

Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy

2021 call

Joe Reilly

National Waste Prevention Programme

Environmental Protection Agency

1st July, 2021



GREEN ENTERPRISE: INNOVATION FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

€625,000 GREEN STIMULUS FUND



The Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy** programme supports business and industry to develop and demonstrate new circular economy approaches.

Circular business models reduce costs and environmental impact by reusing, repairing and recycling materials already in use. A circular economy contributes to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy and circular business models offer competitive opportunities for Irish businesses.

We are now open for applications for projects in the range **€50k to €100k** AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT COMPANIES & ORGANISATIONS WORKING ON



Plastics



Food



Construction & Demolition



Resources & Raw Materials

Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy supports creative business opportunities based on:

- Eco-Design to prevent waste & increase recycling
- Stimulation of repair & reuse activities
- Avoiding single-use plastics
- Sharing products to reduce consumption
- Finding new uses for by-products

Applications are invited from innovators to develop and demonstrate business-ready solutions for the circular economy. The closing date is 29th July.

FOR QUERIES CONTACT
research@epa.ie



FOR FULL DETAILS VISIT
<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring-assessment/circular-economy/green-enterprise/>



Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Presentation summary

- The Circular Economy
- Green Enterprise: Innovation for a circular economy
 - The call for proposals
 - Application process
 - Grant process
 - Thematic Areas



**Food
Waste**



**Resources &
Raw Materials**



**Construction
& Demolition**



Plastics

What is the Circular Economy?

Drivers: Limited resources, population growth, increased demand for services.

- *Maintain the value of products, materials and resources.*
- *Minimising the generation of waste.*
- *The fewer products we discard, the less materials we extract, the better for our environment*

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/circular-economy_en

“A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems” Ellen Macarthur Foundation

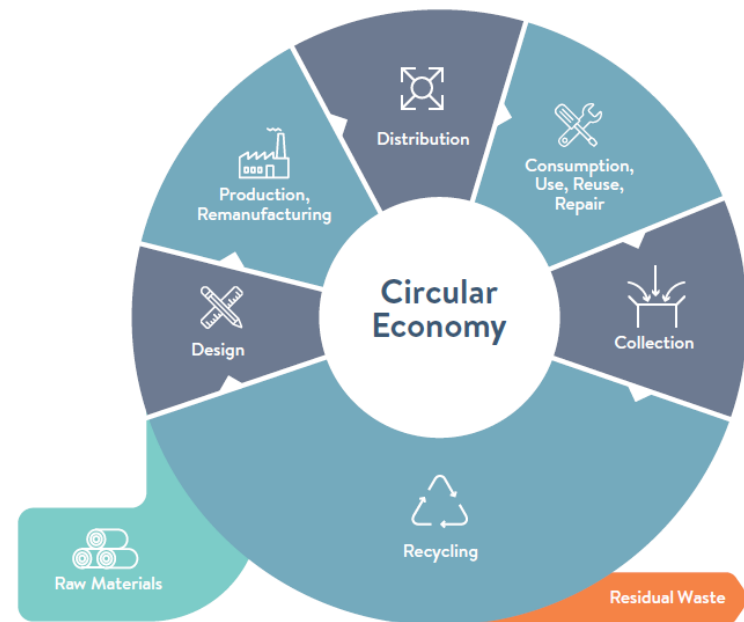
<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>



Circular Economy

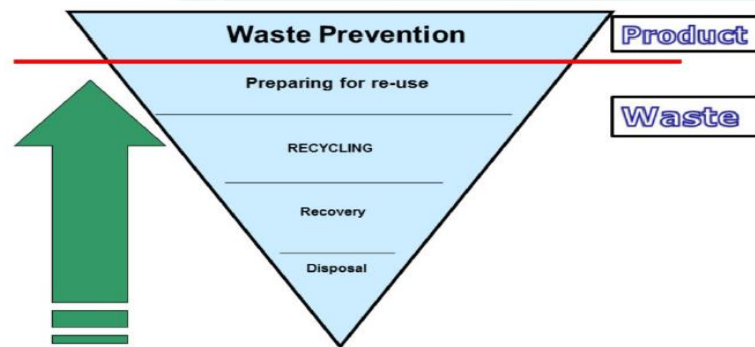
Circular economy has the potential to *enhance competitiveness & resilience* of enterprises:

- cost savings
- new markets / employment
- new business models
- less reliance on imports
- waste prevention
- lower carbon emissions
- increased resource efficiency



Waste Prevention

- The waste hierarchy is the guiding principle in EU and national waste policies. It gives the highest priority to waste prevention, followed by preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery and disposal.
- Waste prevention is especially important in attempts to transition to a circular economy, which tries to keep resource value in the economic cycle, rather than in waste.



