



Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil



EPA Research Programme 2021-2030

Fast-track to Policy Funding: Ireland's carbon neutral transport ambitions under the EU Fit for 55 Package and proposed Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation

August 2021

EPA Research Fast-track to Policy Funding

This document provides the Technical Description for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Fast-track to Policy Funding on Ireland’s carbon neutral transport ambitions under the EU Fit for 55 Package and proposed Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation.

Applicants should read the following carefully and consult the other documentation provided (e.g. 2021 EPA Research Fast-track to Policy Funding Guidelines and Terms & Conditions).

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Introduction

EPA Research 2030¹ is the ten-year high-level framework for the EPA's research programme (2021-2030), designed to be agile, responsive and flexible.

Environmental policies must be underpinned by an in-depth level of knowledge that needs to be delivered through a systematic programme of environmental research and assessment. Research can play an important role by generating evidence that will support the design and implementation of effective and robust policy, evaluate its outcomes, and demonstrate its value. EPA Research 2030 will further our understanding of our environmental and natural systems. It will enable the outcomes from research to be put in action to protect and improve our natural and built environment.

Fast-track to Policy Funding

Fast-Track to Policy funding aims to provide evidence synthesis, review of policies and best practices to answer urgent emerging policy questions (addressing emerging short-term policy needs). This funding will be provided as short-term evidence-based research studies.

Fast-track to Policy Funding	
Type of Project	Short-term evidence-based research study
Indicative Timeline	From 2 weeks to 9 months
Indicative Budget	from € 5,000 to € 50,000
Outputs	Short Summary Evidence Report, published by the EPA, and any other specific deliverables included in the topic description

Application Process

Making an Application

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

You will also need to refer to the following documentation, which is available to download from the EPA's Online Grant Management and Application Portal or from the EPA website²:

1. 2021 Fast-track to Policy Funding Guidelines and Terms & Conditions; and
2. EPA Online Grant Management and Application Portal System User Guides.

¹ <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-research-2030/>

² <http://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/>

IMPORTANT

Please refer carefully to the Technical Description Document and ensure that you choose the correct Call Topic Reference when creating your application on the EPA's Grant Management and Application Portal as **mistakes will not be rectified**.

For all co-funded topics, **researchers may not apply for or participate in projects that are to be co-funded by their organisation, even if their organisation would not be in receipt of funding.**

Deadlines

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that proposals are submitted before the call deadline, and the responsibility of the relevant Research Proposal Authoriser (i.e. Research Offices/Managing Directors for companies) to ensure that proposals are authorised before the organisational approval deadline. Deadlines are absolute and are enforced by the system automatically. Discussion WILL NOT be entered into in the case of late submissions and/or approvals, how-so ever caused. The EPA's decision in this matter will be FINAL.

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

Eligibility Criteria

- Proposals that exceed the maximum duration and/or request funding in excess of the maximum specified in the Technical Description for the call topic will be deemed invalid and will not proceed to the evaluation stage.
- Proposals which do not use the correct templates will be deemed invalid and will not proceed to the evaluation stage.
- Proposals which do not address the scope of the call topic under which they are submitted, will be deemed invalid and will not proceed to the evaluation stage.
- Applications for funding will only be considered where the lead applicant organisation is a Higher Education or other Research Institution located³ on the island of Ireland.
- Applicants must be available to start as per the date indicated in the Call Contents "Latest Start Date".

All research proposals must build on findings and recommendations from past and current research⁴ projects (where relevant).

Open Access and Open Data

All projects must comply with the EPA's Open Access Policy available from: <http://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-research-2030/strategies-and-policies/open-access-policy/>

³ For the avoidance of doubt an applicant organisation is considered to be located on the island of Ireland where it has an established legal presence here and is registered for all relevant employee and corporate taxes in the respective jurisdictions of either Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.

⁴ Including EPA-funded, other Irish and EU and international research projects and initiatives/activities.

