Frequently Asked Questions

Call for Submissions: Net Zero Emerging Concepts and Technologies Research Program – Nova Scotia (ECT-NS)

Posted: November 8, 2024

The following is a list of common and frequently asked questions (FAQs) that Net Zero Atlantic (NZA) has received over the previous calls. Should you have an additional question about your application, please send it to info@netzeroatlantic.ca. Please note that NZA will not be meeting with applicants prior to the call closing. Any requests for information are required to follow this FAQ process.

End of question period: November 22, 2024. 3 p.m. AST

Abbreviations and terms:

- Net Zero Atlantic (NZA)

- Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)

- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR)

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

Contents

ECT FAQs:

New Questions From the Past Week

(Note: Questions submitted since the last update are answered and posted in this section.)

1. **Can a for-profit organization that is Extra-provincial Corporation Provincial be eligible to be the lead applicant for Net Zero funding? If yes, is this factored at all in the proposal evaluation under section 13?**

   To be eligible to receive funding through the ECT Research Program, the Lead Proponent must be incorporated, registered or based in Nova Scotia. Proposals will be accepted from institutions who fall under either one of these categories. Organizations outside of the province may partner with lead institutions for the project execution.

   With regards to evaluation, proposals that strongly align with the program's objectives relative to the province will be scored higher. In particular, the ability to demonstrate how the research will address hard to abate emissions, and the potential economic benefits to the province of Nova Scotia.

2. **Am I eligible to apply for the new call for the Net Zero Emerging Concepts and Technologies Research Program, as I currently have an active project from the previous call?**

   You are eligible to apply again in this call, if your new project is not dependent on the outcomes of the currently active one as this would pose a problem should the current one experience any setbacks. Feel free to submit as many applications as you have the capacity for.

3. **How will funds be released?**

   Funds will be released on a milestone basis over the course of the project (typically 3-4 payments depending on project stream and duration). An initial payment will be made following the contract signing (Milestone 1). Subsequent payments would be made at key milestones and tied to the provision of milestone deliverables to NZA. There is no "claims process" as such, just simple lump sum invoices that are typically tied to project milestones. For context, contracts signed by awarded recipients will include milestone payments spread out over the project duration, at the discretion of the recipient. The indicated sum for each milestone will be paid after the deliverable specific to that milestone has been provided to NZA. The budget form does not require separation into project milestones, this will be done at the contracting phase. Payments do not need to be equally distributed either, it can be broken down based on foreseeable expenses incurred per time.

4. **What level of detail is required for the budget? For example, do you want expenses itemized and supported by quotes?**

   The budget form may be filled to the level of details requested in the form using the budget categories. Quotes do not need to be submitted.

5. **Can requests to cover travel costs to appropriate conferences be requested after the project end date? For example, is travel to a conference in June 2026 ineligible for a project that was completed in February 2026?**

The funds will be released according to milestone achievements during the project duration. Should you foresee a future expense necessary for the project, you must include this in the milestone payments while the project is ongoing, to be used at the time of necessity. NZA will not provide extra funds after the project has been completed.

General Information

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

The ECT Research Program is:

i.   a three-year grant program

ii.   for early-stage research and development projects

iii. that will support local solutions and help the province adopt new technologies and approaches

iv.   to reduce Nova Scotia GHGs emissions post 2030

v.   and generate economic benefits for the province.

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 Nova Scotia)**: Targets early-stage conceptual projects that create made-in-Nova Scotia GHG reduction technology/IP and approaches. Stream 1 funding is intended to support research and development in Nova Scotia.

- **Stream 2 (Technology and Methods *Adoption* from Elsewhere:** Targets emerging GHG reduction technologies and approaches under development outside of Nova Scotia. 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 Nova Scotia 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 Nova Scotia.

7. **What is the purpose of this Program?**

- It is critical to identify knowledge and technology gaps so that hard to abate emissions in the 2030-2050 period can be addressed.   The ECT Research Program targets the creation of new concepts and technologies now so Nova Scotia will be ready to mitigate the final remaining GHGs that must be eliminated to achieve net-zero emissions, post-2030.

