

Background information

Funding Available and General Requirements

The Innovation Ecosystem Grant has up to \$3.25 million in total funding available over 5 years.

Organisations can apply for funding between \$30,000 and \$300,000 (excluding GST) per grant. The same application can only be made once each year, unless invited to resubmit by the assessment panel.

This funding is available to support innovation ecosystems building in the ACT. It includes two categories of support:

- **Innovation Clusters:** Funding supports to projects facilitating collaboration and investment opportunities in developing energy innovation sub-sectors and clusters in the ACT. EPSDD is inviting proposals that can facilitate capacity building activities in the energy innovation sectors. These activities could include connecting the ACT's innovation network through networking events, accessing investors and capital, knowledge workshops, professional conferences and roundtables in the ACT, and showcasing Canberra in international roadshows.
- **Business Accelerator:** Funding support to technological or product-based innovation based in the ACT to scale up to Australia and markets beyond. This grant is available for businesses only. Funding will support improved commercialisation, and access to consumers, that can help ACT-based energy innovation to turn from prototypes into potentially commercially successful products and services.

To apply for funding, all applicants need to be aware of the following:

- Applicants must provide a detailed implementation plan of the proposed project and the funding requested, articulating the benefits to the net zero transition and the ACT economy and alignment with the relevant grant objective.
- Organisations must be able to demonstrate they have sufficient funds, resources, and capabilities to commence and complete proposed projects.
- Where applicable, applicants should consider how their proposal aligns with complementary government objectives and policies including, but not limited to:
 - » [The Integrated Energy Plan 2024-2030](#)
 - » [CBR Switched On: ACT's economic development priorities 2022-2025](#)
 - » [ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025](#)
 - » [The ACT Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy 2022-30](#)
 - » [Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan](#)
 - » [Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra](#)
 - » [ACT Circular Economy Strategy 2023-2030](#)
 - » [ACT Waste to Energy Policy 2020-2025](#)
 - » [Everyday Climate Choices, what the ACT Government is doing](#)

Application Overview

Energy Innovation Fund - Innovation Ecosystem Grant

Form Preview

The application will guide you through a series of questions to determine your eligibility and evaluate the proposal against the merit criteria.

Your application needs to include the following:

- a response to the merit criteria;
- a detailed project description and objectives;
- proposed project timeline;
- project benefits and expected outcomes;
- implementation plan, including timing of key milestones and deliverables;
- a knowledge sharing plan;
- the benefits of the funded activities to the ACT renewable energy ecosystem; and
- details on existing or proposed co-funding arrangements.

Merit Criteria

Energy Innovation Fund grants will support projects that contribute to the ACT Government's vision of Canberra as an internationally recognised centre for renewable energy research, innovation and investment.

Each application will be assessed against the guidelines and selection criteria on the application form. The assessment panel will consider the application and make an assessment as to the merit of the application in meeting the aims and objectives of the Program.

Proposals that meet the eligibility criteria will be considered against the following merit criteria:

Innovation (40%)

Innovation and broadening the knowledge base in the ACT energy transition sector is an important objective of the Fund. The following will be assessed under this criterion:

- 1.The project clearly demonstrates innovative and transformational approaches to supporting the net zero transition. This can be demonstrated via the technology used, business model or other aspects; and
- 2.The approach to sharing the learnings gained from the project. This can include but is not limited to, sharing data, hosting webinars, publishing reports, engaging with the local community through workshops and educational guides, and creating collaborative networks.

Technical and commercial viability (25%)

The proposal demonstrates a pathway from ideation to development. The project applies robust processes to develop innovative energy transition solutions. The application shows a high potential for demonstration and scalability. Criteria also include the potential commercial opportunities flowing from the funded activity and the strength of the proponent's business model.

Application quality and organisation capacity (25%)

The applicant has demonstrated their capability to deliver the project and described previous experience in delivering similar projects and managing risks.

The applicant has demonstrated an understanding of, and ability to obtain, any permission or approvals required to deliver the project (where appropriate).

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Form Preview

The application must provide sufficient information to make an informed assessment.

Return on investment (10%)

The level of funding requested is proportionate to the project outcomes, and to the proponent's commitment to and benefits for the ACT. In the context of the entire project, and its timing, the amount of requested funding and the planned expenditure demonstrates a sound investment.

Enhanced public-private collaborations in developing and demonstrating new solutions, and leveraging private investments, are particularly important.

The Government will aim to leverage at least \$1 in new co-contributions for every dollar it invests, on average, in energy innovation technologies. Proposals that demonstrate job creation will be viewed favourably.

For businesses located outside the ACT applying for the grants, it is crucial to demonstrate a strong return on investment. Examples include capital investment, long-term local operational plans and partnerships, and job security.

