UKRI Systems approaches to advance the UK's transition to Net Zero - Outline

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Webinar Friday 09th February 2024, 1pm start

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Strategic principles

- Creating multi-disciplinary funding opportunities
- Harnessing the full power of the UK's research and innovation system
- Working right across UKRI capabilities and capacity
- Leveraging new and existing UKRI investments and actions
- Forging new partnerships; ensuring better synergies

Strategy

Transforming Tomorrow Together

Strategic Themes

- Building a Green Future
- Building a Secure and Resilient World
- Creating Opportunities, Improving Outcomes
- Securing Better Health, Ageing and Wellbeing
- Tackling Infections
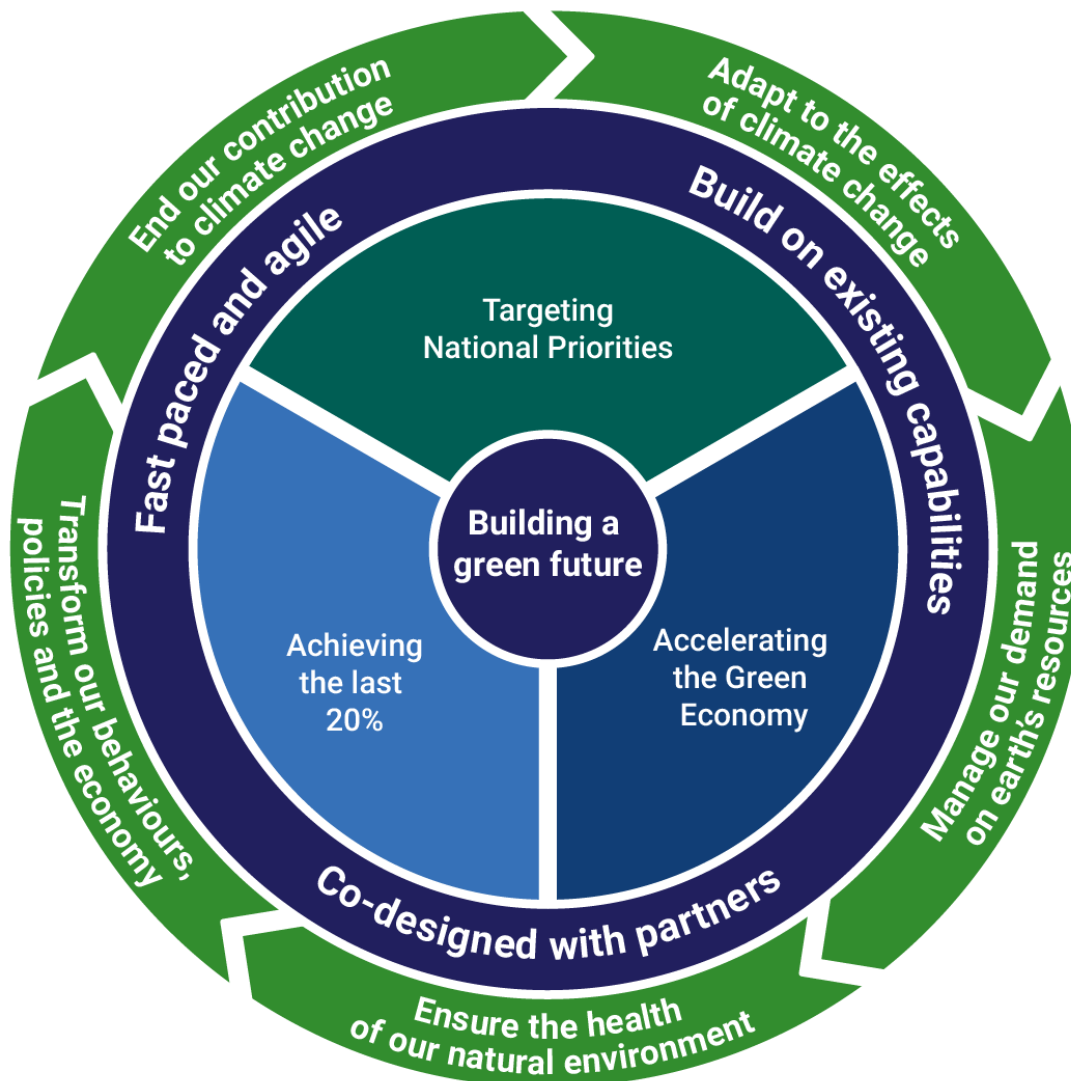
Our approach

Areas of focus:

Targeting national priorities

Working in partnership with government to co-create research and innovation programmes that address strategic priorities for green growth in the UK.

