

## **Call for proposals: Pioneering research and innovation projects with relevance for energy and climate**

**The Swedish Energy Agency invites proposals for research and innovation projects with significant potential to contribute to radical development towards energy systems that are fully renewable and at the same time flexible, robust and resource efficient. The call's total budget is SEK 50 million. The last day for applications is 5 April 2017, at 16:00.**

This call is aimed at supporting pioneering research and innovation (R&I) within all disciplines such as social sciences, humanities, economics, technology studies and natural sciences. Projects that will receive funding under this call should have a significant transformative potential for the development of energy systems, namely to in the long run have a potential contribute to fundamentally changing activities and behaviours in the areas relevant to meeting energy- and climate goals.

The call invites a broad variety of applicants to freely formulate project proposals that may contribute to meeting the Agency's general goals for reaching a sustainable energy system. Cooperation across disciplines and societal sectors is strongly encouraged.

The call's objective is to encourage pioneering and original ideas, processes, methods, technologies or a combination of solutions that demonstrate new opportunities for solving the challenges of achieving a fully renewable energy system that at the same time is flexible, robust and resource efficient. Pioneering and radical advancement can also be achieved through applying knowledge from one field or discipline to a different context, or by combining different fields of knowledge. For a successful researcher or practitioner in their current field, looking for such new opportunities can often imply a risk. Typically, the projects that will be supported by this call are characterised by high risk but also high potential both in terms of relevance for solving energy and climate challenges and achieving general systemic change in case the goals that projects are aiming at will be implemented.

Projects that will receive funding should at the earliest start on 1 June 2017 and finish on 31 December 2019 at the latest.

### **What share of the project costs can be granted?**

State aid may be granted to private companies and cover different percentage of the project costs, depending on the type of project. For projects that include experimental development, the state aid rate is maximum 25%, for applied research maximum 50%, and for ground research up to 100% (link to [the EU Commission Regulation nr 651/2014](#)). In some cases, there is a possibility for the Swedish Energy Agency to grant a higher percentage of the project's costs, such as for small (up to plus 20%) and medium sized (up to plus 10%) companies (link to [the EU Commission Regulation nr 651/2014](#)). This implies that for example if a small company is carrying out an experimental development project, the state aid level may reach 45% (25%+20%). For projects that are initiated and conducted by universities and university colleges the state aid level is allowed to go up to 100% ([link to The Swedish Energy Agency Regulation, in Swedish](#)). The Swedish Energy Agency may require higher levels of co-financing than stipulated in the Regulation if the Agency considers it beneficial for implementing the project in question.

Co-financing may be comprised of for example man hours, cash contributions or costs of conducting experiments. In case other state funding is included in the budget, it should not be included when calculating co-financing level. For example, if a research institute receives 25% of its general budget from the state funds, only 75% of the eventual project costs can be accounted for as co-financing.

### **Conditions for granted projects**

The Swedish Energy Agency's funding decision is based on an agreed project plan and budget. In order for the grant to be disbursed, the beneficiary should confirm that they have received the Agency's decision document and agree with the conditions on which the aid is granted. A more detailed description of the conditions can be found in the Appendix below.

### **How to apply**

Applications should be submitted in accordance with the [Guidelines for applicants \(in Swedish\)](#) through the Swedish Energy Agency's electronic application tool [E-kanalen \(in Swedish\)](#) no later than April 5, 2017, at 16:00. New applicants are kindly recommended to create an account at E-kanalen in advance, as the activation may take a few days.

The application should be written in a way that allows a non-expert to understand the content and goals of the project. Application in English should be accompanied by a summary text in Swedish.

The application should describe the project's relevance to the energy system and clearly defined objectives. The objectives should be measurable and formulated in such a way that they can be met within the project's timeline. The project description should also include background information and an analysis of relevant state of the art knowledge, as well as description of selected

methodology, cost estimations, total budget and a communication and dissemination plan.

The Swedish Energy Agency strives for achieving diversity and gender equality and therefore encourages applicants to include these considerations when selecting the project team constellation, appointing the team leader as well as formulating the project's implementation plan, content, goals and objectives.

**The complete application should be submitted on 5 April 2017, at 16:00 at the latest.**

### **Evaluation criteria**

Applications will be evaluated based on their potential for contributing to a radical change towards a more sustainable energy system, novelty and originality of ideas, and feasibility of implementation.

