



Economic
and Social
Research Council

Call launch webinar

Interdisciplinary environmental social science leadership team

Presenters

Susie Stevenson – Team Head, Environment

Tracey Dale – Senior Research Portfolio Manager, Environment

Lizzie Hinchcliffe – Research Portfolio Manager, Environment

Contact: environmentandenergy@esrc.ukri.org

Webinar Outline

Background

Aims and objectives

Submitting your application

Frequently Asked Questions



How the webinar will work

- We will be recording the webinar so that content can be made available for those unable to attend
- Please use the Q&A facility to raise questions you have about the call – we will publish answers after the webinar
- The chat facility is available

Interdisciplinary environmental social science leadership team

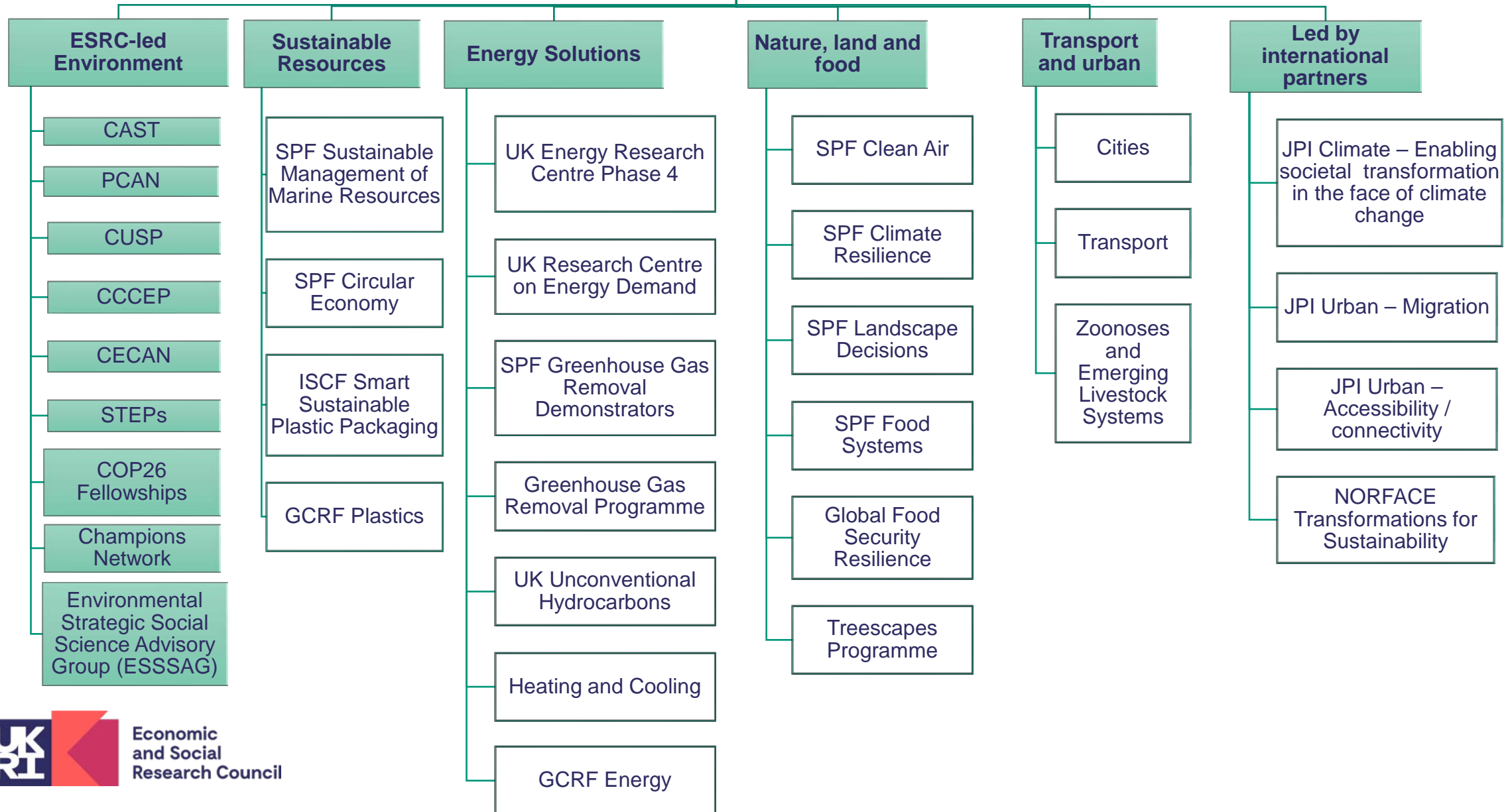
Background
Susie Stevenson

ESRC's environment portfolio

ESRC-led environment investments:

- **CAST** – Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations
- **PCAN** – Place-based Climate Action Network
- **CUSP** – Centre for Understanding Sustainable Prosperity
- **CCCEP** – Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy
- **STEPS** – Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability Centre (international focus)
- **CECAN** – Centre for the Evaluation of Complexity Across the Nexus

Environment portfolio – key investments by remit area



Background and call development

- UK government have set a national target of carbon neutrality by 2050, and an interim target to cut emissions by 78% by 2035
- Tackling the climate and ecological crisis will require social science research leadership and coordination across disciplines to catalyse change
- This opportunity has been developed in consultation with ESRC's Environmental Social Science Strategic Advisory Group, wider teams across ESRC and UKRI and with input from BEIS, Defra, Welsh Government, and the MHCLG

Interdisciplinary environmental social science leadership team

Aims and objectives
Tracey Dale

Aims and Vision

- Ensure the social sciences are a central and integrated part of UK research leadership in net zero and broader environmental, biodiversity and sustainability research;
- Contribute towards the evidence base informing the UK net zero by 2050 and broader environmental, biodiversity and sustainability goals;
- Increase awareness and engagement from actors across society to ensure more sustainable and equitable decision making.