Achieving the last 20%

Research and innovation in currently immature technologies needed to achieve reduced emissions beyond 2030.

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Investment portfolio

£203.4m committed to date (£114m from UKRI, leveraging £89.4m from Government & International partners)

Areas of focus:

Investing into…

Targeting National Priorities

- Transforming Land Use for Net Zero, Nature and People
- Net Zero Transport for a Resilient Future Research Hub
- Centre for Sustainable and equitable low-carbon living
- Realising the health co-benefits of the transition to net zero
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measurement and Modelling Advancement (GEMMA)
- Equitable Nature-based Climate Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Maximising UK Adaptation to Climate Change
- Systems Approaches to Advance the UK's Transition to Net Zero

Accelerating the Green Economy

Accelerating the Green Economy

Achieving the Last 20%

Global Centres of Excellence in Clean Energy and Climate Change

NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

NSF

CSIRO

SSHRC CRSH

NSERC CRSNG

NPL National Physical Laboratory

Department for Transport

Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Met Office

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Department of Health & Social Care

Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

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UKRI Systems approaches to advance the UK's transition to Net Zero - Outline

Through this £10M funding opportunity UKRI aims to drive the realisation of a just, prosperous, sustainable and resilient Net Zero transition, removing barriers to delivery and supporting the reduction and mitigation of unintended consequences.

The objectives of the funding programme are to:

- support up to **two flagship 5-year transdisciplinary research programmes** in systems approaches to advance the UK's transition to Net Zero which have stakeholder engagement and c**o-creation** at their core.

- **advance** the UK's transition to Net Zero **through the increased use of systems approaches.**

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Key info

- This investment will support up to two impact driven research programmes

- The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to **£5.78 million** UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will fund **80% of the FEC** (**£4.62 million**).

- The funding duration is for up to **5 years**

- Applicants from across UKRI remit are eligible to lead or participate in a transdisciplinary research programme.

- You may only be a project lead on one application but may be involved in other applications.

- There are no institutional limits on applications

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

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Scope

The funding opportunity will focus on the delivery of world leading cross-cutting research into the development and implementation of systems approaches to advance the UK's transition to net zero.

Stakeholder co-created	Transdisciplinary cross-cutting research	Impact and outcome driven
Research set in a broader context	Deliver real world impact	Additive and collaborative

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System Approaches

There is no single way of 'taking a systems approach'. Systems approaches are frameworks or methodologies focussed on **understanding the whole system and exploring the interconnections within and between systems**.

There are a vast array of tools already available to support taking a systems approach to the net zero transition including metrics, models, data analysis, analytical frameworks, and digital tools.

Research programmes are expected to build on this existing capability to:

- Develop **integrated** quantitative and/or qualitative systems approaches which deliver **actionable insights** in the transition to Net Zero from the understanding and analysis of **multiple complex systems and the interactions between them**.

- Collaborate with **stakeholders** to understand, consider, and support the implementation and adoption of the developed approaches.

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Programme scope

Research programmes should:

transdisciplinary, inclusive team

clear strategic vision

stakeholder engagement and co-creation

clear pathways to accelerate impact

Advocacy and capacity building

RRI, EDI and benefits realisation

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Cross-cutting research challenge or challenges

Applicants must define the expected outcomes and demonstrate:

- the **potential for cross-cutting impact, delivering a step change** in actionable insight, understanding and analysis of multiple interacting systems to support evidence-based decision making and planning, and advance a net zero transition

- the need for a **transdisciplinary approach and evidence of stakeholder co-creation** of the programme of research

- **knowledge of, and engagement with, the potential beneficiaries and end users** of the developed approaches

- **evidence of stakeholder involvement** in the creation of the research challenges and plans to collaborate with them **to support implementation and adoption of the developed approaches**