### **Funding decision**

The Swedish Energy Agency may request the submission of additional information and/or an updated application after the application deadline. The request may concern, e.g. increased co-financing requirements, changes in the project plan or a more detailed description of the project idea. Applications will be evaluated by the Swedish Energy Agency. Contributions from external experts may be used to support the evaluation process. The final decision will be made by the Swedish Energy Agency earliest in May 2017. The applicants will shortly thereafter receive a written notification about what kind of decision has been taken and on which grounds.

### **For questions and further information please contact**

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## **Appendix**

### **Conditions for granted projects**

The conditions that apply to granted projects will be listed in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision document concerning the granted aid. A description of the conditions follows below.

#### **General**

The Swedish Energy Agency's funding decision is based on an agreed project plan and budget. The part of the costs not covered by the grant from the Swedish Energy Agency shall be borne with own resources or with funds provided by

another financier. The beneficiary is responsible for covering the extra costs that occur during the project period. When the Swedish Energy Agency's funding decision covers funding outside of the current financial year's, the decision only applies provided that the Swedish Energy Agency receives/has at its disposal the required funds in the following years.

The shifting of costs between cost categories is accepted up to 10 per cent within each cost category, provided that the total budget does not change. Greater changes require approval from the Swedish Energy Agency.

#### § 1 Payment of grants

The grants are disbursed, unless otherwise stated in the decision document, in the middle of the project period for each budget year, without an invoice. Grants only cover value added tax when it occurs as net cost for the beneficiary (only applies to universities and university colleges). Verifications for accounted expenditure items must, on request, be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency. Funds that have not been used are to be repaid. Advances can be provided, at most 30 per cent of the total grant amount (only applies to universities and colleges). 15 per cent, or another percentage set out in the decision, of the granted funds can be withheld until final reporting in accordance with § 4 has been submitted and approved by the Swedish Energy Agency.

#### § 2 Employer relationship

The Swedish Energy Agency is not the employer or principal of the beneficiary or anyone else he/she engages in the project. Accordingly, the Swedish Energy Agency does not make deductions for taxes, social security contributions, etc.

#### § 3 Notification obligation regarding other funding

The beneficiary is obliged to immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency in writing, if funds for the project in the application process have been sought or granted from anyone other than the Swedish Energy Agency.

#### § 4 Duty to report

Reports and surveys as set out below shall be submitted in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions. When additional special reports are required, it is stated in the decision.

#### **Annual report**

Universities and university colleges are obliged, for each budget year, at the request of the Swedish Energy Agency, to submit annual reports concerning the department's and/or research team's complete activities.

#### **Progress report**

The progress report concerning the project's activities shall be provided at the request of the Swedish Energy Agency. This should include a description of the project's existing activities and results as well as a financial reporting. In addition, the Swedish Energy Agency can request that the report shall include a technical

status report. The progress report shall be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency at the latest on the date stated in the decision.

**Financial Accounting – only applies to companies**

Financial accounts shall be submitted once or twice a year using the specific form provided by the Swedish Energy Agency or collected from the Agency's website ([www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se)). The account shall be submitted at the latest on the date stated in the decision.

**Final report**

The final report shall report the project result and contain a description of the project's implementation and the fulfilment of objectives. Furthermore, the report shall contain a summary of the project result in English of no more than 200 words. The report shall be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency at the latest on the date stated in the decision.

A specific financial final account shall be submitted no later than on the date stated in the decision using a specific form provided by the Swedish Energy Agency or collected from the Agency's website ([www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se)).

**Survey**

As the beneficiary, you need to complete a survey at the end of each year and submit this to the Swedish Energy Agency. We collect, on behalf of the Government, details from all beneficiaries in order to present a number of results in indicator form in our annual financial statement.

**§ 5 Changes**

Significant changes within the Swedish Energy Agency approved project and budget must be reported in advance to the Swedish Energy Agency for evaluation and approval. The beneficiary must immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency if circumstances of significant importance occur that result in the cancellation or delay, etc. of the project. The beneficiary is obliged to immediately report any changes in name or address.

**§ 6 Publication**

The project results must be published. Publication shall take place in accordance with international best practice for the publication of research results.

