



EPA Research - 2017 Call

EPA Research – 2017 UN Sustainable Development Goals Call

Technical Description

The EPA Research Programme is funded by the Irish Government.

Environmental Protection Agency Research Call 2017: UN Sustainable Development Goals

This document provides the **Technical Description** for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **UN Sustainable Development Goals Research Call 2017**. Applicants should read the following carefully and also consult the other documentation provided (i.e. Guide for Applicants, Guide for Grantees, EPA Terms and Conditions for support of grant awards).

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Introduction

The EPA's Research Programme 2014-2020 is designed to identify pressures, inform policy and develop solutions to environmental challenges through the provision of strong evidence-based scientific knowledge:

- **Identifying Pressures:** Providing assessments of current environmental status and future trends to identify pressures on our environment.
- **Informing Policy:** Generating evidence, reviewing practices and building models to inform policy development and implementation.
- **Developing Solutions:** Using novel technologies and methods that address environmental challenges and provide green economy opportunities.

The EPA Research Programme has a strong focus on policy and is driven by national policy and strategy, European Directives and International Policy commitments, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The EPA Research Programme mirrors and reflects the mission, values and goals that underpin the EPA Strategic Plan 2016-2020 '*Our Environment Our Wellbeing*' goals which include:

- Trusted Environmental Regulator;
- Leader in Environmental Evidence and Knowledge;
- Effective Advocate and Partner;
- Responding to Key Environmental Challenges;
- Organisationally excellent.

This Call is relevant to the three Pillars of the EPA Research Programme, i.e. Climate, Water & Sustainability.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

September 2015 saw the globally significant intergovernmental meeting convened by the United Nations (UN) to agree a plan of action: *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, for People, Planet & Prosperity (a.k.a. Agenda 2030). Seventeen SDGs with 169 targets were agreed. The signatories to the resolution who seek to build upon and extend progress made to date on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) envisage a world in which nations can enjoy inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with decent work for all, and where consumption and production patterns, as well as the use of all natural resources, are sustainable. This, the resolution attests, will deliver sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection. These aspects of the resolution identify two core concepts for sustainability. The first is the need for appropriate (realistic and rational) production and consumption; the second is the balancing of social, economic and environmental needs.



The UN SDGs package includes

- 17 Goals;
- 169 Targets (62 of which are environmental in nature, excluding overseas development aspects);
- 232 Proposed Indicators (244 when including all repeats);
- 5 Themes - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership.

Significant work is on-going in the UN and in Europe in relation to the SDGs. The global indicator framework was developed by the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs¹) and agreed upon, including refinements on several indicators, at the 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission held in March 2017. The global indicator list is contained in the Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (E/CN.3/2017/2, Annex III). In the OECD, work is also being advanced². The European Commission is developing a reference indicator framework for the monitoring of the SDGs in an EU context (See Communication "[Next steps for a sustainable European future. European action for sustainability](#)", COM (2016)³. In March 2017, the EU published a Progress Report: *EU SDG Indicator set: Results of consultation on initial proposal* (Doc. SDI/WG17/03)⁴.

A 2016 report by EUROSTAT: [Sustainable development in the European Union — A statistical glance from the viewpoint of the UN Sustainable Development Goal](#), builds on EUROSTAT's long experience in monitoring the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. It provides a statistical glance at the current situation in the EU and its Member States, but now from the viewpoint of the SDGs. The EC published the EU SDG Indicator Set on 31st May 2017⁵.

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/> & <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

² <http://www.oecd.org/dac/sustainable-development-goals.htm>

Better Policies 2030 - An OECD Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/Better%20Policies%20for%202030.pdf>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-next-steps-sustainable-europe-20161122_en.pdf

⁴

[https://circabc.europa.eu/webdav/CircaBC/ESTAT/envirmeet/Library/%2003%20Working%20Group%20on%20Sustainable%20Development%20and%20Europe%202020%20indicators%20\(9%20March%202017\)/SDI-WG17-03%20EU%20SDG%20indicator%20set%20evaluation%20report%2028%20Feb%202017\(0\).pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/webdav/CircaBC/ESTAT/envirmeet/Library/%2003%20Working%20Group%20on%20Sustainable%20Development%20and%20Europe%202020%20indicators%20(9%20March%202017)/SDI-WG17-03%20EU%20SDG%20indicator%20set%20evaluation%20report%2028%20Feb%202017(0).pdf)

