

FUNDING INNOVATION FOR NET ZERO

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The Hydrogen and Advanced Technologies branch in the Department for the Economy has created this regular newsletter to keep you informed of any relevant external funding opportunities available. Our focus is funding which promotes clean energy and a low carbon economy. We hope you find this helpful and if you have any feedback on the newsletter, please contact us at:
HydrogenAdvancedTechnologiesBranch@economy-ni.gov.uk



Edition 6
March 2023

Disclaimer: In this newsletter we are referencing publicly available information, we acknowledge that it may not be exhaustive. We advise all interested parties to engage with funding bodies in the first instance directly at the earliest opportunity. DfE accepts no liability for discrepancies in dissemination. Funding opportunities detailed do not represent DfE endorsement or involvement in any way.



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New this Issue:

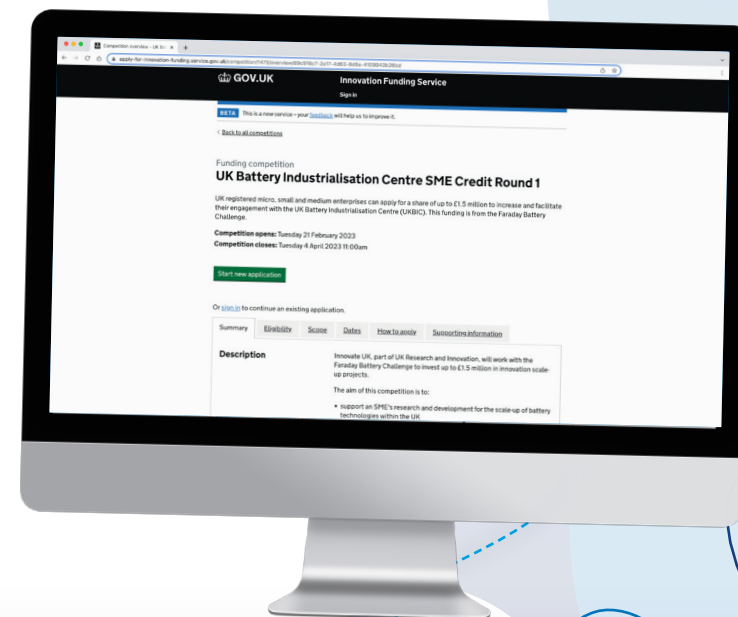
UK Battery Industrialisation Centre SME Credit Round 1

UK registered micro, small and medium enterprises can apply for a share of up to **£1.5 million** to increase and facilitate their engagement with the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC). This funding is from the Faraday Battery Challenge.

Funding support will be offered for labour, travel and subsistence, overheads and subcontracting only. SMEs will be able to access UKBIC's giga-scale facilities for:

- complete cell development project iterations, for example electrode through cells, includes mixing and coating, calendaring and slitting, up to cell assembly, formation and ageing.
- proving electrodes at scale, for example electrode only, includes mixing and coating, calendaring and slitting.

-  **Organisation:** Innovate UK
-  **Total Fund:** £1,500,000
-  **Opening Date:** 21st February 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 4th April 2023 @ 11am
-  **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - UK Battery Industrialisation Centre SME Credit Round 1 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-innovation-funding-service/competition-overview-uk-battery-industrialisation-centre-sme-credit-round-1)



New this Issue:

Zero Emission Vessel and Infrastructure (ZEVI) Competition

UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £77 million. The funding will be to develop, deploy and operate clean maritime solutions for 3 years in a real-world environment. This funding is from the Department for Transport.

There are three separate areas covered by this fund:

- alternative fuel vessels and refuelling infrastructure.
- battery electric vessels and charging infrastructure.
- shore power technologies, shore-side and vessel-side.

The three separate links below describe the different scope of each.