Contact information

* indicates a required field

Applicant *

☐ Individual ☐ Organisation

Organisation Name

Title First Name Last Name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Applicant ABN *

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main business location	

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Must be an ABN.

Applicant Primary Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Primary Contact Name *

First Name

Last Name

Primary Contact - Email *

Must be an email address.

Primary Contact - Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Secondary Contact Name

First Name

Last Name

Secondary Contact - Email

Must be an email address.

Secondary Contact - Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Eligibility

* indicates a required field

1/ Does your organisation hold all insurances required by law, including \$10 million public liability insurance and workers compensation, or are you prepared to acquire these if successful in gaining an Energy Innovation Fund grant? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

2/ Is your organisation based in the ACT OR will the majority of the proposed funded activities occur within the ACT? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

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3/ Has your organisation satisfactorily acquitted all outstanding grant milestones, reporting requirements, and obligations, including financial acquittals for previous Energy Innovation Fund funding? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

*Select N/A if you did not receive an Energy Innovation Fund grant before

4/ Can you demonstrate a contribution towards the ACT's target of net zero emissions by 2045 in this application? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

5/ Is your organisation registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

*Select N/A if turnover is less than \$150,000 per annum.

6/ If your organisation supports First Nations and/or people experiencing vulnerability OR if your organisation is a registered Indigenous business, please provide details here. *

Applications that demonstrate support for these communities are encouraged to share this information, as it aligns with our commitment to the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

7/ Was your organisation unsuccessful in securing an Energy Innovation Fund grant within the same calendar year, for the same project? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

*Please note that this does not include updates to response to eligibility criteria

8/ Is your organisation a Commonwealth, state or territory government agency? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

9/ Is your organisation a university or research institution? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

*Universities and other research institutions are only eligible if they partner with a business, with an independent ABN, as the lead applicant. Universities and other research institutions may not apply as the lead applicant.

10/ Has your organisation or individual shareholders of the organisation been subject to any insolvency event? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

11/ Are you or your organisation named on the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade sanctions list? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

*This can be checked here: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions>

12/ Please disclose any legal proceedings or investigation deemed relevant to the grant, including litigation, arbitration, mediation or conciliation that are taking place, pending or (to the best of the applicant's knowledge, after having made proper enquiry) threatened against the applicant or a related body corporate (as defined in the Corporations Act). *

*Please provide details or answer None (if applicable).

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13/ Are you applying for an innovation clusters funding support or a business accelerator support? *

☐ Innovation Clusters

☐ Business Accelerator

14/ Is your organisation a business or an industry building not-for-profit organisation? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

*Those organisations will be regarded positively and are encouraged to apply.

14/ Is your organisation a business? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

15/ Was your technological or product-based innovation developed in the ACT? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Response

* indicates a required field

Project Summary

Project Title *

Short project description *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Provide a short description of your project. This will be used for public grant announcements.

Proposed Start Date *

Proposed End Date *

*A shorter project duration may be requested for the funding allocation.

Additional Documentation - Full project proposal

Attach a file:

Detailed Project Proposal

Energy Innovation Fund - Innovation Ecosystem Grant

Form Preview

* indicates a required field

Innovation (40%)

Innovation and broadening the knowledge base for the ACT energy transition is an important objective of the Fund. The following will be assessed under this criterion:

- 1.The project clearly demonstrates innovative and transformational approaches to supporting energy transition. This can be demonstrated via the technology used, business model or other aspects; and
- 2.The approach to sharing the learnings gained from the project. This can include but is not limited to, sharing data, hosting webinars, publishing reports, engaging with the local community through workshops and educational guides, and creating collaborative networks.

Innovation *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Explain how the proposed project demonstrates innovative and transformational approaches to supporting the renewable energy sector and the zero-emissions transition. This may be demonstrated via the technology used, business model or other aspects.

Knowledge Sharing and Commercial Sensitivities *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Explain your proposed approach to sharing the learnings gained from the project and what you expect to achieve from sharing this knowledge. For example: site tours, academic papers, public presentations. Outline which components of the project are expected to remain confidential and therefore not shared.

Additional Documentation - Innovation

Attach a file:

Upload additional documentation relevant to the Technical and Commercial Viability criterion (optional)

Technical and commercial viability (25%)

The proposal demonstrates a pathway from ideation to development. The project applies robust processes to develop innovative energy transition solutions. The application shows a high potential for demonstration and scalability. Criteria also include the potential commercial opportunities flowing from the funded activity and the strength of the proponent's business model.

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Technical viability *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Demonstrate how the project apply robust processes to develop innovative energy transition solutions and the project's potential for demonstration and scalability.

Commercial viability *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Outline the business model of the project, highlighting the technical feasibility of the project and any potential commercial opportunities that would stem from the project.

