



Funding opportunity

# Accelerating the Green Economy Centres

**Opportunity status:** Closed

**Funders:** [Natural Environment Research Council \(NERC\)](#), [Innovate UK](#), [Arts and Humanities Research Council \(AHRC\)](#), [Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council \(BBSRC\)](#), [Economic and Social Research Council \(ESRC\)](#), [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council \(EPSRC\)](#), [Medical Research Council \(MRC\)](#), [Science and Technology Facilities Council \(STFC\)](#)

**Funding type:** Grant

**Total fund:** £25,000,000

**Maximum award:** £5,000,000

**Publication date:** 4 October 2023

**Opening date:** 11 October 2023 9:00am UK time

**Closing date:** 12 December 2023 4:00pm UK time

Last updated: 8 November 2023 - [see all updates](#)

Apply for funding to establish an accelerating the green economy centre to support the growth of emerging green industries, in economic geographies across the UK.

Collaboration and co-creation between researchers, businesses, investors and local stakeholders are essential.

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 up to £5 million.

Awards will start 1 July 2024 and last for four years.

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## Who can apply

This funding opportunity contributes to addressing the UKRI Building a Green Future strategic theme and is being administered by Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) on behalf of UKRI.

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new UKRI Funding Service. For full details, see [Eligibility as an individual](#).

Standard UKRI eligibility criteria apply. Your application should be led by an eligible project lead based at eligible UK based organisations in accordance with standard UKRI practice.

For this funding opportunity this includes:

- higher education providers
- eligible research institutes
- NHS bodies
- approved public sector research establishments (PSREs)
- approved independent research organisations (IROs)
- research technology organisations (including the Catapults)

Before applying for funding, check the following:

- [UKRI eligibility guidance for applicants](#)
- [eligibility of your organisation](#)

This funding opportunity is open to research consortia and should involve collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders. We require transdisciplinary research and innovative collaborations that involve co-design and co-creation with businesses and other stakeholders.

We expect the centres to incorporate the full breadth of stakeholders required to enable the translation of research into innovation and commercialisation. These stakeholders could include but are not limited to civic bodies, local government, mayoral offices, investors, innovators, customers, regulators, standards bodies, insurers, supply chains and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

We welcome applications from individuals at any career stage, subject to UKRI eligibility criteria.

## Who is not eligible to apply

The following are not eligible to apply:

- as an eligible individual you may be involved in no more than two applications submitted to this funding opportunity. Only one of these can be as project lead
- each organisation may lead on a maximum of two applications. However, organisations may be a partner in multiple applications
- international co-investigators are not permitted as part of this funding opportunity. International collaborators can be listed as project partners
- businesses are not eligible applicant organisations as part of this funding opportunity, they are expected to be listed as project partners

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

Find out more about [equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI](#).

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## What we're looking for

### Aim

The aim of the funding opportunity is to support five co-created centres that accelerate the translation and commercialisation of market-informed solutions to drive the green economy.

### Scope

You must demonstrate meaningful engagement, collaboration and integration with key partners which could include businesses, investors, civic bodies, potential customers and other researchers. The partners will be appropriate to

the challenge, target location and build a critical mass of capacity and capability within the emerging green market identified.

Accelerating the Green Economy Centres will:

- attract private investment to be deployed effectively in clean, green solutions as emerging markets mature
- cluster the local capabilities of towns, cities, rural economies and regions to enhance success
- accelerate the exploitation and commercialisation of new knowledge, innovations or solutions through co-investment and partnerships
- tackle specific, emerging industry-led research and innovation priorities to support the scale up and adoption of green economy solutions
- test and deploy green economy solutions and technologies in geographies across the UK

Accelerating the Green Economy Centres should:

