



Net Zero Emerging Concepts and Technologies (ECT) Research Program New Brunswick

Please note:

Abbreviations:

- Net Zero Atlantic (NZA)
- New Brunswick Innovation Fund (NBIF)

The terms proponent, Lead Applicant, Lead Researcher, and Principal Investigator are used interchangeably.

The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that NZA has received over past and present calls. Please review the existing FAQs. Should you have any additional question about your application please send it to info@netzeroatlantic.ca. Please note that NZA will be meeting with applicants prior to the call closing. Any requests for information are required to follow this FAQ process.

This FAQ document was updated as of 2023-11-17.

The question period has closed as of 5 pm AST, Thursday November 16, 2023.



ECT FAQs:

1. What is the Net Zero Emerging Concepts and Technologies (ECT) Research Program?

The ECT Research Program is an Open Call program that will make research and development (R&D) investments in two areas:

1. fostering conceptual, early-stage genesis of novel technologies, concepts and practices in New Brunswick; and,
2. evaluating the suitability of technologies, concepts and practices emerging in other jurisdictions for New Brunswick.

The ECT Research Program is intended to support early-stage projects that may find it difficult to access funding from other sources. The Program will fund two types of research and development:

- **Stream 1 (Technology and Methods *Development* in New Brunswick):** Targets early-stage conceptual projects that create made-in-New Brunswick GHG reduction technology/IP and approaches. Stream 1 funding is intended to support research and development in New Brunswick.
- **Stream 2 (Technology and Methods *Adoption* from Elsewhere):** Targets emerging GHG reduction technologies and approaches under development outside of New Brunswick. Stream 2 will fund technoeconomic and/or feasibility studies that evaluate how emerging technologies, methods, and/or practices demonstrated elsewhere can be imported and deployed, with or without modification, in the New Brunswick context. Project outcomes will include recommendations for additional funding to support field work or pilot plants that demonstrate strong potential to cost-effectively reduce GHGs within New Brunswick.

2. Is the development of technology and/or intellectual property (IP) a required outcome of proposed projects?

No, technology and IP development are not required outcomes but all proposals must explain how their projects are expected to reduce New Brunswick's hard-to-abate GHGs and what economic benefits to the province may be derived from their proposed R&D project. Technology and IP development are two obvious outcomes that will achieve both objectives.

3. Are companies that do not have an office in New Brunswick eligible to receive funding?

Yes, however the Lead Applicant must be registered, incorporated or based in New Brunswick. This means that non-New Brunswick companies, academic institutions, not-for-profits, etc. must serve as project partners and cannot be the Lead Applicant. Please see the Applicant Guide for more information.



4. How will successful proposals be selected? Will NZA Program administrators provide debriefs to unsuccessful applicants?

Evaluation criteria are listed in the Applicant Guide. Proposals will be assessed by the Net Zero ECT Program's Proposal Review Committee. Following the close of each call, a webinar will be held to debrief unsuccessful Applicants and help ensure more successful outcomes in subsequent submissions. Due to the number of applications, individual debriefs cannot be held.

5. What are the reporting requirements with a successful proposal? Will there be milestones established to correlate with the projected funding?

Yes, payments will be disbursed on a milestone basis over the course of the project (typically 3-4 payments depending on project size and duration).

If needed, an initial payment can be made upon project initiation; subsequent payments would be made at key milestones and tied to presentations, interim reports or upon task completion. For this reason, the Lead Applicant is requested to describe key milestones in the proposal, since these milestones will be used in the contract with NZA.

6. What outcomes are you anticipating the ECT Research Program will achieve?

Anticipated ECT Research Program outcomes include:

- A suite of promising made-in-Atlantic Canada clean technologies, approaches and practices that can address the gaps to net zero and that warrant continued funding from the province's incubation ecosystem.
- NZA recommendations to funders to support advanced studies, field work or pilot projects for promising technologies or methods that should be introduced to Atlantic Canada from other jurisdictions.
- New knowledge, exportable intellectual property, patents and publications that demonstrate progress in advancing concept level projects to early technology readiness levels that has the potential to address global demands for low-carbon solutions thus creating economic opportunities for the region.
- Collaborative research among Atlantic Canada's universities and colleges, First Nations-led institutions, the private sector and others;
- Collaborative thematic research networks that can attract national and foreign investment.

7. What is Net Zero Atlantic?

Net Zero Atlantic (NZA) is a not-for-profit energy research organization that works to advance Atlantic Canada's transition to a carbon neutral society by coordinating independent energy sector research for a variety of end users. NZA's purpose is to advance a sustainable and inclusive transition to a carbon-



neutral Atlantic Canada by providing credible and objective research and support services. NZA identifies critical knowledge and data gaps, assembles research and delivery teams, and leads applied research projects to close these gaps.

8. Who can I contact with questions?

Please send any inquiries about the ECT Research Program to info@netzeroatlantic.ca. If warranted, questions and responses will be posted on an updated FAQ – so please refer back to this link before completing your proposal.

