

Notice: Funding competition: energy catalyst round 5

Updated: Added link to register for brokerage event in London with DFID. Added link to recorded briefing and supporting materials.

The [Department for International Development](#) (DFID), the [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy](#) (BEIS) and the [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council](#) (EPSRC) are to invest up to £13 million in innovation projects to address the global need for clean, affordable and secure energy.

The aim of the Energy Catalyst competition is to support highly innovative, market-focused energy solutions in any technology or sector or international market.

Proposals must address all 3 elements of the energy trilemma:

- cost
- emissions
- security of supply

The competition is open to any UK organisation and may also include international partners. You should apply into the stream most closely aligned with your project. Universities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged to apply. Research organisations may lead early-stage feasibility projects.

There are 3 options to apply into this competition. These are referred to as streams and will be run in parallel. The streams are dependent on the stage your project is at:

- early stage
- mid-stage
- late stage

You should choose the stream that broadly reflects the technical and commercial readiness of your project.

Early-stage competition stream

These are technical feasibility projects. Projects can last up to 1 year, with total costs ranging from £50,000 to £300,000. Research organisations may lead early-stage projects, in partnership with at least one UK business. UK SMEs can lead early-stage projects with or without partners.

Mid-stage competition stream

These are industrial research projects. Projects can last up to 3 years, with

total costs ranging from £50,000 to £1.5 million. Mid-stage projects must be collaborative and led by a UK business.

Late-stage competition stream

These are experimental development projects. Projects can last up to 3 years, with total costs ranging from £50,000 to £10 million. Late-stage projects must be collaborative and led by a UK business.

All projects must include at least one UK business. We expect most projects to start on 1 January 2018.

The competition opens on 24 April 2017.

You must register before midday on 21 June 2017.

You must apply before midday on 28 June 2017.

[Watch the competition briefing webinar](#) or [view the event materials](#) and [presentation](#).

Attend one of the brokerage events in:

[London](#)

[Birmingham](#)

[Glasgow](#)

[London](#) (with DFID)

[Register and apply online](#).

Not right for your innovation project? View other [Innovate UK funding competitions](#).

[News story: Encouraging cycling and walking: apply for business funding](#)

Updated: Removed information on briefing webinar due to cancellation.

Up to £470,000 is available for organisations with innovative projects that lead to people walking and cycling more. Innovations may include technology, infrastructure, manufacturing or behavioural change.

This is a [Small Business Research Initiative](#) (SBRI) competition. It has 2 phases. Up to £170,000 is available for phase 1, and up to £300,000 for phase 2.

Natural choice for shorter journeys

The government's vision is for cycling and walking to become the natural choice for shorter journeys. The [Department for Transport](#) (DfT) is funding this competition and is inviting proposals which:

- remove current barriers to walking and cycling
- encourage people to make more journey stages to by bicycle or on foot

Removing the barriers

To meet these aims, DfT intends to focus on:

- better safety – safety and safety perceptions are among the biggest barriers for people wanting to take up cycling and walking
- better mobility – to make cycling and walking normal, easy and enjoyable, we need better links and networks to key destinations
- better streets – well-designed and accessible streets can encourage people to walk or cycle more as part of their daily routine

Competition information

- this competition opens on Wednesday 19 April 2017, and the deadline for registration is midday on 7 June 2017
- this competition is open to individuals, groups and organisations, but is particularly suitable for early-stage, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- industry partners such as local government, independent and third sectors can carry out the project on their own or with others
- total project costs can vary between £25,000 and £100,000 and up to 15 weeks to up to 9 months, depending on the phase

[Find out more about this competition and apply online.](#)

Press release: More than 400 rod licences checked in Easter crackdown

Environment Agency officers checked more than 400 rod licences in an Easter weekend crackdown on illegal fishing.

Officers patrolling North East river banks checked 421 anglers, reporting 29 offences.

Of these, 21 were for rod licence offences, 7 were byelaw and close season offences and one offence under the Theft Act.

It's currently the close season for coarse fishing, which means fishing for coarse fish on rivers and streams is not permitted. This is done to protect breeding fish, helping to safeguard stocks for the future.

Kevin Summerson, Fisheries Enforcement Technical Specialist at the Environment Agency, said:

It's encouraging that the vast majority of anglers abide by the law, but there are still too many that we find during patrols that are fishing illegally.

We take illegal fishing very seriously – it's not fair on other anglers and endangers the future of the sport.

Our work is intelligence led and we work closely with our partners at the police and Angling Trust to target known hot spots and where illegal fishing is reported to us.

We carry out enforcement work all year round and will be continuing throughout the coming weeks, including the upcoming Bank Holiday weekends.

We really want people to get outdoors and enjoy what is a fantastic sport, and the rod licence is great value for money for all the family.

I'd urge people to help us protect the health of our fisheries by reporting any suspected illegal activity to us.

All the money from rod licence sales goes back into maintaining the health of fisheries and waters, angling projects and much more.

Anyone caught fishing without a valid licence could be fined up to £2,500 and fishing during the close season attracts a fine of up to £50,000.