- be co-created and co-delivered between academia, business and critical stakeholder organisations for example, local government, in response to emerging sector opportunities where the UK can build strategic advantage
- build upon established research-based collaborations across academia, business, policymakers and the third sector
- undertake collaborative research projects, proof of concept studies and market development activities with business, working on sector informed challenges, facilitating technology transfer and knowledge exchange among participants
- be focused on market creation activities that build on the needs and capabilities of a defined location in the UK, the policy and standards requirements, and the investment criteria of private investors
- be transdisciplinary in nature, collaborating across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries, taking a solutions-focused approach to the opportunity
- support companies and small and medium Enterprises (SMEs) developing new products, services and business models based on fundamental research and development activities to enable translation through to higher technology readiness levels (TRLs), including the creation of prototypes and operational demonstrators
- increase the level of industrial and commercial investment in research and development (R&D) activities with existing UK based companies, attract foreign direct investments in corporate R&D laboratories and leverage funding from alternative sources
- partner with local and national governments to anchor private investment in locations across the UK

**Anticipated outcomes and impacts**

Through investment in these centres the anticipated outcomes and impacts of the programme could include:

## Outcomes

- the market starts to emerge related to centre activities
- utilising and clustering of capabilities in the target location(s)
- large company leadership, as well as active SMEs
- local integration and skills development
- new, clean products, services and business models
- attracting foreign direct investment in corporate R&D labs in the selected location(s)

## Impacts

- clean green private investment into the emerging market
- job creation and retention within the emerging market
- the emerging market starting to contribute to local, regional and national prosperity
- UK strategic advantage in the emerging market

## Matched contributions

To ensure that research outcomes can be fully exploited by industry, we expect to see clear evidence of genuine, substantive partnerships, including co-creation and co-delivery with business in the development of new products, services, and business models.

It is anticipated that leveraged funding (including in-kind) of at least 25% to every £1 of UKRI funding at application stage will be required. You should demonstrate a plan to reach at least 100% match funding over the lifetime of the grant, along with plans for future self-sufficiency of the centre. Other UKRI awards will not be considered as leveraged investment. Centres will be expected to clearly demonstrate auditable co-investments during the lifetime of the grant.

## Regional growth

We seek to foster greater collaboration and networking between researchers, business, investors and civic bodies to deliver research and skills outcomes vital to the long-term prosperity of communities and regions of the UK.

We expect activities to be anchored in geographies across the UK, both in the short term and to embed private investment for long term growth. You should choose a location to anchor activities that provides the best chance of success to facilitate the growth of a new market opportunity.

These regional activities may include but are not restricted to:

- local and regional skills development, job creation or retention
- critical mass activities leading to increased private investment, including foreign direct investment, in specific geographies
- contributions to cluster development, for example through knowledge diffusion, supply chain development, SME growth, generation, or growth of spin outs

You will be assessed on your potential to contribute to local and national development; balancing the capabilities, needs and opportunities the location presents.

## Challenge areas

We welcome nationally strategic, bold, innovative applications addressing pressing challenges in any emergent UK green market. The examples below are challenges that could be addressed and are intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive.

### **Net zero buildings retrofit for improved welfare**

Using whole systems approaches to reduce heating demand and improve performance of our built environment, protecting vulnerable people and ensuring resilience of the power grid. Through place-based clustering of activities it is envisaged that utilisation of appropriate solutions will be tailored to local needs, resources and expertise.

We would expect to see energy companies, local authorities, owners and developers of building portfolios, the construction supply chain, health and social care providers and third sector organisations working together to develop solutions. With solutions bringing together net zero technologies, business models and the finance to target help for the vulnerable and reduce fuel poverty, significantly reducing pressure on local health and social care services by accelerating the adoption of accessible and affordable innovations for fabric, heating and provision of energy services.

### **Local hydrogen development and rollout**

Discovering and adopting solutions to exploit the opportunities offered by hydrogen in local economies including local production, distribution and use cases that meet the specific needs of different users.

Partners are likely to include businesses with an active involvement or interest in the hydrogen supply chain and end users of hydrogen and civic bodies including local authorities, councils, or combined authorities, devolved administrations and their agencies, regional and local industrial bodies. With outcomes exploiting the development of a hydrogen value chain(s) to reduce commercial and technical risk and accelerate the journey to end use.

### **Designing and Manufacturing Net Zero Products**

Transforming products to be net-zero by design through innovative design solutions that secure a reduced carbon footprint and increase energy and resource efficiency throughout product lifecycles.

