



# SFC Announcement

## Climate Emergency Collaboration Challenge – Call for Proposals

Issue date: 14 August 2019

Reference: SFC/AN/13/2019

**Summary:** The Scottish Government has made up to £500,000 available immediately for SFC's Climate Emergency Collaboration Challenge in Academic Year 2019-20. We are inviting universities and colleges to submit proposals for funding by 24 October 2019.

**FAO:** Principals / Chairs of Scotland's colleges & universities

**Further information:** **Contact:** Robin Lee  
**Job title:** Senior Policy/Analysis Officer  
**Department:** Research and Innovation  
**Tel:** 0131 313 6589  
**Email:** [rlee@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:rlee@sfc.ac.uk)



## Climate Emergency Collaboration Challenge - Call for Proposals

### Introduction

1. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) is pleased to confirm that the Scottish Government has made up to £500,000 available immediately for the Climate Emergency Collaboration Challenge in Academic Year (AY) 2019-20. We are inviting universities and colleges to submit proposals for funding by 24 October 2019.
2. In this document we set out the strategic context, aims and objectives and assessment process for this call.

### Background

3. In April 2019, the First Minister declared a global climate emergency. The Scottish Government<sup>1</sup> subsequently amended the Climate Change Bill to set a target of net-zero emissions by 2045 at the latest, and raise the ambition of the 2030 and 2040 targets to 70% and 90% emissions reductions respectively. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted in their special report<sup>2</sup> that we have until 2030 to halve CO2 emissions globally and limit warming to 1.5 degrees. It is therefore critical to make a step change in the collective effort to reduce emissions immediately.
4. SFC is committed to actively responding to the challenge of the global climate emergency. Our new strategic framework<sup>3</sup> highlights the urgent “need to achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions if we are to avoid damaging our fragile environment.” It also highlights that the model of future success will be achieved by going “beyond traditional intra-disciplinary alliances to stimulate more innovative and creative partnerships between different fields of study and research.”
5. The Scottish Government has made this funding available to SFC as an immediate response in AY 2019-20. In this call we are seeking to support consortia with innovative approaches for making the step-change in action needed and help to create the opportunities of a new green economy.

### Call for Proposals

6. SFC is inviting proposals for collaborative projects between academia and businesses that will increase the pace of emissions reduction across the Scottish

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/global-climate-emergency-scotlands-response-climate-change-secretary-roseanna-cunninghams-statement/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/about-sfc/strategic-framework/strategic-framework.aspx>

economy, help meet the ambitious net-zero target proposed by the Scottish Government whilst building a greener economy and healthier society.

7. The deadline for proposals is 24 October 2019. Proposals must be submitted by the consortium's nominated host university or college. Host universities or colleges will be required to administer SFC funding on behalf of the partnership. Proposals will be considered by an assessment panel in November. Subject to availability of funds we expect to be able to support two projects of up to £250,000 each.
8. The drive to tackle the global climate emergency does not sit in isolation and should be considered in the wider context of our national ambitions and commitment to inclusive growth, defined as "growth that combines increased prosperity with greater equity; that creates opportunities for all and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity fairly<sup>4</sup>." This is further embedded in the National Performance Framework which aims to "help achieve the Scottish Government's purpose with a framework that sets out 'national outcomes'. These outcomes describe the kind of Scotland it aims to create. The outcomes:
  - Reflect the values and aspirations of the people of Scotland.
  - Are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
  - Help to track progress in reducing inequality.<sup>5</sup>"
9. The full list of outcomes is available in Annex A.
10. In the context of this call for proposals, 'businesses' refers not only to profit-making enterprises. Participation of social and not-for-profit enterprises is encouraged.

### ***Opportunity***

11. This call is an immediate response to the declaration of a global climate emergency. We are looking for projects that will accelerate the pace of decarbonisation, which build strong foundations and teams with a clear mission. These projects will have a role, amongst other drivers, in shaping the future strategy of our response to the global climate emergency.
12. We know that tackling the global climate emergency is multi-faceted and we welcome approaches which recognise this. Technological innovation needs to be coupled with societal and consumer behavioural change/acceptance. We welcome projects that will bridge the social and physical sciences, and possibly which directly engage the public.
13. The climate emergency is global. We will consider projects that identify similar

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://economicactionplan.mygov.scot/overview/fundamentals/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/wh-at-it>

challenges across countries and which seek to co-create solutions. Please note we can only fund Scottish universities and colleges.