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/276524/7736915/EU-SDG-indicator-set-with-cover-note-170531.pdf>

Most of the 17 SDGs agreed by the United Nations are clearly relevant to improving human health, reflecting a strong relationship between good health and sustainable living. Ireland's own national strategy for sustainability, **Our Sustainable Future**, sets out sustainability challenges and how we might address them in order to ensure that our quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. **Sustainability in local communities** is a key objective of the recently introduced Public Participation Networks (PPNs), which aims to enhance public engagement in decision making and policymaking. PPNs are now established in every county and city across Ireland, based on three "pillars": environment, social inclusion, and community and voluntary.

The EPA Research Programme aims to *use knowledge to protect and improve our natural environment and human health*. This call seeks to address the importance of a clean, protected environment for our health, our wellbeing and our quality of life, in line with the current EPA Strategic Plan, **Our Environment, Our Wellbeing**. The EPA Research Programme supports the SDGs as a framework for development to address our shared socio-economic and environmental challenges.

The EPA recognises and acknowledges that success in the implementation of the SDGs will be dependent upon strong stakeholders' engagement across all sectors, acting and working together in a collaborative partnership (led by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment). The EPA recognises the importance of Ireland's role and the role of research in advancing the SDGs to protect the planet from degradation, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations⁶.

Additional Supporting Information

National Sustainable Development Strategy

Socio-economic development represents one of the seven key challenges identified under the **EU Sustainable Development Strategy**⁷ (Council of the European Union, 2009). The policy imperative in this respect is the promotion of a '*prosperous, knowledge-rich, competitive and eco-efficient economy, which provides high living standards and full and high-quality employment throughout the EU*'.

Sustainable development is not a new concept. Strategies and actions in support of more sustainable practices can be found throughout various national policies, strategies and initiatives. Some examples are provided below.

In June 2012, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) launched a Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (FSDI): **Our Sustainable Future, a Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland**⁸, which aimed at providing for the integration of sustainable development into key areas of policy, putting in place effective implementation mechanisms and delivering concrete measures to progress sustainable development. As part of the finalisation of this Strategy, the **National Economic and Social Council**⁹ (NESC) published the NESC

⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

⁷ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=URISERV:l28117>

⁸ <http://greenbusiness.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Our-Sustainable-Future.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.nesc.ie/>

Report 126: **Draft Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland: NESC Response**¹⁰, in which the Council noted that the framework was in line with international thinking and best practice in adopting an encompassing approach to sustainable development. The Council also identified a number of revisions which it believed would improve what it saw as an already impressive document.

In December 2012, NESC published the report **Ireland's Climate Change Challenge; Connecting 'How Much' with 'How to'**¹¹, The NESC report indicated, among other things, the weaknesses that are inherent in developing government policy in complex areas such as climate change, sustainable development circular economy etc. These included:

1. The severe limits of *ex ante* knowledge of complex systems,
2. The weakened distinction between conception and execution,
3. The inability of central departments or other authorities to specify detailed policy solutions in areas where actors are diverse and problems are complex,
4. The consequent framework nature of many 'policies', 'rules' and regulatory instruments as initially conceived,
5. The critical role of organisational capability,
6. The importance of learning-by-doing, and
7. That both ends and means change as practical intelligence is applied to problems.

These issues are of particular relevance to this call as they set out the scale of the challenge inherent in dealing with complex or 'wicked' problems such as working out how to make our economy and society truly sustainable within the limits of our natural environment or dealing with the challenge of climate change and the transition to a low carbon and resource efficient economy.

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

In 2015, the European Commission adopted an ambitious **Circular Economy Package**¹², which included revised legislative proposals on waste to stimulate Europe's transition towards a circular economy which will boost global competitiveness, foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs. The Circular Economy Package consists of an EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy that establishes a concrete and ambitious programme of action, with measures covering the whole cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. The annex to the action plan sets out the timeline when the actions will be completed. The proposed actions will contribute to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy.