Key stakeholders could include companies of different sizes across sectors and supply chains, as well as relevant industry bodies and research and technology organisations and critically the procurers of manufactured products and civic stakeholders.

With a focus on net-zero products that are designed and manufactured using design and manufacturing capabilities that draw on the specialisations and heritage of the region.

## Structure

A typical centre comprises, but is not limited to:

- a virtual or physical centre based around a single organisation or multi-organisation with an identified lead organisation eligible for UKRI funding
- a governance structure that reflects the partnership required to drive the translation of fundamental research through to development and deployment of emerging green solutions by attracting private investment
- a centre director with a proven track record of managing large investments, excellence within their area of expertise and strong links to UK based businesses and investors and relevant public and civic organisations
- a broader leadership team representing the span of the research remit proposed in the centre. It is expected this will be composed of a diverse range of individuals and stakeholders from different career stages with suitable track records and expertise
- secondments from other organisations, public or commercial, to further the centre's mission
- a management and administrative team, that should include a centre manager and industrial engagement manager, as well as other relevant non-academic staff, to ensure effective running of the centre and coordination with external partners
- non-academic staff, which could include coordinators, business development officers, research technical professionals, project managers, industrial liaisons, commercialisation experts, technology transfer officers, technicians
- research and innovation associates working on projects within the centre
- a core team for the development of prototypes and demonstrators

## Governance and monitoring

The host organisation of each centre will be expected to set up appropriate governance arrangements to facilitate successful programme delivery.

Furthermore, it is expected that a centre advisory board will be set up to inform the strategy to grow user engagement, including ongoing development of an effective user engagement strategy.

It is expected that the advisory board should meet at least biannually and include key academics, businesses and investors, relevant policy officials and other stakeholders. A UKRI representative will sit on this advisory board, who will be appointed by UKRI. Membership will include representatives from across the centre's stakeholders and the UKRI representative. Equality, diversity and inclusion should be considered when setting up the governance structure of the centre.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning will be a key component of the programme, and we will arrange occasions for the centres to share best practice, common challenges and learnings.

## Reporting

Grant holders will be required to report on the progress of the centres to UKRI annually through ResearchFish in line with standard [UKRI grant terms and conditions](#). This programme will report into the [UKRI Building a Green Future \(BaGF\) Programme Board](#).

For more information on the background of this funding opportunity, go to the 'Additional information' section.

## Duration

The duration of this award is 48 months.

Centres must start by 1 July 2024.

## Funding available

Up to £25 million will be available to support the creation of up to five centres.

The FEC of your project can be up to £5 million. We will fund 80% of the FEC.

The Accelerating Green Economy Centres awards will be made based on effective collaboration and as such will not be considered as a subsidy under the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022. You will need to demonstrate that the centre meets the rules of effective collaboration at the full application stage and provide the evidence before the awards are made.

## What we will fund

Resources may be used for activities that initiate, grow, and maintain collaborations with stakeholders (for example academia, business, government and third sector) to meet the aims of the programme, the list below is indicative and not all-inclusive:

- UKRI facilities costs
- non-academic staff, for example business development officers, project managers, industrial liaisons, coordinators, administrators, technology



transfer officers and technicians. They must be undertaking tasks that are specific to the project that are over and above what would be normally expected to be supplied as the general enabling activity that is usually funded from the estates and indirect costs awarded to the project

- civic bodies including enterprise, development, or skills bodies, local authorities and other local stakeholders to support dialogue between stakeholders
- secondments
- staff exchanges
- travel
- training
- other standard expenses

You should clearly distinguish between the set up and running costs of the centre, and the funding that will be used for market development activities. Although this funding opportunity is not designed for significant capital expenditure, it is recognised there may be setup costs, particularly during the initial years.

## What we will not fund

We will not fund PhD studentships through this funding opportunity.

## Services and facilities

You can apply to use a UKRI facility or resource in your funding application.

You should discuss your application with the facility or service at least two months before the funding opportunity's full application closing date to:

- discuss the proposed work in detail
- receive confirmation that they can provide the services required within the timeframe of the funding

Some facilities may require you to provide a technical assessment that includes the calculated cost of providing the service.