National Waste Prevention Programme



The graphic features a central target symbol with concentric circles and arrows pointing inward, set against a dark blue background with a dotted pattern. The text is in white and orange.

**NATIONAL WASTE
PREVENTION
PROGRAMME**

**Preventing Waste
Driving the
Circular Economy**

  **Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland**



epa
Environmental Protection Agency
An tAidmheallán um Chaomhú Comhshaoil



**Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland**



**An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide**
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Green Enterprise: Innovation for a circular economy

Objectives of fund:

Enhance competitiveness and resilience

Influence and inform policy

Actions of funded projects:

Develop sustainable solutions

Articulate case studies and demonstrations

Outcomes will:

Impact on Circular Economy and SDG objectives and targets

Inform Government policy

Green Enterprise: Innovation for a circular economy

- 2021 fund: €625,000.
- Max €100,000 per grant award.
- Companies must be Irish registered.
- Subject to compliance with State Aid *De Minimis* rules.
- Projects in region €50,000 to €100,000 sought.
- Typically 18 month projects. Must be completed within 24 months.

Green Enterprise: Innovation for a circular economy

- Grant aid varies based on the type of organisation and the applicable cost category.

Table 2 – Applicable Cost Categories

Cost categories	PBE	SME	Non-SME
Staff costs (on an actual salary cost basis)	95%	75%	50%
Consumables	95%	75%	50%
External Assistance & Consultancy	95%	75%	50%
Travel	95%	75%	50%
Plant and Equipment	25%	25%	25%
Indirect costs (Overheads) – calculated as 30% of modified costs	95%	75%	50%

Green Enterprise 2021 indicative timelines

- 17:00 on 22nd July, 2021. Query deadline
- 17:00 on 29th July, 2021. Deadline Submission of Application
- 17:00 on 5th August, 2021. Deadline Organisation Approval - for authorisation by Managing Directors (or equivalent authorised signatory).
- End of September: Evaluation process completed, applicants notified.
- October/November: Grant negotiation – technical and financial queries
- December: Successful projects grant-awarded.

Application process

Pre-application

- Read call documentation on EPA website: *Technical Description, Terms & Conditions, FAQ*. [EPA Green Enterprise Scheme | Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- Register on grant management portal: EPA user guides and video tutorials are available
- Send any queries to research@epa.ie

Application

- Complete grant management portal fields.
- Upload completed attachments: application form, budget template, De Minimis declaration
- Meet all submission & authorisation deadlines.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



GREEN ENTERPRISE **Innovation for a Circular Economy**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION AND
GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS**

2021

**National Waste Prevention Programme
Environmental Protection Agency Research Programme**

The EPA Green Enterprise Programme and the EPA Research Programme
are Government of Ireland initiatives
funded by the
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



GREEN ENTERPRISE **Innovation for a Circular Economy**

**2021 Terms and Conditions for Grant Awards
Green Enterprise Projects**

**National Waste Prevention Programme
EPA Research Programme**

The Green Enterprise Programme is funded as part of the National Waste Prevention Programme &
the EPA Research Programme

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Application Quality

- Be as concise as possible and use plain English.
- 15 pages maximum application
- Clear objectives, activities outputs and outcomes anticipated.
- Clear info on project team and how the project will be delivered.