Since its inception in 2004, Ireland's **National Waste Prevention Programme**¹³ has successfully delivered solutions for individuals and organisations that recognise the costs of wasteful consumption (both excess purchasing and final disposal charges); along with the critical need to manage our finite natural resources to maintain our quality of life into the future. Over the years the programme has evolved beyond an initial focus on preventing generation of solid wastes to a broader view of preventing wastage across materials, energy and water (primarily because of the integrated nature of relationships between each).

¹⁰ http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/NESC_126_FSDI.pdf

¹¹

http://www.nesc.ie/assets/files/Ireland%20and%20the%20Climate%20Change%20Challenge_Connecting%20How%20Much%20with%20How%20To_Main_Report.pdf

¹² http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

¹³ <http://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/>

In 2014, the EPA published the strategy **Towards a Resource Efficient Ireland**¹⁴ and its associated vision of “*living better, using less*”. The overarching objective is to implement EU and national policy on resource efficiency to break the link between economic growth and environmental impact. The **2016-2020 EPA Strategic Plan**¹⁵ has a strong focus on sustainability; in particular, under its goal of being an *Effective Advocate and Partner* and related targeted outcomes:

- Targeted opportunities to integrate environmental priorities and sustainability into sectoral, economic and social policies;
- Developed public participation programmes to increase awareness of environmental issues and support the engagement of the public in environmental protection; and
- Collaborated with health agencies and other bodies to realise the benefits of a good environment for health and wellbeing.

The EPA also hosts an online resource called “**Live Green**”¹⁶ – Small Changes, Big Difference” for householders and families, which contains tips, advice and guidance on a range of environmental and health matters across the following household themes: health and community projects; water conservation; waste prevention; and energy efficiency. Living green means making small changes at home or in our communities. In turn, living green can make a big difference to our wellbeing, helping people to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

BeGreen¹⁷ brings together all of the national activities and programmes that have been put in place by the EPA, local authorities and other partners to promote waste prevention, resource efficiency & behavioural change. The BeGreen programmes provide homes, business and other sectors of society with ways in which they can participate in making Ireland a more sustainable country while saving themselves money.

Recent Supporting EPA Reports and Initiatives

In the **2016 EPA Ireland’s Environment**¹⁸ report, seven key actions were identified, one of which is ‘*Sustainable Economic Activities – integrating environmental sustainability ideas and performance accounting across economic sectors and sectoral plans should be a key policy for growth*’. Growing population, the competition for diminishing resources, the appropriate recognition of ecosystem services and natural capital, as well as the adaptive challenges arising from our changing climate and our national climate change commitments will, over the next 30 years, require ambitious social and economic interventions and responses. The emerging consensus is now focusing around the need to put economies on a more sustainable footing, resulting in a resource-efficient, carbon-neutral, circular economy. This will require an all-of-society response: essentially we have to rethink, and redesign what we mean by social and economic ‘prosperity’ in order to deliver the resilience essential for us to prevail. We must all learn to live, produce and consume within the physical and biological limits of the planet. A number of initiatives for sustainability (e.g. Origin Green from Bord Bia; Musgrave Group Sustainability Commitment), are also detailed in **Chapter 9**¹⁹ of the 2016 EPA Ireland’s Environment report.

¹⁴ <http://greenbusiness.ie/resource/towards-a-resource-efficient-ireland/>

¹⁵ <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/other/corporate/epastrategy2016-2020.html>

¹⁶ <http://www.epa.ie/livegreen/>

¹⁷ <http://www.epa.ie/begreen/>

¹⁸ ¹⁸ <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/indicators/irelandsenvironment2016.html>

¹⁹ http://www.epa.ie/media/Chapter9_Environment_Economy.pdf

The EPA will shortly publish its new **Sustainability Framework**. The themes of this framework are:

- 1. Embedding sustainability as an organisational discipline:**
 - Engage stakeholders across the private and public sectors to integrate sustainability into economic activity and policy priorities.
- 2. Advocacy & partnering for behaviour change:**
 - Maximise the impact of waste prevention to reduce consumption and deliver a sustainable society.
- 3. Supporting the development of sustainable communities**
 - Support community networks engaged in sustainability initiatives and underpin sustainable activities at the local level through collaboration.
- 4. Fostering a circular and greener economy:**
 - Explore and enable new business models for sustainable consumption and production that mainstream resource efficient practices in business.
- 5. The role of Innovation to turn ideas into best practice:**
 - Develop innovation processes to generate, reflect and trial emerging sustainability initiatives.
 - Experiment with creative pathways to sustainability that are scalable.