Call Content

Topic Title	Informing national and EU regulation development and negotiations to best advance Ireland's carbon neutral transport ambitions under the EU Fit for 55 Package and proposed Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation		
Call Topic Reference	Addressing the Climate Change evidence needs 2021 Call Topic 14		
Project Type	Short-term Evidence-based Research Studies		
Maximum Budget	€ 10,000	Maximum Duration	1 month
Latest Start Date	30 th September 2021		

Policy Need

Under the Fit for 55 Package, the EU recently published a proposed Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation⁵. This Regulation calls for the mandatory deployment of publicly accessible rechargers for light and heavy-duty vehicles across the country to commensurate the uptake of electric vehicles. The Regulation proposes the provision of total charger power outputs of 1kW for every battery electric and 0.66kW for every plug-in hybrid for light duty vehicles with minimum coverage requirements across the TEN-T core and comprehensive network. Furthermore, for heavy-duty vehicles, there is a requirement to provide dedicated recharging pools of 1400kW and 3500kW on the TEN-T core and comprehensive networks by 2025, 2030 and 2035.

Specifically related to the light-duty vehicle targets, and in consideration of increasing battery ranges and the predominance of home charging in Ireland, an understanding of the appropriateness of the proposed public charger infrastructure deployment targets is required. An assessment of likely Heavy-Duty Vehicle (HDV) demand for recharging pools is needed. The impact of the proposed kW metric (for both light and heavy-duty vehicles) and their locations on projected capacity of the national electricity grid needs to be ascertained. This will inform the appropriate resource requirement that Ireland will need to invest in such infrastructure.

Ireland needs to understand the implications of the targets in terms of the potential impact on the national grid, demand, and deliverability. It is expected that debate and possible general approach on the Regulation will be sought at December Council by the EU (9.12.2021); conciliation on the suitability of the targets will take place in advance of this date.

Scope

Research to assess the impact of this new EU Regulation proposal on the deployment of EV recharging infrastructure in Ireland and the potential impact on the national electricity grid is urgently needed. This research will inform the discussions between Ireland and the Commission during the

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https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/revision_of_the_directive_on_deployment_of_the_alternative_fuels_infrastructure_with_annex_0.pdf

development/negotiation of the text proposed for kW metric and minimum coverage targets in the Regulation.

Given increasing battery ranges and the prevalence of home charging, proposals are invited for a short-term evidence review project to:

- Undertake an assessment of the appropriateness of the proposed kW and minimum coverage requirements of publicly accessible rechargers for light and heavy-duty vehicles as outlined in the proposed Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation.
- Determine if the proposed kW targets for light-duty public chargers are appropriate for Ireland. This should include an assessment of home charging availability in Ireland.
- Identify if there is sufficient demand expected to support the proposed Heavy-Duty Vehicle (HDV) public charger targets.
- Assess how the proposed targets (light- and heavy-duty) will impact on the national electricity grid capacity.
- Provide an evidence-based analysis for the optimum locations for the proposed recharging points and pools to align with the regulatory requirement and access to the grid.

Expected Outputs

The outputs from this project include an EPA Research Evidence Synthesis Report. The report should be concise (max. 30-page long), include an executive summary, an introduction, an overview of the research or issue, an examination of the findings, and a concluding section that explains the policy recommendations and implications of the research.

Please consult the 2021 Fast-track to Policy Funding Guidelines and Terms & Conditions for the full list of expected outputs and interim/final reporting requirements.

Indicative Timeframe

Monday 23 rd August 2021 at 11:00 GMT	Call opening
Thursday 2 nd September 2021 at 17:00 GMT	Deadline for queries relating to the technical contents of this call
Monday 6 th September 2021 at 17:00 GMT	Submission deadline
Wednesday 8 th September 2021 at 17:00 GMT	Approval deadline
9 th - 17 th September 2021	Eligibility check and Evaluation process
20 th - 27 th September 2021	Notification, Negotiation, Offer and Grant award
Latest start date: 30 th September 2021	Start of successful project

Further Information

Information on current research projects being supported by the programme is available in the Research section of the EPA website: <http://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/>.

The following additional documents are available from the EPA website:
<http://www.epa.ie/publications/research/current-call-documents/>

- 2021 Fast-track to Policy Funding Guidelines and Terms & Conditions.
- EPA Research Programme 2021 – 2030 –Communicating Research.

Other relevant EPA Research Programme Strategies and Policies are also available from the EPA website: <http://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-research-2030/strategies-and-policies/>.

For updates on the EPA Research Call 2021:

1. Subscribe to [EPA Research Newsletters](#)
2. Follow us on Twitter [@EPAResearchNews](#)
3. Visit the [EPA Funding web pages](#)
4. Check the [Research Call Frequently Asked Questions web page](#)

Any queries that are not covered in the call documentation or on the FAQs webpage must be submitted to research@epa.ie.