Links to available facilities and resources by research council:

- [BBSRC](#)
- [EPSRC](#)
- [ESRC](#)
- [NERC](#)
- [MRC](#)
- [STFC](#)
- [Innovate UK](#)

High performance computing (HPC), and the large research facilities at Harwell have their own policies for access and costing.

## Supporting skills and talent

We encourage you to follow the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#) and the [Technician Commitment](#).

## International collaboration

If your application includes international applicants, project partners or collaborators, visit [UKRI's trusted research and innovation](#) for more information on effective international collaboration.

## Responsible innovation

We are fully committed to develop and promote responsible research and innovation that makes a positive contribution to society and the environment. Not just through research outputs and outcomes but through the way in which research and innovation is conducted and facilities are managed.

Research and innovation has the ability to not only produce understanding, knowledge and value, but also unintended consequences, questions, ethical dilemmas and, at times, unexpected social transformations.

We recognise that we have a duty of care to promote approaches to responsible innovation that will initiate ongoing reflection about the potential ethical and societal implications of the research and innovation we fund and encourage our community to do likewise.

All centres will be expected to adhere to [UKRI responsible innovation policies and guidance](#).

## Sustainability

[UKRI's environmental sustainability strategy](#) lays out our ambition to actively lead environmental sustainability across our sectors. This includes a vision to ensure that all major investment and funding decisions we make are directly informed by environmental sustainability, recognising environmental benefits as well as potential for environmental harm.

Environmental sustainability is a broad term but may include consideration of such broad areas as:

- reducing carbon emissions
- protecting and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity
- waste or pollution elimination
- resource efficiency and a circular economy

We expect you to embed careful consideration of environmental sustainability at all stages of the research and innovation process and throughout the lifetime of the accelerating the green economy centres.

## Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

As focal points in the community, the accelerating the green economy centres will be expected to champion and embed EDI in all their activities throughout the lifetime of the investment.

If funded, centres will be expected to develop a clear and feasible strategy to ensure EDI throughout the delivery of the centre activities, including knowledge exchange and engagement with the research projects and other related initiatives.

You should ensure that they request appropriate resources to develop and deliver the centre EDI strategy effectively. This must include at least one costed staff post with responsibility for EDI (the centre EDI lead).

## Research disruption due to COVID-19

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career, such as:

- breaks and delays
- disruptive working patterns and conditions
- the loss of ongoing work
- role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic

Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the capability to deliver and career development of those individuals included in the application. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant, and their wider team, to deliver the research they are proposing.

Where disruptions have occurred, you can highlight this within your application if you wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

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## How to apply

Due to the open nature of this funding opportunity and to help assess the level of demand we will use a two-stage application and assessment process:

- submission of outline application
- invited submission of a full application, if successful at stage one

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UKRI Funding Service. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

The project lead is responsible for completing the application process on the the Funding Service, but we expect all team members and project partners to contribute to the application.

Only the lead research organisation can submit an application to UKRI.

Watch our recording on [how to apply for an opportunity in the Funding Service](#).

To apply:

Select 'Start application' near the beginning of this Funding finder page.

1. Confirm you are the project lead.
2. Sign in or create a Funding Service account. To create an account, select your organisation, verify your email address, and set a password. If your organisation is not listed, email [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)
3. Answer questions directly in the text boxes. You can save your answers and come back to complete them or work offline and return to copy and paste your answers. If we need you to upload a document, follow the upload instructions in the Funding Service. All questions and assessment criteria are listed in the 'How to apply' section on this Funding finder page.
4. Allow enough time to check your application in 'read-only' view before sending to your research office.
5. Send the completed application to your research office for checking. They will return it to you if it needs editing.
6. Your research office will submit the completed and checked application to us.

Watch our [research office webinars about the new Funding Service](#).

## Deadline

A mandatory outline application is required and successful applications at stage one will be invited to submit a full application. We will send you guidance on completing a full application and assessment criteria for stage two in January 2024.

We must receive your outline application by 12 December 2023 at 4.00pm UK time.

You will not be able to apply after this time and we will not return applications for amendment. Make sure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines.