Organisation: Innovate UK



Total Fund: £77,000,000



Opening Date: 6th February 2023



Closing Date: 19th April 2023 @ 11am



More information can be found at:
[Competition overview - ZEVI: Shore power technologies, shore-side and vessel-side - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Competition overview - ZEVI: Battery electric vessels and charging infrastructure - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Competition overview - ZEVI: Alternative fuel vessels and refuelling infrastructure - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)







New this Issue:

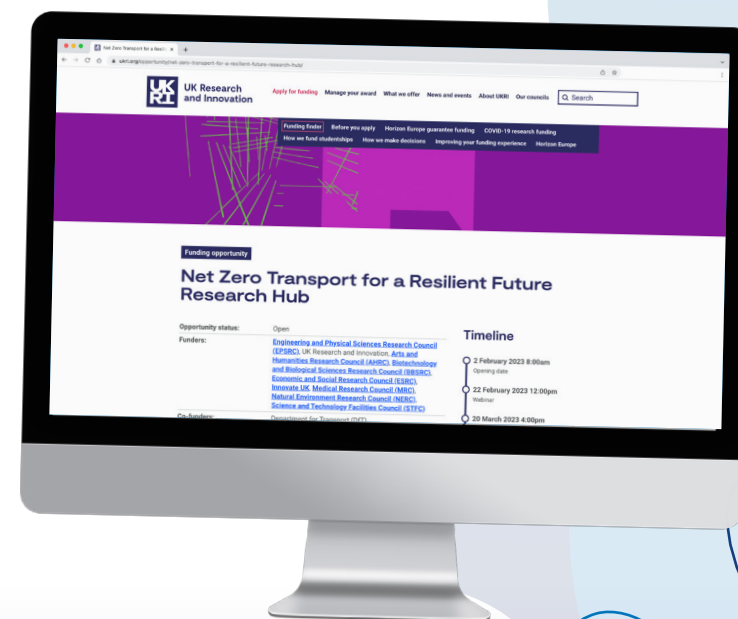
Net Zero Transport for a Resilient Future Research

Establish the Net Zero Transport for a Resilient Future Research Hub, focusing on climate adaptation and mitigation solutions for our transport system across modalities and landscapes.

UKRI and DfT will fund one £10 million hub at 80% of the full economic cost (FEC).

The hub has a fixed start date of 1 September 2023 and can run for up to 43 months.

-  **Funding Organisation:** UKRI and DfT
-  **Total Fund:** £12,500,000
-  **Opening Date:** 2nd February 2023
-  **Mandatory expression of interest closes:** 20th March 2023 @ 4pm
-  **Closing date for submitting application:** 25th April 2023 @ 4pm
-  **More information can be found at:** [Net Zero Transport for a Resilient Future Research Hub – UKRI](#)



New this Issue:

Hydrogen Storage and Distribution Supply Chain Collaborative R&D

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will work with industry to invest up to £4.35 million in innovation projects. As part of the Future Economy Net Zero Programme this competition will focus on the development of the hydrogen economy.

The aim of this competition is to develop new ways of delivering integrated hydrogen storage and distribution systems and the associated supply chains.



Funding Organisation: Innovate UK



Total Fund: £4,350,000



Opening Date: 13th February 2023



Closing Date: 26th April 2023 @ 11am



More information can be found at: [Competition overview - Hydrogen storage and distribution supply chain Collaborative R&D - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Innovate UK Smart Grants: January 2023

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million for game-changing and commercially viable R&D innovations that can significantly impact the UK economy.

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is investing up to £25 million in the best game-changing and world-leading ideas, designed for swift, successful commercialisation. Ideas need to be genuinely new and novel, not just disruptive within their sector.

Your proposal must be business focused, with deliverable, realistic, adequately resourced plans to achieve return on investment, growth and market share following project completion.



Organisation: Innovate UK



Total Fund: £25,000,000



Opening Date: 19th January 2023



Closing Date: 26th April 2023



More information can be found at: [Competition overview - Innovate UK Smart grants: January 2023 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

New this Issue:

Establish a Flagship UK National Clean Maritime Research Hub

Apply for funding to establish a flagship UK national clean maritime research hub to develop critical mass and address fundamental research challenges in clean maritime.

EPSRC and DfT will fund up to £7.4 million, at 80% of the full economic cost of the hub, with a fixed start date of 1 September 2023 and duration of 43 months.

You must:

- build a co-created interdisciplinary research consortium.
- form project partner collaborations with academia, industry, policymakers and the third sector.