9. Can this timeline of 12 months be extended beyond 12 months? i.e. 18 or 24. For example, R&D work done by grad students at UNB is standard 18 months.

No, projects won't be extended past the duration defined for each Stream.

10. Are there any other Themes?

There are 6 priority research themes. If future calls occur, there will be a review of the themes and new themes may be added. We encourage you to suggest additional themes and send them to info@netzeroatlantic.ca

11. Do the fund covers 100% of project budget?

The funds can be used for eligible expenses up to the funding maximum for each stream. If project costs are above the maximum amount, additional leverage will need be acquired and confirmed.

12. Are industry partners required?

Industry partners are encouraged but not required.

13. With the Mitacs units it's not exactly 1:1, as they work in units of \$5,000 and \$7,500.

The ECT budget that is allocated to Mitacs will be matched 1:1. If \$5,000 of the ECT budget is allocated to Mitacs, then the proponent will receive \$10,000 from Mitacs. The increments of contribution to Mitacs need to be defined by the proponent in the budget spreadsheet.



14. Are we allowed to submit multiple applications - one for Stream 1, one for Stream 2? Also, are we able to submit to both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia calls?

Multiple submissions can be made. There are no restrictions to submitting to both NS and NB as long as the requirements are met for each province.

15. Can you explain again that 50k 15k 35k split with Mitacs? I was a bit unclear.

For Stream 1 there is a maximum amount of \$50,000 available. The proponent needs to define how that will be spent. As an example, if \$15,000 is allocated to Mitacs, that will leave \$35,000 available for other project costs. The \$15,000 that is sent to Mitacs will be matched by Mitacs and \$30,000 will be paid to the proponent. The allocation of funds needs to be defined by the proponent in the budget spreadsheet.

16. For the Mitacs funding, do we need to have a student by the application deadline, or can we find a student later?

A student needs to be identified at the time of contracting with Mitacs. This is expected to be in early January.

In the proposal it is not required that a student be named, but it needs to provide a commitment to having the student in place at the time of contracting. The lack of a student identified will be considered a project risk that will need to be defined and mitigation addressed in the proposal.

17. Is a separate application required for accessing matching funds from MITACS?

Yes. For projects that are selected and include Mitacs funding, NZA will arrange for completion of a Mitacs application by the proponent during the contracting phase.

18. Can we apply in one application as a team member and other as a team lead?

Yes.

19. Where should we submit the application?

Submissions are made online by uploading the proposal form to <https://netzeroatlantic.sharefile.com/r-ra7109a12a5a0476094227d38b1eb789a>. Proponents will receive a return email acknowledging receipt of submission. Please do not submit pdf documents.

- 20. For Stream 2 (evaluating the suitability of technologies, concepts and practices), or stream 1 (projects must aim to solve an identifiable GHG reduction or mitigation problems in the province), one of the major suitability/mitigation/reduction problems we will face has nothing to do with technology, but simply obtaining the social license to build energy storage systems, or carbon storage systems, or integrating wind and solar power, in the province. But such research does not get discussed further, indicating that it is beyond the scope of this call? Is this so, and if so, might socio-political research be a future area of funding?**

The primary objective of the ECT Research Program is encourage and fund research and innovation to identify and develop a suite of promising, emerging clean technologies, approaches and practices that warrant continued funding from the local technology incubation ecosystem. The socio-political component and may be addressed by other initiatives outside of the ECT.

- 21. Does the funding for a student have to be in increments of \$15,000 (half from ECT funds and half from Mitacs) as is the case with stand alone Mitacs Accelerate applications OR can funds be requested in the ECT budget that are for any amount – say \$10,000, that would then be matched by Mitacs funds? Put another way are funds requested that are eligible for Mitacs matching on a sliding scale or do they have to be in specific increments.**

Yes – Mitacs funds can be sliding scale.

- 22. Are there target word counts or other length limits for sections other than section 1 (that has a 300-word limit)? Is there an overall proposal page count limit?**

There is no word count on the other sections. We ask proponents to use effective and efficient explanations but acknowledge that the words required to do so will be dependant on the project specifics. There is no proposal page count limit.

- 23. Would you like to see references cited as appropriate and if so, should their full citation be included at the end of each section where they were referenced or somewhere else?**

If the proponents are referencing knowledge or work that is not their own, citations would be required. It is up to the proponent to determine the best method to communicate the references (ex. If references are only used in one section, it may make sense to list the citations at the bottom of that section).

- 24. Can you tell me when the proposed start date for 2nd call proposals would be?**

NZA is looking to have Call #2 contracts signed and projects active no later then February 28th, 2024.



25. Please confirm if an applicant affiliated with a post-secondary institution can submit multiple applications in the role of lead applicant to the Net Zero Atlantic ECT program.

Multiple applications may be submitted for evaluation.