## Personal data

We will need to collect some personal information to manage your UKRI funding service account and the registration of your funding applications.

We will handle personal data in line with UK data protection legislation and manage it securely. For more information, including how to exercise your rights, read our [privacy notice](#).

## Publication of outcomes

If your application is successful, we will publish some personal information on the UKRI Gateway to Research.

## Summary

Word count: 550

In plain English, provide a summary that we can use to identify the most suitable experts to assess your application.

We may make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, so make it suitable for a variety of readers, for example:

- opinion-formers
- policymakers
- the public
- the wider research community

## Guidance for writing a summary

Clearly describe your proposed work in terms of:

- context
- the challenge the project addresses
- aims and objectives
- potential applications and benefits

## Core team

List the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:

- project lead (PL)
- project co-lead (UK) (PcL)
- researcher co-lead (RcL)
- specialist
- grant manager
- professional enabling staff

- research and innovation associate
- technician
- visiting researcher

Only list one individual as project lead.

Find out more about [UKRI's new grant roles](#).

## Fit to Opportunity

Word count: 10

What is the centre hoping to achieve and how will the team deliver this?

### **What the assessors are looking for in your response**

#### Upload guidance

Create a document that includes your responses to all criteria. The document should not be more than two sides of A4, single line spacing in 11-point Arial (or equivalent sans serif font) with margins of at least 2cm. You may include images, graphs, tables.

For the file name, use the unique UKRI funding service number the system gives you when you create an application, followed by the words 'Fit to Opportunity'.

Save this document as a single PDF file, no bigger than 8MB. Unless specifically requested, do not include any personal data within the attachment.

If the attachment does not meet these requirements, the application will be rejected.

Once you have uploaded, enter the text 'attachment provided' into the textbox, mark this section as complete and move to the next one.

For the 'Fit to Opportunity', explain how your proposed work:

- fits with the funding opportunity: how the centre will establish and maintain world leading research, translation, and commercialisation activities, to grow and strengthen the flow of private capital investment
- has a clear vision of your team: to achieve the aims of the funding opportunity
- is of excellent quality, ambition and importance within or beyond the identified challenge
- demonstrates clear evidence of genuine and substantive partnerships to identify and co-deliver the emerging industry-led research and innovation priority
- has defined the emerging market opportunity and existing challenge in the geography to ensure clear tangible benefits to the target location(s)

- will build a critical mass of capacity and capabilities appropriate to the challenge within a target location to enhance success
- will have clear leadership and governance to reflect the partnership required to develop and deliver solutions

## Applicant and team capability to deliver

Word count: 1,500

Why are you the right individual or team to successfully deliver the proposed work

### What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:

- the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
- the right balance of skills and expertise to cover the proposed work
- the appropriate leadership and management skills to deliver the work and your approach to develop others
- contributed to developing a positive research environment and wider community

The word count for this section is 1,500 words, 1,000 words to be used for R4RI modules and, if necessary, a further 500 words for 'Additions'.

Use the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) format is required to showcase the range of relevant skills you and, if relevant, your team (project-lead and project co-leads, researchers, technicians, specialists, partners and so on) have and how this will help deliver the proposed work. You can include individuals' specific achievements but only choose past contributions that best evidence their ability to deliver this work.

Complete this section using the R4RI module headings listed. Use each heading once and include a response for the whole team, see the [UKRI guidance on R4RI](#). You should consider how to balance your answer, and emphasise where appropriate the key skills each team member brings:

- contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
- the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
- contributions to the wider research and innovation community
- contributions to broader research or innovation users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit

### Additions

Provide any further details relevant to your application. This section is optional and can be up to 500 words. You should not use it to describe additional skills, experiences, or outputs, but you can use it to describe any factors that provide context for the rest of your R4RI (for example, details of career breaks if you wish to disclose them).

Complete this as a narrative. Do not format it like a CV.

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the Funding Service.

For full details, see [Eligibility as an individual](#).

## Project partners

Provide details about any project partners' contributions.

Project partners are mandatory given 'Fit to Opportunity'. Add details about any project partners' contributions.

