



**ACT**  
Government

# RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION FUND CLEANTECH CO-FUNDING SCHEME - SUPPORT FOR CLEAN TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT

DECEMBER 2019

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### **Acknowledgment to Country**

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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# RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION FUND CLEANTECH CO- FUNDING SCHEME

## 1. CANBERRA, THE CLEAN TECHNOLOGY CAPITAL

Canberra has a dynamic, knowledge-based economy with a vibrant R&D and start-up culture.

The ACT Government's commitment to 100% renewable electricity by 2020 and net zero emissions by 2045 puts us in the lead, both nationally and internationally, in renewable energy and climate policy. But the ACT's renewable energy programs are delivering much more than renewable electricity to the people of Canberra at the lowest possible price.

Our world-leading ambition is also creating new businesses, research and trades training opportunities, attracting international renewable energy companies to the Territory, expanding the horizons of companies already here, and creating new commercial opportunities for new and emerging ventures, creating the jobs of the future for Canberrans.

Canberra is now emerging as a clean technology innovation cluster with leading capabilities in renewables development and asset management, wind and solar resource analysis, smart, data-driven energy storage integration, and renewable fuels. The ACT Government is also seeking to position Canberra as a leader in the transition to zero emissions vehicles, including electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, as well as autonomous vehicles.

## 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION FUND

The \$12 million industry-funded Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF) is driving the long-term development and sustainability of the renewable energy industry in the ACT.

REIF has been created from industry contributions associated with the ACT Government's first and second wind auctions. REIF is administered by the ACT Government, with the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability (the Minister) as the ultimate decision-maker for the allocation of REIF funding. In allocating REIF funds, the Minister receives input and guidance from a Business Advisory Board (BAB), comprising leaders from Canberra's renewable energy business and academic community who are appointed by the Minister.

### 3. NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT CLEAN TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT

The ACT Government seeks to complement the existing REIF Direct Grants program with a flexible funding window to allow REIF to co-fund larger clean technology research, development and deployment projects.

There will be \$300,000 in REIF funds to support this new opportunity. Three levels of funding are now available to individuals, businesses and research organisations, depending on the level of assessed benefit to the ACT: \$10,000, \$20,000 and \$30,000.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY

Funding is available to provide an ACT co-contribution to larger clean technology research, and/or development and deployment of novel products, processes or services that have secured or stand to secure significant other government or industry funding.

Funding is available for activities deemed eligible under the funding guidelines of the principal funding organisation or as otherwise agreed to by ACT Government.

Eligible applicants are:

- Individuals, businesses, not for profits and education and research organisations with an ABN.
- Government agencies are ineligible for funding.

Funding will only be released by the ACT Government once co-funding has been confirmed by the principal funding organisation.

### 5. SELECTION PROCESS

Following an initial assessment by the REIF Secretariat, the BAB will assess applications on a quarterly basis against the merit criteria and make recommendations to the REIF Administrator. The REIF Administrator, at their

absolute discretion, will make the final decision. Every effort will be made to assess applications and respond to applicants within a six-week timeframe from the end of each quarter. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with feedback on the decision.

In the instance that a member of the BAB declares a conflict of interest with any submitted proposal, that member will not be involved in the assessment of the proposal.

### 6. MERIT CRITERIA

Proposals must secure significant additional cash and in-kind contributions from another funding body. In general, funding will only be provided for 10 to 20 per cent of total project funding, although a higher proportion may be considered for projects of exceptional value.

Funding bodies could include but are not limited to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), the Australian Research Council (ARC), their international equivalents, industry funding or other Commonwealth or (non-ACT) state government funding.

Proposals must meet the objectives of the Funding Scope at Appendix A, which supports the REIF objectives of developing the ACT as an export-oriented hub for renewable energy research, innovation and investment and securing direct commercial benefits for ACT companies.

### 7. HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants should complete the application form on the Smarty Grants page at <https://actgovt.smartygrants.com.au/REIFcleantech>. Applications must include letters of support from co-contributing organisations.

### WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS DUE?

There is no closing date for applications—the funding opportunity will remain open until funding has been exhausted.

### WHO CAN I CONTACT?

For further information please contact [energypolicy@act.gov.au](mailto:energypolicy@act.gov.au).

# APPENDIX A

# FUNDING SCOPE

Developing solutions to complex energy problems will require innovation and collaboration across Canberra's renewable energy innovation ecosystem. Projects funded by the Clean Tech Co-Funding Scheme will align with the following research, education and business sectors:

- Renewable energy generation science, engineering and social science
- Energy storage science, engineering and social science
- Energy generation asset management
- Distributed energy grid and market integration
- Solar and wind resource forecasting and mapping
- Electrification in the transport, residential and building sectors
- Other emerging technologies such as hydrogen and biogas innovation
- Innovative socially impactful projects in the clean energy sector that drive behavioural change.

The ACT Government has legislated our commitments to becoming a net zero emissions city by 2045 and our ongoing commitment to 100 per cent renewable electricity 'on and from' 2020. Once the ACT reaches 100 per cent renewable electricity in 2020, we will need to turn our attention to our next biggest source of emissions in transport and buildings to work towards the interim emissions target of a 50-60 percent reduction on 1990 levels by 2025.

While not essential, the ACT Government aims to contribute towards proposals that contribute towards these broader policy goals and help consolidate and grow the ACT's capability in the renewable energy ecosystem:

- Post 2020, petrol and diesel transport (passenger vehicles) and natural gas are the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT. Projects that integrate renewables with smart zero emission transport and heating system and hot water technology are of high interest.
- The upfront cost for electric vehicles (EVs) and range anxiety are the two major barriers to EV uptake, and projects that help address these issues would be of high interest. This could include the use of hydrogen fuel cells as range extenders and projects to make electric transport more accessible to low-income households.
- The ACT Government is required to maintain its 100% renewable electricity target from 2020 onwards, so there is an interest in projects that help reduce risks of the electrification of transport and buildings increasing peak electricity demand, and projects that look at storage, improving our understanding of distributed energy systems, and integrating electric transport with the grid.
- Projects that assist the transition pathway of natural gas use from residential applications and address the associated impacts on consumers and the grid.
- As the ACT transitions to zero emissions there will be more EV batteries and household batteries that could be repurposed and used to help achieve the just transition by helping low income and community housing cut energy costs.



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