- demonstrate at least £2 million of matched funding from project partners at application stage and a plan to increase this to £10 million by the end of the hub.



Organisation: Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)



Total Fund: £9,250,000



Opening Date: 6th February 2023



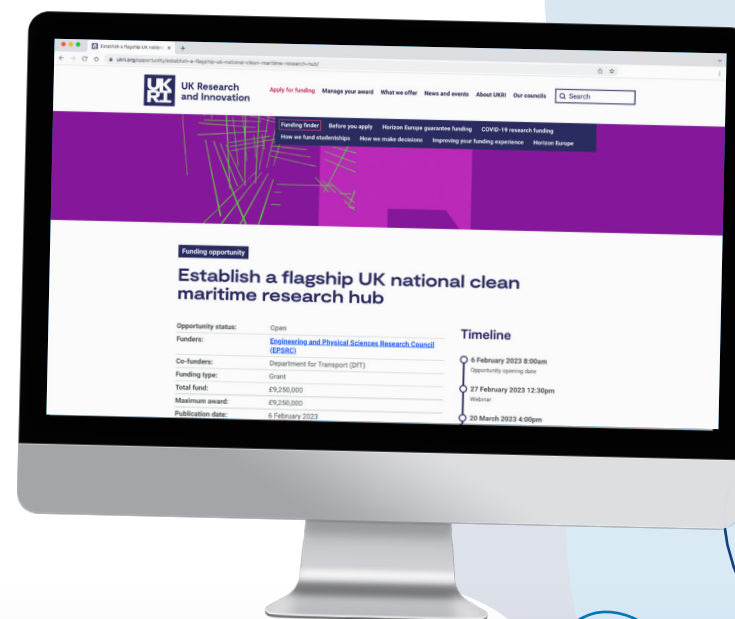
Mandatory Expression of Interest Date: 20th of March @ 4pm



Closing Date: 2nd May 2023 @ 4pm



More information can be found at: [Establish a flagship UK national clean maritime research hub – UKRI](#)



New this Issue:

Green Innovation Challenge Fund

This fund is led by the Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE) as delivery partner for the Department for the Economy Northern Ireland. This is the third round of funding.


CASE is calling for applications from suitably qualified consortia for research and development funding to support the decarbonisation of the energy system. Proposals are sought from across the following research areas:

- Ocean energy – wave, tidal, offshore wind, floating solar
- Bio-energy – anaerobic digestion, biogas production, upgrading and bio-fuel production
- Energy systems – community / local energy, geothermal, grid stabilisation, ancillary and distribution system operator services, demand side management, integrated supply chains and Power-to-X

 **Organisation:** Department for Economy

 **Total Fund:** £4,500,000

 **Closing Date:** 5th May 2023

 **More information can be found at:** [£4.5 million Green Innovation Challenge Fund - pilot 3rd window - Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy \(case-research.net\)](https://case-research.net)



New this Issue:

Global Centres in Clean Energy and Climate Change

Apply for funding to support new cutting-edge, interdisciplinary, use-inspired research on clean energy and climate change through international partnerships fostering novel breakthroughs or informing policy.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) can support Global Centres Implementation of 'Track-1' awards focused on clean energy and climate change topics.

UKRI will target priorities co-designed with government and industry in areas such as:

- targeting the 'final 20%' of greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions.
- realising a circular economy.

- protecting our nature, biodiversity, and agricultural landscape.
- developing and deploying net zero technologies.



Organisation: UK Research and Innovation



Total Fund: £750,000



Opening Date: 8th March 2023



Closing Date: 10th May 2023 @ 4pm



More information can be found at:
[Global Centres in clean energy and climate change – UKRI](#)




New this Issue:

Manufacturing Research Hubs for a Sustainable Future Two: Outline Stage


Apply for funding to establish a large-scale, multidisciplinary research hub in support of manufacturing, environmental sustainability, and net zero.

Manufacturing Research Hubs for a Sustainable Future Two will deliver a programme of innovative research in the engineering and physical sciences, related to the challenges in commercialising early-stage research and manufacturing.