The EPA has also funded several research projects in this area, with for example the **CONSENSUS**²⁰ project as well as a project on **Designing Behaviour Change for Sustainable Development**²¹. In addition, NESC commissioned research exploring circular economy practices in Ireland in 2016. These practices were identified in Irish businesses but also in civil society, through community-led initiatives and the work of NGOs, social enterprises and co-operatives. The work draws on interviews with key players in each of the case studies and a small number of key policy stakeholders. The research documents the opportunities and challenges for these companies and organisations as they strive to bring more circular practices to their business and enterprise models. The final report (due for publication later on in 2017) reflects on some of the key enablers and barriers to the development of circular economy practices more broadly. Some of the key findings²² highlight:

- Enhancing the circular innovation system in Ireland;
- Establishing enabling conditions;
- Establishing transition pathways; and
- Applying common metrics for measuring progress.

Value for Money

All research proposals must **build on findings and recommendations** from past and current research²³ projects (where relevant), as well as national initiatives; and **demonstrate value for money**.

²⁰ <http://www.consensus.ie/wp/>

²¹ <http://erc.epa.ie/smartsimple/displayProject.php?projectCode=2014-SE-FS-1>

²² <http://www.nesc.ie/en/nesc-work-programme/moving-towards-the-circular-economy-irish-case-studies/>

²³ including EPA-funded, other Irish and EU and international research projects and initiatives/activities

Open Access and Open Data

All projects funded under the 2014-2020 EPA Research Programme must comply with the EPA's **Open Data** and **Open Access** rules, which are aligned with Horizon 2020.

Where project outputs include data and/or technical solutions (websites, developed software, database solutions, etc.), the format of same **must be agreed with the EPA** to ensure that they are compatible with the EPA IT infrastructure and can be maintained by the EPA after the completion of the project.

Application Process

Making an application online:

Applications must ONLY be made online at <https://epa.smartsimple.ie>

Guide to the EPA online application system:

The guide to the EPA online application system, '2017 Quick guide to the EPA online portal (making an application)', is available for download at:

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/opencalls/currentcalldocuments/>

What to include in the application form:

To make the best application possible, it is recommended that you read the '2017 EPA Research guide for applicants' before drafting and submitting an application, available at:

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/opencalls/currentcalldocuments/>

To make an application under any of the topic areas:

Applicants must choose the correct **Call Topic Reference**, as indicated in this Document from the list under the OPEN Calls heading on the homepage of SmartSimple, the EPA's Grant Application and Project Management system.

It is the responsibility of the **Applicants** to ensure that proposals are submitted before the **call deadline**, and of the relevant **Grant Authoriser** (i.e. Research Offices / Managing Directors for companies) to ensure that the proposals are authorised before the **organisation approval deadline**.

FAILURE TO MEET EITHER OF THE ABOVE DEADLINES MEANS YOUR PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING

2017 EPA UN Sustainable Development Goals Research Call

This UN Sustainable Development Goals Research Call 2017 includes two topics:

- **Sustainability 2017 Call - UN SDG Project 1:** Delivering on the Environmental Sustainable Development Goals (**Medium-Scale project**)
- **Sustainability 2017 Call - UN SDG Project 2:** Addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals in an Irish Context (**Open Topic**)

While the topics above are labelled under the heading of the EPA Research Programme Sustainability Pillar, they **are relevant to all three Research Pillars, i.e. Climate, Water and Sustainability**. Proposals must demonstrate their **relevance to the [EPA Research Strategy 2014-2020](#)**.

Project Title: Delivering on the Environmental Sustainable Development Goals
Project Type: Medium-Scale Project
*To make an application under this topic area, you must use the following **Call Topic Reference:**
Sustainability 2017 Call - UN SDG Project 1*

Objectives & Expected Outputs:

The EPA Research Programme has allocated funding of up to €0.25m for one new integrated research project focused on how Ireland can deliver on the environmental SDGs, the global indicators and the EU-SDG indicators.