- **the potential for application to a range of sectors or situations and the consideration of the interactions between three or more of the following types of systems: technological, economic, political, social, and environmental**

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Test Cases

Research programmes must co-create one or more test case areas with stakeholders and end users which:

- **test the systems approaches developed, using them on a real-world examples** to deliver practical and timely actionable insights for key stakeholders and beneficiaries

- be **used to demonstrate the value and limitations of the developed approaches** to broader stakeholders, accelerating further adoption and supporting understanding of how a systems approach can be adopted and embedded by stakeholders

- be demonstrably co-created with beneficiaries and end users

- **have the potential to enable beneficiaries to realise real-world impacts on the pathway to net zero within the lifetime of the grant**

Co-creation and stakeholder engagement

To maximise impact, co-creation and stakeholder engagement is expected to be embedded throughout the research programmes.

At the outline stage applicants are expected to:

- be able to define who key stakeholders for their planned programme will be and how they will benefit from the research outputs
- detail the collaboration, engagement and if applicable co-creation which has informed the outline proposal
- explain how they will engage stakeholders and further co-create the research challenges and planned test cases in the development of their full proposal

How to apply

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UKRI Funding Service.

Watch our **research office webinars about the new Funding Service**.

For more guidance on the Funding Service, see:

how applicants use the Funding Service

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

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

UKRI, will publish the summaries and applicants involved in the outlines that are being invited to submit full proposals.

Timeline

2 January 2024 – Preannouncement live

25 January 2024 9:00am - Outline opening date

9 February 2024 1:00pm - Webinar

26 March 2024 4:00pm - Outline closing date

end May 2024 - Outline decisions

13th June 2024 - Invited full proposal applicant workshop/London

earlyJune 2024- Invited full opening date

early September 2024 - Invited full closing date

End October 2024 - Full interview panel

November 2024 – Full proposal decisions

Feb 2025 – Programmes start

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Outline Proposal

- **Summary** - 550 words

- **Core team -** project lead (PL), project co-lead (UK) (PcL), researcher co-lead (RcL)

- **Fit to opportunity,** 3 sides of A4 upload as an attachment

- **Application team,** 1000 words (2 sides A4)

- **Co-creation and stakeholder engagement,** 1500 words (3 sides A4)

- **References,** 500 words

- **Outline costs-** Resources are indicative only and will not be assessed at the outline stage.

Project partners letters of support are not required for the outline stage

Assessment Criteria

Fit to opportunity - How does your proposal fit the aims and scope of this funding opportunity?

- explain the vision for your transdisciplinary research programme and the potential for it to deliver impact to support the UK's transition to an equitable, prosperous, sustainable and resilient UK net zero future

- explain the expected outcomes of the programme and describe how your proposed programme will lead to the development, implementation and adoption of systems approaches which will produce actionable insights to drive the UK's net zero transition

- describe potential test case studies including how these will be co-created to deliver real-world impact on the pathway to net zero within the lifetime of the programme

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Assessment Criteria

Application team - How will the application team deliver the proposed transdisciplinary research programme?

- The application teams' relevant research experience and skills to develop and deliver the proposed transdisciplinary research programme

- Where gaps in the team exist, applicants should articulate how they plan to identify and embed additional expertise

- The core leadership team should consist of the project lead (programme director) and the project co-leads (co-investigators) identified on this outline application.

- There will be scope to expand this team and include new collaborators on the full application and you will be able to add further detail.

Assessment Criteria

Co-creation and engagement with proposed stakeholders - How will you embed co-creation with stakeholders throughout your research programme to maximise the real-world impact on the UK's transition to net zero?

- how your proposed transdisciplinary team of researchers and stakeholders will be assembled to work collaboratively towards the joint vision

- how stakeholders and beneficiaries have been involved through collaboration and engagement in the creation of the programme and how they are expected to benefit from the research outputs. Including naming existing and potential partners in policy, industry and user organisations

- how you will engage new and existing stakeholders and further co-create the research challenges, planned test cases and impact and translation pathways throughout the life of the programme

*Project partner details are not required to be included at the outline stage. Existing and potential partnerships should be described in this section.

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Questions?

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Contact details

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