 **Organisation:** Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

 **Total Fund:** £55,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 7th March 2023

 **Closing Date:** 10th May 2023 @ 4pm

 **More information can be found at:** [Manufacturing research hubs for a sustainable future two: outline stage – UKRI](#)

Centre in Sustainable and Equitable Low-Carbon Living

Apply for funding to establish a centre in sustainable and equitable low-carbon living. This centre will be a world-leading centre of excellence conducting interdisciplinary, cutting-edge and impactful research.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding.


The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be between £5 million and £9.7 million. UKRI will fund 80% FEC.

Funding is available for up to 5 years.

 **Organisation:** UK Research and Innovation

 **Total Fund:** £9,700,000

 **Opening Date:** 1st February 2023

 **Closing Date:** 17th May 2023 @ 4pm

 **More information can be found at:** [Centre in sustainable and equitable low-carbon living – UKRI](#)

New this Issue:

UK-Germany Bilateral: Collaborative Research and Development

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £4 million for collaborative research projects resulting in innovative solutions.






You must collaborate with at least one German small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) applying under the equivalent German Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM).

-  **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK
-  **Total Fund:** £4,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 7th February 2023
-  **Closing Date:** 7th June 2023 @ 11am
-  **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - UK – Germany Bilateral: Collaborative R&D - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Knowledge Transfer Partnership

We are looking for partnerships that help businesses to innovate, develop, grow, and become more productive by employing academic expertise that they do not have in-house.

Your project can focus on any type of innovation in any sector, but it must aim to deliver results that your business would not otherwise be able to deliver.

-  **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK
-  **Maximum award:** Dependent on cost
-  **Opening Date:** 20th September 2020
-  **Closing Date:** Open – no closing date
-  **More information can be found at:** [Knowledge Transfer Partnership – UKRI](#)






New this Issue:

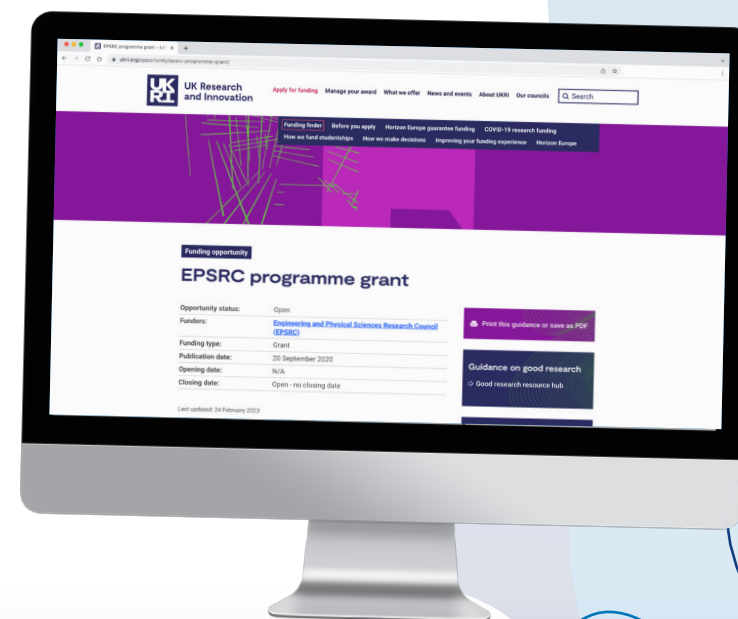
EPSRC Programme Grant

Programme grants provide flexible funding to world-leading UK research groups addressing significant research challenges.

You must first go through a pre-outline and outline stage before being invited to make a full application.

We will award 80% of the full economic costs of the project, and your organisation(s) must agree to find the balance.

-  **Funding Organisation:** Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
-  **Maximum award:** Grant
-  **Opening Date:** 20th September 2020
-  **Closing Date:** Open – no closing date
-  **More information can be found at:** [EPSRC programme grant – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/funding-opportunities/epsrc-programme-grant/)



While there is still time:



Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP): 2023 to 2024 Round 1


UK registered academic institutions, RTOs or Catapults can apply for a share of up to £9 million to fund innovation projects with businesses or not for profits.