The beneficiary is entitled to protect the results by patents or other intellectual property rights and in doing so postpone publication until any application for such property rights has been submitted to the relevant patent office. The Swedish Energy Agency must be notified if the beneficiary intends to protect the results. Applications to the patent office must be submitted without delay. The Swedish Energy Agency's written approval must be obtained in each individual case if the beneficiary wishes to delay publication for reasons other than those stated above or refrain from publishing certain results.

All presentations of the project must state that the work has been conducted with the support from the Swedish Energy Agency (the agency name should be reproduced in English, Swedish Energy Agency).

#### § 7 Rights to results

The beneficiary or the results rights holder has the commercial right of use of the project results and is entitled to make available or transfer the rights to others.

If the rights to the project are transferred to a company that runs economic activities, compensation corresponding to the market price for the rights shall be paid (only applies to universities and university colleges).

#### § 8 Right to review

The Swedish Energy Agency or person/persons appointed by the Swedish Energy Agency (e.g. certified accountant) are entitled to follow-up the work and study documents that can provide information about the technical and economic development of the project. The Swedish Energy Agency is entitled to issue special instructions for reporting in order to enable the review.

In addition, the Swedish Energy Agency has the right to follow-up completed projects through requesting follow-up reports, that are to be structured and submitted in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions. Such reports can be requested on three occasions within a ten-year period calculated from the day of the final report.

#### § 9 Amendment to the decision

At the request of the beneficiary, the Swedish Energy Agency can grant well-motivated amendments to the project.

#### § 10 Annulment of the decision

The Swedish Energy Agency can decide that unused grant money shall be withheld alternatively that disbursed funds, that have not been used, shall be repaid if:

- a) the conditions for the project's financing have changed
- b) the project is not run according to the agreed project plan
- c) there is no prospect of achieving a satisfactory result within a reasonable timeframe (for example, due to significantly changed project or market conditions) or if the project's planned continuation cannot be considered certain (for example, due to insolvency in case the beneficiary is a company)
- d) the beneficiary fails to sign and resend a copy of the conditions appendix to the Swedish Energy Agency.

#### § 11 Recovery of amounts paid

The disbursed grant along with interest rate of 8 % (eight per cent) above the applicable reference interest rate can be reclaimed with immediate effect if:

- a) the beneficiary does not provide the mandatory reports according to § 4
- b) the beneficiary uses the grant for purposes other than what is stated in the agreed project plan
- c) the project is not run according to the agreed project plan
- d) the beneficiary does not otherwise satisfy the obligations according to the conditions in this Appendix or the special conditions in the decision.

#### § 12 Retention of aid

The Swedish Energy Agency is entitled to stop further payment of funds until a decision is made to refuse payment or to reclaim granted funds according to paragraphs 10 and 11. Such a stop to further payment of funds can affect payments to other projects administered by the same department, company or corresponding administrative unit, if the Swedish Energy Agency so decides.

#### § 13 EU's State aid rules

As a condition for aid, it applies that funding measures may be repealed or changed and the grant reclaimed if the European Commission through judgements which have entered into force or the Court of Justice of the European Union has found the aid to be unlawful pursuant to Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The decision to repeal or change the funding measures is taken by the Government. In this context the conditions for repayment of aid are determined in each individual case.

#### **Consent pursuant to the Swedish Personal Data Act and concession to making information available.**

The Swedish Energy Agency makes information about projects financed by the Agency available on the Agency's website: [www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se). Here the general public can search for information about on-going and completed research projects based on different keyword searches, such as research subject, research organisation, project title, project manager.

As the project manager and authorised signatory sign the conditions, the project manager agrees to publishing personal data (name and organisation), and the authorised signatory to non-confidential information and reports found in the project, on the public domain on the Agency's website. The beneficiary is responsible for the copyright holder to agree to this publication and shall ensure that the copyright holder is entitled to enter agreements in each individual case.

#### **Public documents and secrecy**

Essentially all post and e-mail sent to the Swedish Energy Agency become public documents. Among other things, this means that the public and mass media can request to view their contents. Official letters and decisions sent from the Energy Agency are also public documents. The right to view public documents is part of the principle of public access to official documents.

However, the Energy Agency is not permitted to disclose information covered by secrecy in accordance with the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act. This means that a document or certain information in a document may be protected by secrecy. A secrecy assessment is therefore made on a case-by-case basis before a document is disclosed.

Secrecy applies to information on an individual's business or operating conditions, inventions or research findings, for example, if it can be assumed that the individual will suffer damages if the information is disclosed.