Objectives

- Champion, coordinate and facilitate collaboration within and beyond the social sciences;
- Contribute to the evidence base needed for the UK to achieve net zero carbon emissions;
- Increase understanding of the relevance and value of the social sciences within environmental research amongst other disciplines and stakeholder communities;
- Engage with stakeholders including policy, business, and civil society to understand user needs, co-produce activities and accelerate impact of research;
- Support capacity and capability building for interdisciplinary research and knowledge mobilisation;
- Scope future ESRC and UKRI funding opportunities;
- Support access to/use of climate/environmental data generated within/beyond the social sciences.

Team requirements

- To include world-leading experts; be social science-led and include interdisciplinary expertise
- Commitment to interdisciplinary research and interdisciplinary collaborative approaches
- Outstanding track record of world-leading research and impacts
- In-depth knowledge of current social science and policy challenges related to achieving UK Net Zero
- Outstanding communication skills, enabling engagement/relationship building across disciplines and sectors
- Well-developed networks with relevant stakeholders, including ability to identify and understand user needs
- An inclusive environment for researchers to thrive at all career stages
- Clear vision for leadership investment

Required Activities

- ESRC are not being prescriptive in how these objectives will be met.
- Applicants should propose their own strategies to fit the scheme remit but should include:
 - A group of world-leading social science and interdisciplinary experts
 - A collaboratively produced programme of activities
 - Mechanisms for supporting future scoping activities by UKRI
 - Strategies for championing UKRI commissioned programmes
 - Ways to enhance the skills, capabilities and capacity of the social science research community
 - Strategy on how to manage a flexible funding programme
 - Data management strategies

Interdisciplinary environmental social science leadership team

Submitting your application Lizzie Hinchcliffe

Key commissioning dates

- **Deadline for submission of proposals – 7th September 2021, 4pm**
- **Assessment panel meeting – November 2021**
- **Interviews of shortlisted applicants – December 2021**
- **Grant start date – 1st February 2022**