- Use templates provided
 - Budget template.
 - De Minimis declaration.
 - Work Package template
 - Gantt chart (tasks, timelines, milestones, deliverables)

Application Quality

- Be familiar with the evaluation criteria and be aware of these when writing your application – it is how your proposal will be scored

Table 1 – Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Marks
Technical quality: objectives, approaches and work packages	30%
Relevance to the call topic areas and to the principles of the Green Enterprise programme	20%
Scalability for widespread implementation and/or transferability potential across sectors	20%
Technical expertise and project management capability of the team	20%
Costing and value for money	10%

- Proposals must attain a minimum of 40% of the maximum score for each criterion.
- A concise, well written application will make the evaluation process easier.

Evaluation Process

- Stage 1: Valid applicants sent for evaluation. Panel made up of circular economy experts.
- Stage 2: National overview panel.
- National overview panel make recommendations.
- EPA Board make final decision on grant awards.
- Grant negotiation process: technical and financial queries resolution.
- Grant Award – offer documentation & advance payment
- Typically 5-6 applications awarded funding

Timeframe

3.3 Indicative timeframe

An indicative timeframe for this call is shown below.

17 th June 2021	Launch of 2021 call via EPA website, press release, social media etc.
1 st July, 2021	Webinar for potential applicants. Register via nwpp@epa.ie
17:00 on 22 nd July 2021	Deadline for technical queries
17:00 on 29 th July 2021	Deadline for submission of applications
17:00 on 5 th August 2021	Organisation approval deadline for authorisation by Managing Director (or equivalent authorised signatory) for companies
By end September	Evaluation process complete
October/November	Applicants notified and grant negotiation process (technical and financial queries) begin for projects being recommended for funding
By December 2021	Successful projects grants awarded

Project Deliverables

Grant offer documentation.
Advance payment.

Kick-off meeting.
Technical Progress Reports.
Cost statements.

Final report.
Executive summary.
Cost statement.

Dissemination of outputs.
Webinar.
Case study.

Green Enterprise: Innovation for a circular economy

Call scope

■ Four thematic areas:

- Construction & demolition waste
- plastics
- food waste prevention,
- resources and raw materials (electrical & electronic equipment, textiles and furniture)

This fund does not cover energy, mobility or water systems .

Food

Ireland generates over 1 million tonnes of food waste annually.

- Irish Fish Cannery - reduced the level of waste per tonne of fish processed by 26%.
- Irish Manufacturing Research. Industrial symbiosis - St Mel's Brewery's and Panelto Foods. Demonstrated that surplus bread can be used as a substitute for virgin malted grain in beer production.

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/green-enterprise/green-enterprise-ongoing-projects/>



**Food
Waste**

Plastics

Preventing plastic waste and increasing the recyclability of plastic products are central to the EU's Circular Economy Action Plans.

- Polymer Alloy Technology Teo - Plastics pallet production mixed plastic waste and demonstrating a prototype, mould and manufacture.
- ÉireComposites Teoranta - Developing an innovative manufacturing process using recyclable reinforced plastic for producing wind turbine blades.



Plastics

Construction and Demolition

Construction and demolition (C&D) waste is the largest waste stream by volume in the EU.

- Irish Green Building Council - Delivering training on Level(s), the European framework for sustainable buildings. An early design stage carbon design tool will be developed.
- John Gannon Concrete Ltd T/A Gannon Eco - Identifying and testing suitable construction & demolition waste streams for use in concrete production



Construction
& Demolition

Resources and Raw Materials

The circular economy embraces all resources and raw material - solutions relating to electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture.

- Community Resource Network Ireland (CRNI) - pilot programme comparing different textile collection systems, supported by a communications campaign.



Resources &
Raw Materials

Final Note

Can project partners be added to Green Enterprise proposals? 

The financial rules of the Green Enterprise Programme do not allow partner organisations to participate. However, where an applicant requires expertise not available within their own organisation, they can use the resources of an external provider by way of external assistance. Any external assistance arrangement must be mindful of public procurement obligations.

The roles of Lead Applicant and Research Proposal Authoriser conflict within the system

- Registered as an Applicant using email address A
- Registered as a Research Proposal Authoriser using email address B

Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy

- **Reminder important dates:**
 - 17:00 on 22nd July, 2021: Deadline for technical queries
 - 17:00 on 29th July, 2021: Deadline for submission of applications
 - 17:00 on 2nd August, 2021: Organisation approval deadline
- Queries relating to call: research@epa.ie

Thank you