It is intended that the research project would focus on the **environmental targets** of the SDGs, acknowledging the inextricable links between economy, society and the environment. Multi- and inter-disciplinary research is required and should include, but is not limited to, desk-based research, literature review, case studies of specific synergistic policies here and in other jurisdictions which combines the goals (i.e. climate and wellbeing, poverty and energy, etc.).

The proposed research project would consist of interlinked work packages running concurrently with an overall integration of the research findings and recommendations.

In particular, the EPA calls for **innovative research approaches** to address – **in an Irish context** – the following challenges/research questions:

For the Environmental (including environmental economic and socio-environmental) SDGs:

- **Recommendations for governance for the SDGs at national and regional level:** The research should look at how to design a public governance approach to delivering meaningful improvements in Sustainable Development, enabling greater engagement by all stakeholders and local communities, and fostering a process characterised by co-design and underpinned by a partnering and advocating approach. It is critical that the SDGs be incorporated into policy formulation and implementation, at all levels. The research should build on and review past and current national/regional initiatives. The research should also identify the potential opportunities and risks arising from aligning national policy towards delivering the SDGs.
- **Identification of policy gaps and conflicts** (i.e. where government policy is hindering or may hinder the achievement of the SDGs) between the global SDGs, the EU SDG indicator set and Irish environmental legislation, policies and strategies: The research would identify policy gaps and conflicts and assess how best to align Ireland's current and future environmental policy with the SDGs going forward. The research should also consider **interdependencies between the SDGs** and focus on identifying criteria for policy prioritisation.
- **Recommendations for implementation of policy, and monitoring framework for reporting:** The research would assess data needs and support the identification of monitoring and reporting data needs for indicators that Ireland is currently not in a position to service. The research should review for example what data are needed? What data currently exists? What standards for reporting exist? The research would also carry out a gap analysis between the SDGs indicators developed by the UN²⁴, the EU²⁵, the indicators developed for the 7th Environment Action Programme. It is not expected that a monitoring framework will

²⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

²⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/276524/7736915/EU-SDG-indicator-set-with-cover-note-170531.pdf>

be fully developed as part of this work, but that it will contribute to the evidence base for future development of such a framework.

- Identification of **knowledge gaps and emerging research needs** in relation to the UN SDGs implementation, monitoring and reporting, resulting in the preparation of a Roadmap for future research in Ireland.

Outputs from this project MUST build on existing research and information available²⁶. **It is expected that the project would inform the development of the national Roadmap towards achieving the ambitions of the SDGs.** Please refer to [Section 3](#) for more information regarding EPA-funded expected outputs.

Project Structure and Funding:

This is a **15 to 18 month integrated Medium-Scale Research Project**, with an indicative budget of up to **€250,000** (which includes a 5% provision for communication costs²⁷). Please refer to the 2017 Guide for Applicants for further details.

²⁶ For example, Some international SDG research already done that could be relevant: Stockholm Environment Institute <https://www.sei-international.org/2030agenda> or the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency <http://www.pbl.nl/en/news/newsitems/2016/un-sustainable-development-goals-also-require-policy-effort-in-the-netherlands>.

²⁷ For example, a €100,000 grant award is made up of €95,000 for project costs, and €5,000 for communication costs (€3,000 of which relates to communication activities and events which take place over the lifetime of the project and €2,000 which relates to post completion dissemination costs).

Project Title: Innovative approaches towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals from an Irish Perspective

Project Type: Open

*To make an application under this topic area, you must use the following **Call Topic Reference:** **Sustainability 2017 Call - UN SDG Project 2***

As outlined in the [Introduction](#) Section²⁸, a significant amount of ‘sustainability’ relevant work is happening at national/local levels, e.g. *Our Sustainable Future, a Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland*; the work NESC has done on climate change and other relevant NESC work; relevant EPA-led initiatives such as the national waste prevention programme; local community initiatives (e.g. Public Participation Networks, Tidy Towns, etc.); research already funded in the sustainability area, and other national ‘sustainability’ initiatives, such as the national climate policy statement, national mitigation and adaptation planning, national planning framework, FoodWise 2025, Origin Green, National dairy sustainability forum, national river basin management planning, etc. The implementation and enforcement of environmental regulations (such as the regulation of industrial activities) has also contributed towards promoting more sustainable behaviours and activities in Ireland.

