



Innovate to Grow: Clean Energy

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) working on clean energy solutions in this sector and exploring how research and development (R&D) can advance your project or idea.

Build your R&D idea

SMEs play a key role in growing Australia's clean energy capability, but taking an R&D idea and turning this into reality can sometimes be a daunting prospect.

Our free self-paced 10-week program will build your skills to help you refine your innovation idea and turn this into a R&D opportunity.

Apply today

Applications close: 23 June 2024

Program starts: 18 July 2024

csiro.au/cleanenergy

Key program outcomes

Personalised support to refine your idea: We'll step you through the process of turning your idea into a viable research project.

Confidential feedback: All submissions through the program portal will receive prompt expert feedback.

Mentor: You will be paired with a researcher from CSIRO or a university to help connect you with a relevant specialist.

Build your network: You will build key contacts in your sector, including researchers and other SMEs.

Key program outputs include how to:

- Create a strong research question for your idea
- Assess the value of your innovation
- Work out your collaboration options
- Compose a high impact R&D business case
- Prepare a funding application.

Commitment and course outline

Preparing for the program (3–4 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaires.

Week 1 (Official start date, 18 July)

Workshop (4.5 hours)

Guest speakers from CSIRO, sector experts and SMEs who will provide tips and information on topics such as trends and opportunities, innovation experience and funding. You will also meet your fellow participants and mentor.

Weeks 2–10

Self-paced innovation program (2–3 hours per week)

Participants explore opportunities to grow their business through innovation and research.

Fortnightly virtual webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

A final questionnaire is required at completion.

Who can attend

Participants based and operating in Australia who are working on clean energy solutions in this sector.

This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Energy storage
- Electrification
- Energy modelling and integrated systems
- Carbon management
- Renewable energy
- Renewable heat
- Sustainable fuels
- Other

Selection criteria (essential):

- A business based and operating in Australia
- A business classified as small to medium (<200 employees)
- A business currently or in the early stages of exploring R&D opportunities, with an idea related to clean energy to work on throughout the program
- An Australian registered and operating business with an ABN and ACN/ICN

Please note: Sole traders, partnerships and Australian subsidiary companies of foreign entities are not eligible. Researchers working at universities can apply as a mentor but not a participant.

Other considerations:

- Any other information provided to support your application
- Have a clear need to develop your knowledge and skills in R&D

'The program was very practical and hands on. Tony was an excellent steward and mentor and provided excellent advice and connected me with potential research partners.'

– Fionna Millikan, Green Gravity

CSIRO Innovate to Grow is delivered using [Practera's](#) online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

For further information

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csiro.au/cleanenergy

CSIRO Innovate to Grow: Clean Energy is proud to partner with the [Trailblazer for Recycling and Clean Energy \(TRaCE\) program](#). TRaCE is moving innovative technologies out of the lab and into global manufacturing. Delivered by UNSW and the University of Newcastle and supported by the Commonwealth Government, the program aims to partner with and support industry, research and education partners to fast-track the energy transition.

