



Innovate to Grow program: Ending plastic waste

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) working on plastic or recycling solutions and exploring how research and development (R&D) can advance their project or business.

Build your R&D idea

CSIRO has a goal to reduce 80 per cent of plastic waste entering the Australian environment by 2030. This mission is intended to support a sustainable plastics circular economy to reduce detrimental impacts to the environment, while delivering economic benefits.

Small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) play a key role in advancing recycling and plastic solutions. 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.

Register today

Applications close: 14 August 2023

Program starts: 7 September 2023

csiro.au/innovateplasticwaste

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 the relevant specialists.

Build your network: You will build key contacts in your sector, including researchers at CSIRO and universities, domain experts, funding professionals and other SMEs.

Key things covered include:

- Identifying your innovation opportunities.
- Refining your value proposition.
- Understanding the R&D viability.
- Helping you build your business case.
- Providing guidance on how to prepare a strong funding application.

Commitment and course outline

Preparing for the program (~2 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaires.

Week 1 (Official start date, 7 September 2023)

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 working in plastics or recycling sectors. This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Plastic processor or converter
- Plastic waste collection/sorting
- Plastic recycling
- Packaging
- Agriculture and food
- Manufacturing
- Other

Selection criteria (essential):

- Business classified as small to medium (<200 employees).
- A business currently, or in the early stages of, exploring R&D opportunities for their business and have an idea to work on throughout the course.
- Currently working in the plastics or recycling sector (or have identified a new opportunity relevant to these sectors).
- An Australian registered and operating business with an ABN and ACN/ICN.

Other considerations:

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

"I think the program was useful in bringing experts and SMEs with problems together. We hope to continue the conversations we have started and as we continue to develop our technology we can engage further."

Nicholas Foster, IQ Energy Australia

"We made lots of progress and came up with a direction for the steps we need to do and the people we need to speak to in order to get this project kickstarted."

Manon Beauchamp-Tardieu, Little Green Panda

CSIRO awards places to businesses based on the strength of the application, and a clear interest and capacity to pursue R&D. We also include participants from a variety of industry sub-sectors and regions.

CSIRO Innovate to Grow is delivered using Practera's online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

This program is co-sponsored by CSIRO and the Ending Plastic Waste Mission.

For further information

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