Coarse fishing is still allowed on most still waters and canals, depending on

fishery owner agreement, though a valid fishing licence is still required. You can check which still waters and canals still have a close season in operation by checking the byelaws which apply in your area at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-fishing-byelaws>

Anyone who wants to go fishing needs to buy a fishing licence. A full annual licence costs £30 (short term and some concessionary licences are also available) and are available online at www.gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence.

Environment Agency officers routinely carry out licence checks and anyone with information about illegal fishing activities is urged to report it via the Environment Agency's Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

[News story: Tech of tomorrow offers more convenient, carbon-friendly living](#)

From schemes that promote cleaner, greener travel to online deliveries straight to your car boot – these are some of the innovative ideas being trialled in Innovate UK's [first of a kind deployment competition](#).

With more than 70% of people estimated to be living in urban areas by 2040, city infrastructure and design requires a drastic change in order to support a high quality of life.

Each of the projects is designed to enable a step change in innovation that will make a real difference to the energy, transport and urban infrastructure of the future. In total, 12 projects will share £18 million to develop their ideas.

The ideas

Projects are exploring the potential to:

- take the flexibility of click and collect even further by delivering orders straight to the consumer's car boot. This project – by [Car Tap](#) – uses new reliable and secure keyless vehicle access technology. The trial will enable 100 customers of [Farmaround](#) to receive deliveries of organic boxes
- address the problem of disposing used batteries – one of the areas of the [Industrial Strategy](#) Challenge Fund – by exploring how old Nissan electric vehicle batteries can be used to store peak electricity from UK homes. There will be a 50 unit, 12-month trial led by [Powervault](#).

Partners include Nissan, Aston University, Hyde Housing, Lyra Electronics, M&S Energy and Solarcentury

- ease congestion and problems with parking by operating a virtual loading bay. Commercial vehicle operators will be able to pay to reserve kerb space to load or unload. [Transport for London Road Network](#) (TLRN) is running the trial in Wandsworth, focusing on high-density loading 'hotspots'
- convert electricity into hydrogen at a mass scale to create affordable, green energy for the transport sector. The trial by [ITM Power](#) will provide energy balancing and refuelling for a fleet of 20 fuel cell buses in Birmingham
- encourage the adoption and use of electric vehicles by making charging even easier. [ZAPINAMO](#) is an easily deployable, rapid charging system. It is trialling 2 solutions:
 - rapid charging for up to 20 taxis at once at Heathrow Airport, making it easier to park and charge and improving air quality
 - a mobile charger to serve 4 Europcar E-Car Club electric vehicles, which comes directly to you as and when you need it

A full list of projects can be found in our list of [funding competition winners 2017](#).

Funding from Innovate UK

The projects are part of a £19 million investment by Innovate UK that invited businesses to test and evaluate new infrastructure technologies in the real world.

This is the second phase of the competition. All of the projects completed a finance and business case in the first phase. Those selected for phase 2 will now demonstrate their innovations in a commercial environment.

Read about the [background to the competition](#).

Learn more about our work in [infrastructure systems](#).

Apply for an [innovation funding award](#).

[Press release: New £10 million fund to restore peatland](#)

A £10 million grant scheme to restore England's iconic peatlands has been launched by the Government today.

Peatlands cover 11 per cent of England's landscape and provide a fantastic habitat for a wide range of birds such as the merlin, dunlin and golden plover.

They also provide 70 per cent of our drinking water and reduce greenhouse gases by locking away at least 3.2 billion tonnes of CO₂.

The £10 million will be available for wildlife trust and charity projects to re-wet mosses, bring back missing plants and restore a thriving habitat to our peatlands across the country. This is in addition to the £4 million Defra has already allocated to existing Natural England peatland restoration schemes in England.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

Peatlands are an iconic aspect of the English landscape which are not only a haven for wildlife but also provide us with clean water and help reduce greenhouse emissions.

This funding will help restore thousands of hectares of this precious habitat to its natural state and is a key part of our ambition to be the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than we found it.

Natural England Chairman Andrew Sells said:

Peatlands are one of the most important resources in England for wildlife and people. They are our answer to tropical rainforests, storing hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon a year, providing clean drinking water, beautiful landscapes and valuable wildlife habitats, as well as reducing the risk of flooding.

This investment will support practical restoration initiatives such as rewetting and seeding with Sphagnum mosses, an essential ingredient in restoring our peatlands for future generations.

In addition to this, plants and animals unique to this habitat, including the white-faced darter dragonfly and round-leaved sundew, will be better protected for years to come.

The funding will be available for projects that restore upland and lowland peatlands to their natural state, increasing their capacity to prevent carbon entering the atmosphere, reduce flood risk by slowing the flow of rain water and create habitats for vulnerable wildlife.

The scheme will open in May and funding will target sites with the greatest

potential for greenhouse gas reduction. Projects that deliver better value for money and maximise environmental benefits will be favoured for funding.

Funding will be available for three years from April 2018 as part of Defra's £100 million of capital funding for direct investment in projects that support the natural environment. More details, including how to bid for grants, will be provided when the scheme opens for bids.