14. We are not seeking to support projects which are fundamental research.

### ***Proposal Criteria***

15. Proposals should address all of the following high-level criteria which will be used in the assessment process:
  - Clearly demonstrate how the collaboration between businesses and universities and/or colleges will aim to tackle a significant challenge in response to the global climate emergency and accelerate the transition of the Scottish economy to net-zero in line with Scottish Government ambitions.
  - Be challenge and/or demand-led, evidenced by businesses and other relevant partners being part of the collaboration and committing funding/in-kind contributions. Projects that leverage additional funding beyond the SFC contribution are strongly encouraged.
  - Be highly innovative and clearly demonstrate the additionality for the partners and the novelty of the interaction between the academic and business partners.
  - Detail the outcomes that will be delivered by the project in AY 2019-20, including achievable targets and key performance indicators.
  - Set out the longer term vision for the collaboration and future sustainability. This could include targeting future funding, forming a new enterprise, securing industrial commitment, influencing policy or any other method appropriate which ensures the project legacy and outcomes continue beyond the project end date.
  - Provide the estimated reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent) that the project is expected to achieve up to 2045.
  - Include a communications and dissemination plan that will engage wider audiences with the work of the project and highlight good practice. The plan should also support public awareness raising and promotion of the project's achievements.
  - Provide a clear breakdown of projected income and expenditure over the term of the project.

- Provide a project management plan for the collaboration and necessary governance arrangements.
- Set out how greenhouse gas emissions arising directly from project activity, for example, from the travel necessary to deliver the project, will be minimised.
- Provide a statement of compliance with standard rules regarding state-aid which apply to any funding awarded.

### ***Proposal Structure***

16. The proposal document must include the following sections in the listed order below. Proposals should use this structure to meet all proposal criteria in paragraph 15. Proposals which do not provide this information will be ineligible.
- Details of nominated host university or college, partner institutions and businesses.
  - Project summary, suitable for publication (maximum 1/2 page).
  - Proposed start date and project duration.
  - Detailed project income (including all sources) and expenditure statement.
  - Proposed project and context (maximum 4 pages).
  - Consortium suitability and additionality (maximum 2 pages).
  - Project management including milestones and governance arrangements (maximum 1 page). Supporting information such as a GANTT chart or work plan may be provided as a separate Annex.
  - Project longer-term sustainability and outcomes including a vision to 2045 (maximum 2 pages).
  - Estimated reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions to 2045.
  - Communications plan (maximum 1 page).
  - Senior level sign-off from host university or college.
  - Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (see paragraph 19). This can be provided as a separate Annex.
  - State-aid compliance statement.

### **Funding**

17. Successful proposals will be funded up to a maximum of £250,000 in AY 2019-20. We expect to be able to fund two proposals, subject to availability of funds.
18. SFC funding will be allocated to and managed by the consortium's nominated host university or college. Other institutions involved in the project must also

be listed in the proposal. There is no restriction on the composition or number of members in a consortium, however each must have a clear role in the proposed project.

### **Equality and Diversity**

19. SFC considers equality and diversity in all its priorities. SFC asks institutions to be mindful of the Equality Act (2010), including the statutory requirement for Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments (EHRIs) of new and revised strategies and policies. **Proposals must include an EHRIA.** Institutions can complete their own EHRIA form or use SFC’s form which is available upon request. Further information and guidance is available from SFC’s website.<sup>6</sup>

### **Submission**

20. Proposals must be able to demonstrate senior level support from the nominated host university or college. Applications will only be eligible if signed by the Principal or delegated signatory.
21. The deadline for proposals is **12noon, on Thursday 24 October 2019**. Proposals should be submitted to Robin Lee, Senior Policy/Analysis Officer, Research and Innovation Directorate, [rlee@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:rlee@sfc.ac.uk).

### **Assessment**

22. Eligible proposals will be taken forward for consideration by an assessment panel comprising SFC and its partner organisations.
23. The assessment panel may propose integration of proposals that have significant overlap and where collaboration could substantially increase impact.

### ***Indicative Timetable***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Call for proposals launched	14 August 2019
Call for proposals deadline	24 October 2019
Assessment panel	w/c 28 October 2019
Applicant notification*	November 2019
Funding award letters issued	November 2019

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/about-sfc/how-we-operate/equality-diversity/equality-diversity.aspx>

\*We will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants at a later date. The level of feedback will be dependent on the number of proposals received.

### **Data Protection**

24. Any materials produced, reporting required, promotional information etc. must be compliant with data protection and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements. Institutions must ensure any participants are aware of how their information will be processed in accordance with GDPR. For more information about how SFC uses personal data please see our [Privacy Notice](#).
25. SFC reserves the right to share content, reports and other information with the Scottish Government and other relevant stakeholders to promote and evidence the way in which funding has been used.

### **Further information**

26. For further information and informal enquiries please contact Robin Lee, Senior Policy/Analysis Officer, Research and Innovation Directorate, tel: 0131 313 6589, email: [rlee@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:rlee@sfc.ac.uk) or Fiona Bates, Policy/Analysis Officer, Research and Innovation Directorate, tel: 0131 313 6609, email: [fbates@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:fbates@sfc.ac.uk).



**Dr Stuart Fancy**

Director, Research and Innovation

## **National Performance Framework - National Outcomes**

The national outcomes are that people:

- Grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.
- Live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
- Are creative and their vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.
- Have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.
- Are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.
- Value, enjoy, protect and enhance their environment.
- Have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.
- Are healthy and active.
- Respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.
- Are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.
- Tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

Further information on the National Outcomes and the National Performance Framework is available at: <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/> .