The KTP partnership brings new skills and the latest academic thinking into the business partner to deliver a specific, strategic innovation project. The knowledge base partner recruits the 'associate' to work on the project. The associate has the opportunity to lead a strategic development within the business developing new skills and gaining valuable experience.

 **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK

 **Total Fund:** £9,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 30th January 2023

 **Closing Date:** 22nd March 2023 @ 11am

 **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - SBRI: MRV tools and techniques for land based greenhouse gas removal, phase 1 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Transformative Technologies Competition

UK registered small and micro businesses can apply for a share of up to £20 million for affordable, adoptable and investable innovations in Transformative Technologies.

Rapid funding of £25-50k for 3-6 month projects.


This is ambitious support with funding awarded in advance of projects starting. The focus is on technologies that are transforming the future of our society and economy.

 **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK

 **Total Fund:** £20,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 20th February 2023

 **Closing Date:** 29th March 2023

 **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Innovate UK Transformative Technologies - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

While there is still time:



Future Economy Investor Partnerships: Investor Selection February 2023

Investors can apply to partner with Innovate UK to invest in innovative small and medium-sized enterprises aligned with grant funding.

The investor partnership programme will be focused on specific themes for the future economy areas that include:

Net Zero

- capital intensive technologies
- power – particularly offshore wind, civil nuclear, hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, and whole systems integration
- heating and retrofit
- mobility
- resource efficiency for materials and manufacturing


- critical circular materials
- battery technologies for transport and energy storage (Faraday Battery Challenge)

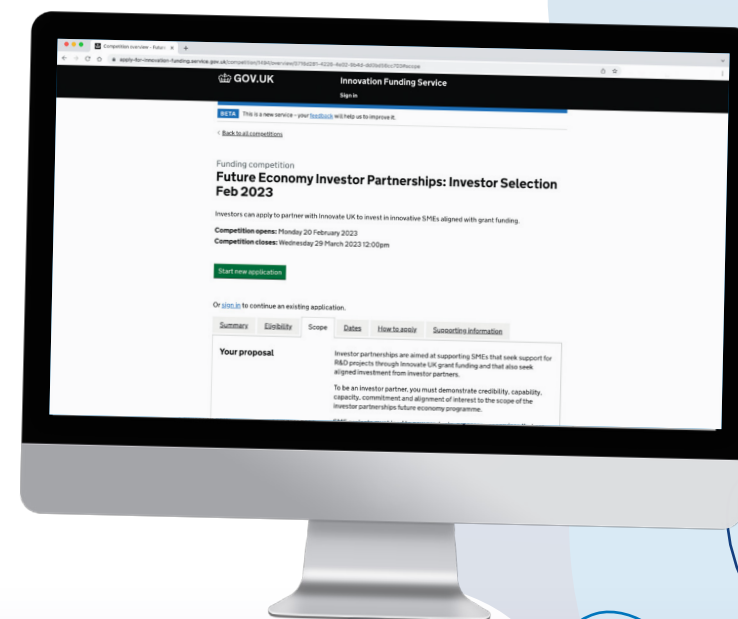
 **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK

 **Total Fund:** £20,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 20th February 2023

 **Closing Date:** 29th March 2023 @ 12pm

 **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Future Economy Investor Partnerships: Investor Selection Feb 2023 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition-overview-future-economy-investor-partnerships-investor-selection-feb-2023)



While there is still time:







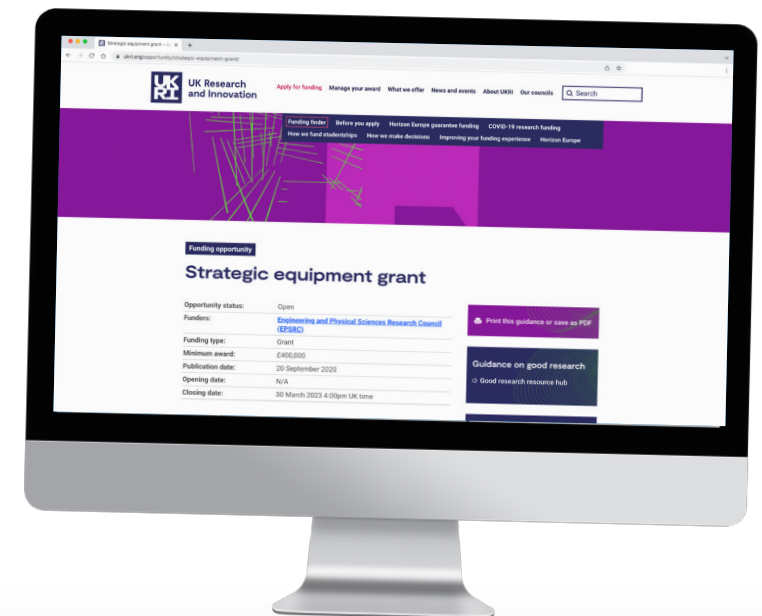
Strategic Equipment Grant

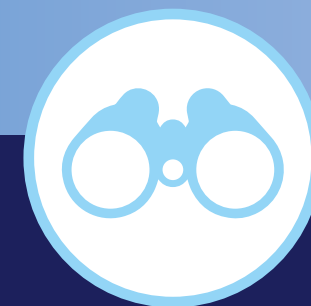
Grants for strategic equipment are for researchers at UK higher education institutions, research council institutes, UKRI-approved independent research organisations and NHS bodies.

Equipment could include cutting-edge technology that allows new research or increases the capacity and ability to carry out existing research.

We will support items of equipment worth £400,000 or more that improves UK scientific capability. The scheme is not intended for items of core underpinning equipment.

-  **Funding Organisation:** Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
-  **Minimum award:** £400,000
-  **Closing Date:** 30th March 2023 @ 4pm
-  **More information can be found at:** [Strategic grant – UKRI](#)





Coming Soon...

Pre-announcement: UKRI Cross Research Council Responsive Mode Pilot Scheme

Apply for funding for interdisciplinary ideas that transcend, combine or significantly span disciplines.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for UKRI research council funding.

This pilot scheme will support breakthrough or disruptive interdisciplinary ideas not routinely funded through existing UKRI responsive mode schemes.

Awards will be potentially transformative for the participating disciplines or lead to the creation of new disciplines.

Funding Organisation: UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

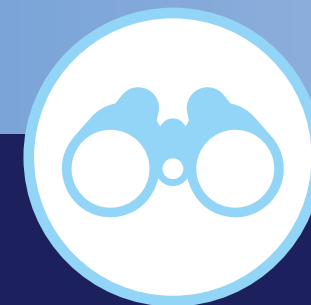
Total Fund: £32,500,000

Opening Date: TBC

Closing Date: TBC

More information can be found at:
[Pre-announcement: UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme – UKRI](#)






Coming Soon...

Pre-announcement: Place-based Approaches to Sustainable Living

Future opportunity to apply for funding to research place-based approaches for an environmentally sustainable future and support evidence-based decision making.

Desired outcomes include:


- enhanced understanding of environmental challenges and solutions from a place-based perspective in order to develop findings, tools and theories, which can be applied by local and national policymakers, communities and practitioners
- co-produced solutions to achieving an environmentally sustainable future

 **Funding Organisation:** Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

 **Total Fund:** £8,900,000

 **Opening Date:** TBC

 **Closing Date:** TBC

 **More information can be found at:** [Pre-announcement: place-based approaches to sustainable living – UKRI](#)

Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan

The government will launch a £5 million Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plans competition this summer. The competition will support groups of industrial businesses such as glass, cement and ceramics manufacturers, joined together in ‘clusters’. Along with other key stakeholders including local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), these ‘local industrial clusters’ will develop coordinated and collaborative decarbonisation plans that will kickstart their journey towards a low-carbon future.


Representing a major step forward in helping dispersed industrial sites begin their journey to decarbonise in the 2020s, this builds on one of the key commitments the government set out in their Net Zero Strategy. Winners are set to be announced in later in 2023, and further detail about the competition will follow in the spring.

 **Funding Organisation:** Government Scheme

 **Total Fund:** £5,000,000

 **Opening Date:** TBC

 **Closing Date:** TBC

 More information can be found at: [Next generation innovators powering UK towards net zero to get £24 million cash boost - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)