A project partner is a collaborating organisation who will have an integral role in the proposed research. This may include direct (cash) or indirect (in-kind) contributions such as expertise, staff time or use of facilities.

Add the following project partner details:

- organisation name and address (searchable via a drop-down list or enter the organisation's details manually, as applicable)
- project partner contact name and email address
- type of contribution (direct or in-direct) and its monetary value

If a detail is entered incorrectly and you have saved the entry, remove the specific project partner record and re-add it with the correct information.

For audit purposes, UKRI requires formal collaboration agreements to be put in place if an award is made.

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## How we will assess your application

### Assessment process

We will assess your application using the following process.

#### **Stage one: outline application**

Outline applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of independent experts from a diverse range of backgrounds, which represent the ambitions of



the programme.

It is expected that the outline application will only include the core leadership team, including key non-academic partners and collaborators. Should you be invited to submit a full application, this should be expanded upon.

The independent panel will rank the proposals based on the published assessment criteria. The funders will decide, based on the advice of the panel, which applications to invite to submit a full proposal. The funders are aiming to fund a balanced portfolio of centres across the programme that best address the overarching aims of the programme. A balanced portfolio approach will consider challenge area and location.

Panel feedback will be provided following the outline stage within three months of the closing date to all applicants by email.

If your application is successful at the outline stage, and you are invited to submit a full application, then it is expected that new collaborators will be added, and you will be able to add further detail to your application. Note that the vision for the accelerating the green economy centre and the core leadership will not be allowed to change between the outline and full application stages.

We encourage the addition of further collaborators and project partners between outline and full application stage. Upon completion of the outline stage details of those invited to full application stage will be published on the UKRI website. The intention is that potential interested collaborators can get in touch with the projects to develop potential partnerships.

## **Stage two: invited full application and expert interview panel**

Stage two of this funding opportunity will be run on the new UKRI Funding Service.

If you are successful at the outline stage, then you will be invited to submit a full application. More information will be provided to those applicants following the outline application stage.

Up to twelve applications will be shortlisted to submit a full application. However, we reserve the right to modify this approach should circumstances change.

Shortlisted applications will be invited to an interview by an independent panel of experts in May 2024.

Full details of the interview process will be sent to candidates before the interviews.

The interview will assess whether the proposed centre meets the assessment criteria sufficiently.

The panel may recommend conditions for the funders to impose before funding is awarded. Based on the panel's recommendations, the funders reserves the

right to seek further information from the applicants before awarding funding.

Feedback will be provided following interview.

In the event of this funding opportunity being substantially oversubscribed as to be unmanageable, the funders reserves the right to modify the assessment process.

## Principles of assessment

We support the [San Francisco declaration on research assessment](#) and recognise the relationship between research assessment and research integrity.

Find out about the [UKRI principles of assessment and decision making](#).

We reserve the right to modify the assessment process as needed.

## Assessment criteria

The criteria against which your outline application will be assessed are:

- fit to opportunity
- applicant and team and capability to deliver
- project partners

Find details of assessment questions and criteria under the 'Application questions' heading in the 'How to apply section'.

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## Contact details

### Get help with your application

Important note: The Helpdesk is committed to helping users of the UKRI Funding Service as effectively and as quickly as possible. In order to manage cases at peak volume times, the Helpdesk will triage and prioritise those queries with an imminent opportunity deadline or a technical issue. Enquiries raised where information is available on the Funding Finder opportunity page and should be understood early in the application process (for example, regarding eligibility or content/remit of an opportunity) will not constitute a priority case and will be addressed as soon as possible.

## Contact details

For help and advice on costings and writing your application please contact your research office in the first instance, allowing sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

For questions related to this specific funding opportunity please contact [greenecentres@ukri.org](mailto:greenecentres@ukri.org)

Any queries regarding the system or the submission of applications through the Funding Service should be directed to the helpdesk.

Email: [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)

Telephone: 01793 547490

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm
- Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

To help us process queries quicker, we request that users highlight the council and opportunity name in the subject title of their email query, include the application reference number, and refrain from contacting more than one mailbox at a time.

