availability of an installation on the users' premises by the end of the project implementation period.</p> <p>1 point: it has been confirmed that at the time of submission of the proposal up to 14,99% of the potential pellet users have 5th emission class boilers enabling pellet combustion and that the applicant implements a complementary project involving the replacement of existing heat sources with 5th emission class pellet boilers or better as part of available assistance/loan programmes or the applicant has indicated how in some other manner it will ensure the availability of an installation on the users' premises by the end of the project implementation period</p> <p>0 points: the availability of installations enabling pellet combustion on the target users' premises has not been confirmed and it has not been indicated how this availability of installations will be ensured.</p> <p>If 0 points are obtained under this criterion the proposal shall be rejected.</p>			
4.	Expenditures from the EEA FM grant for unit reduction of CO ₂ emissions	<p>The value of the planned expenditure from an EEA FM grant on an annual reduction of 1 tonne of CO₂.</p> <p>The following numbers of points will be awarded for achieving the value of the indicator X (calculated as the quotient of the grant amount for the project (PLN) per an annual potential reduction of 1 tonne of CO₂):</p> <p>5 points: $X \leq 200$;</p>	4	5	20

		<p>4 points: $200 < X \leq 250$;</p> <p>3 points: $250 < X \leq 300$;</p> <p>2 points: $300 < X \leq 350$;</p> <p>1 point: $X > 350$</p>			
5.	Pellet quality standard ²	<p>The pellets produced in the installation meet the quality conditions.</p> <p>1 point: they meet the quality criteria specified in the PN-EN ISO 17225-2: 2014-07 or PN-EN 14961 standards.</p> <p>0 points: they do not meet the quality criteria specified in the PN-EN ISO 17225-2: 2014-07 or PN-EN 14961 standards.</p> <p>If 0 points are obtained the proposal shall be rejected.</p>	1	1	1
6.	Eligible costs in the project	<p>Are all the costs planned to be incurred within the project related to the expected project scope, necessary for its completion and compliant with the catalogue of eligible costs?</p> <p>1 point: all the costs planned to be incurred are necessary to implement the project and to achieve its planned effect and comply with the catalogue of eligible costs.</p> <p>0 points: not all the costs planned to be incurred are necessary to implement the project and to achieve its planned effect and not all the costs are compliant with the catalogue of eligible costs</p> <p>If 0 points are obtained under this criterion the proposal shall be rejected.</p>	1	1	1
7.	Project implemented in a partnership with entities from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein	<p>It is expected that for the purposes of the implementation of a project a partnership will be established with entities from Donor States: Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein (entrepreneurs, nongovernmental organisations, territorial self-government units etc.)</p> <p>Points are awarded depending on the advancement of the cooperation as part of the partnership.</p> <p>3 points: The project is implemented in a partnership with entities from Donor States: Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. The partnership has been confirmed by a letter of intent or a partnership agreement.</p> <p>1 point: The project is implemented in a partnership with entities from Donor States: Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. The cooperation has been documented in a different manner.</p> <p>0 points: The project is not implemented in a partnership with entities from Donor States: Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.</p>	1	3	3

² The criterion is assessed on the basis of the declaration submitted by the applicant together with the project concept note/ grant application.