Additional Documentation - Technical and commercial viability

Attach a file:

Upload additional documentation relevant to the Innovation and Knowledge Sharing criterion (optional)

Application quality and organisation capacity (25%)

The applicant has demonstrated their capability to deliver the project and described previous experience in delivering similar projects and managing risks.

The applicant has demonstrated an understanding of, and ability to obtain, any permission or approvals required to deliver the project (where appropriate).The application must provide sufficient information to make an informed assessment.

Organisation Capacity *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Provide evidence of your organisation's capability to deliver the project and outline any previous experience in delivering similar projects.

Project Implementation Plan *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

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Outline how you will successfully deliver your project in a timely manner, including a timeline of the key milestones and deliverables. List any permissions or approvals necessary to complete the project (if required).

Risk Assessment *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Outline any potential risks to the delivery of the project and how these risks will be managed.

Examples of risk categories include assets, Workplace Health and Safety, compliance/regulation, people, environment, financial, products and services, technology, reputation and image, cultural and heritage, business process and systems.

Additional Documentation - Application quality and organisation capacity

Attach a file:

Upload additional documentation relevant to the Organisational Capability and Capacity (optional)

Return on Investment (10%)

The level of funding requested is proportionate to the project outcomes, and to the proponent's commitment to and benefits for the ACT. In the context of the entire project, and its timing, the amount of requested funding and the planned expenditure demonstrates a sound investment.

Enhanced public-private collaborations in developing and demonstrating new solutions, and leveraging private investments, are particularly important.

The Government will aim to leverage at least \$1 in new co-contributions for every dollar it invests, on average, in energy innovation technologies. Proposals that demonstrate job creation will be viewed favourably.

For businesses located outside the ACT applying for the grants, it is crucial to demonstrate a strong return on investment. Examples include capital investment, long-term local operational plans and partnerships, and job security.

Project outcomes and benefits to the ACT *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Provide details about the project outcomes and the expected benefits. This may include outcomes related to technical and commercial development, education and skills development, job creation, and industry development.

Return on Investment - Budget Details

Energy Innovation Fund - Innovation Ecosystem Grant

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Provide a budget breakdown of the Energy Innovation Funding funding and include any time frames for expenditure. 'In-kind' contributions include donated goods, services or voluntary work to support a project. Amounts must be in dollar, exclusive of GST.

Expenditure Description	Cost (\$)	Energy Innovation Fund Grant Contribution	Cash Contribution	In-kind Contribution	Estimated Date of Expenditure
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a date.

Return on Investment - Budget Totals

Amount Requested *

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Total amount of financial support you are requesting from the Energy Innovation Fund.

Total Expenditure Amount

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Cash Contributions

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Total In-kind Contributions

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Other Funding Sources

List the amount and details of any additional public or private funding leveraged, or likely to be leveraged, for this project. Amounts must be in dollar, exclusive of GST.

Additional Documentation - Return on Investment

Attach a file:

Upload any additional documentation for the Return on Investment criterion (optional)

Potential Partners

Please list any potential partners or collaborators for your project.

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Potential Partner

<input type="radio"/> Individual	<input type="radio"/> Organisation
Organisation Name	
First Name	Last Name

Referee Information

* indicates a required field

Referee Details

Provide the contact details for two referees who can provide support to your application

Referee 1

Name *

Organisation *

Relationship to Applicant *

Work Address *

Email *

Phone Number *

Referee 2

Name *

Organisation *

Relationship to Applicant *

Work Address *

Email *

Phone Number *

Survey

Your Feedback Matters – Complete Our Short Grant Application Survey

Thank you for participating in the Energy Innovation Fund grant application process. We appreciate the time and effort you put into your application.

Your feedback is valuable to us and will be used to help enhance our grant processes. The information provided in the survey will not be shared with the assessment panel.

How did you find out about this grant opportunity?

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Energy Innovation Fund email | <input type="radio"/> Energy Innovation Fund events | <input type="radio"/> Social media | <input type="radio"/> Print media (e.g., newspapers, magazines) | <input type="radio"/> Think tanks, educational institutions, | <input type="radio"/> Grant finder website | <input type="radio"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|

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Form Preview

and industry
networks

(Select all that apply)

How easy was it for you to fill out the form?

☐ Very easy ☐ Easy ☐ Neutral ☐ Difficult ☐ Very difficult
(Select one)

How long did it take you to fill out the form?

Must be a number.
(Please specify in hours)

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about this grant opportunity?*(Select one option for each statement)*

The grant application process was clear and straightforward.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Support from Grants Administrators was helpful and timely.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Reading the guidelines and learning about previously funded projects was easy.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments or feedback to share with us about the application process?