Find out more information on [submitting an application](#).

## Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, email the Funding Service helpdesk on [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)

Include in the subject line: Accelerating the Green Economy Centres; sensitive information; your UKRI Funding Service application number.

Typical examples of confidential information include:

- individual is unavailable until a certain date (for example due to parental leave)
- declaration of interest
- additional information about eligibility to apply that would not be appropriately shared in the 'Applicant and team capability' section
- conflict of interest for UKRI to consider in reviewer or panel participant selection

For information about how UKRI handles personal data, read [UKRI's privacy notice](#).

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## Additional info

### Background

This funding opportunity forms part of UKRI's Building a Green Future strategic theme as described in the [UKRI Strategy 2022 to 2027: Transforming tomorrow together](#). The Building a Green Future strategic theme aims to accelerate the green economy by supporting research and innovation that unlocks solutions essential to achieving net zero in the UK by 2050.

### Further funding opportunity

Once the accelerating the green economy centres are established an open funding opportunity of up to £10 million will be launched by Innovate UK for targeted research and innovation grants to collaborate with the funded accelerating the green economy centres.

### AHRC Green Transition Ecosystem programme

Applicants to the recent Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) [Green Transition Ecosystem programme](#) are welcome to apply to this funding opportunity.

However, we will not fund anything already funded as part of the Green Transition Ecosystem programme.

### Webinar for potential applicants

We held a webinar on 11 October 2023. This provided more information about the opportunity and a chance to ask questions.

[Watch webinar recording on Zoom](#) (passcode: 62Cxn0^V)

[Webinar slides \(PDF, 791KB\)](#)

[Webinar questions and answers \(PDF, 131KB\)](#)

[Presentation British Standards Institute \(PDF, 1MB\)](#)

[Presentation Growing Kent and Medway \(PDF, 11MB\)](#)

### Collaborations

A Microsoft Teams site has been set up to help connect potential applicants seeking to join potential centres or for project teams seeking specific expertise.

To join the Teams site please email: [greenecomycentres@ukri.org](mailto:greenecomycentres@ukri.org)

# Our commitment to the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms which deprive a person of their liberty in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain, such as:

- slavery
- servitude
- human trafficking
- forced and compulsory labour

We are committed to the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and the abolition of modern slavery and human trafficking.

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## Updates

### 8 November 2023

Webinar questions and answers document added along with presentations from the British Standards Institute and Growing Kent and Medway, added to the 'Additional info' section.

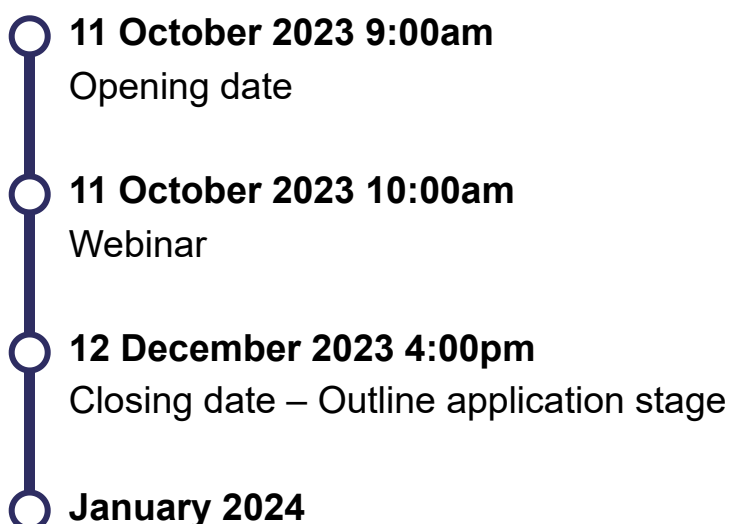
### 1 November 2023

'Collaborations' section added under 'Additional info'.

### 17 October 2023

Links to webinar recording and webinar slides added to the 'Additional info' section.

## Timeline



Triage Panel Outline application

**January 2024**

Publicise details of Full applications

**17 April 2024**

Closing date – Full application stage

**May 2024**

Applicant Interviews

**1 July 2024**

Awards Start

## Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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