Je-S submission process for applicants

- **Award:** One grant for a fixed term of 5 years, with a maximum budget of £5,000,000 (at 80% fEC)
- All applications under this scheme must be completed and submitted through UKRI's Joint Electronic Submissions system (Je-S)
- Applicants should carefully read the Je-S guidance available on the interdisciplinary environmental social science leadership team UKRI web page
- Closing date for proposals is 16:00 on 7th September 2021. It will not be possible to submit proposals after the deadline
- Call name in Je-S; *Climate and Environment Leadership Grant 2021*

Applicant eligibility

Organisation eligibility

- Applications can be submitted by UK higher education institutions (HEIs) and some UK independent research organisations (IROs) and public sector research establishments (PSREs)
- A full list of IROs and PSREs that are eligible for funding is available on the UKRI website

Applicant eligibility

- The Principal Investigator (PI) must be based at/or hosted by a UK HEI or eligible UK IRO or PSRE
- The PI will take intellectual leadership of the project and manage the project
- The PI should be based at the organisation submitting the application
- Co-investigators (Co-Is) can be based at UK HEIs or eligible UK IROs or PSREs, or be included as UK business, UK third sector, or UK government body, or international co-investigators
- No limit to number of Co-Is included on a proposal

Inclusion of UK business, third sector or government body co-investigators

- Any researcher from an established business, civil society or government body based in the UK will be eligible to be listed as a co-investigator
- ESRC will fund 100% of justified and associated costs, however associated costs must not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the grant (at 100% fEC). Please note that costs cannot be claimed from government bodies.

Inclusion of international co-investigators

- Any academic researcher from an established international research organisation of comparable standing to an ESRC-eligible UK research organisation is eligible to be listed as an international co-investigator
- International business/third sector/government bodies are not eligible as co-investigators
- ESRC will fund 100% of justified and associated costs, however associated costs must not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the grant (at 100% fEC).

Project Partners

- A Project Partner is a third party organisation, or third party person not employed on a grant, who provides specific contributions either in cash or in kind to a project
- Project partners provide contributions to the delivery of a project and therefore should not normally seek to claim funds from the project
- If there are specific circumstances where Project Partners do require funding for minor costs such as travel and subsistence, this will be paid at 80% fEC; will require justification
- A Project Partner letter of support is required from each partner organisation confirming the level of support specific to the proposal

Proposal content guidance

The following are mandatory attachments:

- **Case for Support** (maximum of 12 sides of A4)
- **Justification of resources** (maximum of 2 sides of A4)
- **Data Management Plan** (maximum of 3 sides of A4)
- **CVs** (for each named applicant) (maximum of 2 sides of A4 per person)
- **Management Plan** (maximum of 2 sides of A4)
- **Institutional Letter of Support** (from the lead organisation) (maximum of 1 side of A4)
- **Environmental Sustainability Statement** (maximum of 1 side of A4)

**Interdisciplinary environmental social
science leadership team**

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Does the PI need to be within the social sciences or can they be from another discipline as long as the majority of the team are based in the social sciences?
- 2) The call text suggests that proposals need to address sustainability, biodiversity, and net zero. What sort of balance is expected between these areas?
- 3) The call seems significantly UK policy focused – is this accurate or will global challenges and policy also form a key part of the team's remit?
- 4) Will being a member of the leadership team impact on an individual's ability to apply to future funding calls that the leadership team has helped to develop?
- 5) Are there any expectations regarding the number, type, and/or balance of organisations involved in the successful team?
- 6) Will there be any demand management limits on this call?
- 7) Can you provide more details about the flexible fund, and what it could be used to support?
- 8) Can Early Career Researchers be included in proposals?
- 9) Could you advise how to cost travel and subsistence in proposals when travel restrictions are unknown?

Contact details and key further links

Email with any queries : environmentandenergy@esrc.ukri.org

Useful links:

- [Interdisciplinary environmental social science leadership team – call specification](#)
- [Je-S Guidance](#)
- [ESRC Research Funding Guide](#)
- [Guidance on the inclusion of international co-investigators in ESRC proposals](#)
- [Guidance for the inclusion of UK business, third sector, or government body co-investigators on ESRC proposals](#)