The EPA invites research proposals which develop innovative approaches towards achieving the environmental (including environmental economic and socio-environmental) UN SDGs in an Irish context. The proposed research must address national issues but in the broader context provided by the UN SDGs - a variation on the theme of ***think global act local***.

An **essential** component of the proposed research is to build the knowledge base about sustainability in Ireland through, for example, the review, assessment & evaluation of the contribution of relevant national/regional/local “sustainability” initiatives, against the overall objectives of the SDGs. The research could also examine the link between the implementation and enforcement of relevant environmental regulations and the health & well-being of citizens. Again, the proposed research must address national issues but in the broader context provided by the UN SDGs so that the combined impact of the research is to **help chart a more sustainable future for Ireland**.

This call is open for proposals for Desk Studies or Medium-Scale projects, **with a budget of up to €250,000 per project**.

It is intended that this call will support delivering the EPA Research Strategy, contribute to Research for Knowledge and build research capacity in Ireland.

²⁸ list provided is non-exhaustive

Expected Outputs

For all projects submitted under the 2017 Sustainability Call, expected outputs include, but are not limited to:

- **Final Report**, which should provide a clear and detailed account of all the steps and methodologies used during the project and ensure that the objectives, set out above, are met – including recommendations.
- **Synthesis Report** (20 – 30 pages), which provide a clear non-technical summary of the research and of the recommendations.
- **Dissemination 2-pager**, which will be used to disseminate the findings of the research to the key stakeholders.
- **Workshop/Dissemination event(s)** to all stakeholders in the relevant arena (e.g. Policy, monitoring, regulatory, NGOs, media, public, etc.).

The list provided above is indicative and relevant alternatives will be considered. Please consult the **2017 Guide for Applicants, 2017 Guide for Grantees** and the **EPA Terms and Conditions of award** for the **full list** of interim and final reporting requirements.

A **dedicated website/webpage/Twitter account** should be created and maintained, presenting the project and work carried to-date. It is also expected that a number of **dissemination outputs**, such as posters, leaflets, newsletters, policy briefs, peer-reviewed publications and presentations, will arise from the projects.

It is essential that applicants clearly demonstrate, in their proposal, the **policy-relevance** of the outputs of their proposed research; the **applicability** of their findings; and how these outputs address a knowledge-gap and can be **efficiently transferred/applied to the implementation** of sustainability-relevant policies and the protection of our environment.

Indicative Timeframe

12 th July 2017:	Call Opening
1 st September 2017 (5.00pm):	Deadline for queries relating to the technical contents of this call
8 th September 2017 (5.00pm):	Deadline for submission of applications by applicants
15 th September 2017 (5.00pm):	Organisation Approval Deadline for authorisation by Research Offices
September/October 2017:	Evaluation Process
November 2017:	Negotiation ²⁹
December 2017:	Grant Award of Successful Projects

Further Information

Information on current research projects being supported by the programme is available in the Research Section of the EPA web site

(www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/opencalls/currentcalldocuments/).

Alternatively, for further information on this call, please contact research@epa.ie

Follow us on Twitter [@EPAResearchNews](https://twitter.com/EPAResearchNews) to keep up-to-date with all of our activities

Additional Documents available from the EPA website:

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/opencalls/currentcalldocuments/>

- 2017 EPA Research Guide for Applicants
- 2017 EPA Research Guide for Grantees
- 2017 EPA Research Terms & Conditions for Support of Grant Awards
- 2017 Quick guide to the EPA on-line portal (How to make an application)
- EPA's Open Data and Open Access Rules

All queries MUST be submitted to research@epa.ie

All queries, other than on the submission process, should be submitted by the 1st September 2017, 5.00pm at the latest. No queries will be entertained afterwards.

²⁹ The EPA may consider calling the shortlisted applicants for interview at this stage.