- The ECT Research Program will help bring more solutions from the lab to the marketplace and support the goal of making Nova Scotia a global leader in clean, renewable energy. This in turn is expected to result in economic development opportunities for Nova Scotian companies and technology developers.

- The provincial government funding provided for the Net Zero ECT Program advances Actions 13 and 63 of Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth: research on new processes that can improve natural carbon sinks – such as soil and forests, which absorb carbon dioxide – and new technologies and practices to meet our net zero by 2050 target.

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

Anticipated ECT Research Program outcomes include:

1. A suite of promising emerging clean technologies approaches and practices that warrant continued funding from Nova Scotia's incubation ecosystem – government sources, the private sector, or a combination of both.

2. NZA recommendations to government for funding to support advanced studies, field work or pilot plants for promising technologies or methods that should be introduced to Nova Scotia from other jurisdictions.

3. An assessment of the program's success with respect to its strategic objectives, with recommendations on how Nova Scotia should continue investment in technologies and methods needed to reach net zero in the Post 2030 period.

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **How many applications can an applicant submit?**

There is no limit to the number of applications a Lead Applicant can submit. We may limit the number of applications per Applicant in future calls.

12. **Are the ECT webinars posted to YouTube?**

NZA does not have a YouTube presence. The recorded webinars have been posted to our website here while the direct vimeo link is https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/832343333/analytics

13. When will the projects from this call begin?

The start date for the projects is projected for spring 2025. We hope to award the projects in January and proceed right into contracting. The project duration begins from the date the contract is signed.

14. We have seen the advertising for the new call. Can we schedule a meeting to discuss our application?

NZA will not be offering independent consultations for proponents while the call is open. We ask that all applicants send their questions to info@netzeroatlantic.ca to be answered thought the formal FAQ process.

15. When is the submission deadline and also could you send me the link where I can submit the application?

The Applications for Fall 2024 ECT call are due Nov 29th, 2024. Pls refer to this link → https://netzeroatlantic.ca/calls-for-submissions for instructions and resources pertaining to the open call. Submission upload link can be found in the "How to Apply" section of the applicant guide.

16. Can the project timeline be extended beyond the set duration?

Projects that request an extension after work has begun, will have to go through a formal contract amendment process with NZA.

Requirements/Objectives

17. 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 by the end of the project duration. However, they are long-term goals for the program. Proposals should explain how their projects aim to reduce Nova Scotia's hard-to-abate GHG emissions and what economic benefits to the province may be derived from their proposed R&D project. Technology and IP development are two desired outcomes from both objectives.

18. 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). An initial payment will be made following the contract signing. Subsequent payments would be made at key milestones and tied to the provision of milestone deliverables to NZA. For this reason, applicants are advised to describe work packages clearly describing the work done per package in the proposals. Key milestones will be scheduled during the contracting phase for the successful applicants.

19. Do the objectives have to include a direct reduction of emissions? Or can it be an indirect reduction? For example, diverting food waste from landfills, sustainable agriculture practices.

Indirect reduction of emissions could be appropriate should the proponent clearly align their project to one of the seven Priority Research Themes identified in the Applicant Guide.

20. Do the project objectives have to be measured by how many emissions were reduced? Or can the objectives be measured using other metrics?

NZA does not have prescribed metrics for measuring emission reductions to which ultimate recipients must use.

21. Is this program only targeting nascent technology?

The target is early-stage concepts and technologies. We intend to be inclusive rather than exclusive in the definition, but we will favour earlier-stage projects if we receive multiple strong submissions and must differentiate on that basis alone. Please see the next response.

22. Must the project maturity at the time of application be only in the research stage, or can it be little more mature, such as beyond the proof of concept and now attempting to address needs identified post POC and closer to a pre-pilot stage with further research required to address these needs?

Yes, it can be a little more mature as you have outlined.

23. If we outsource is there any (political) weighting applied depending on the country we outsource to?

No.

24. Is greater weight given to a research partner in academia vs. a working professional, i.e., NSCC/Dalhousie vs. a person in the related field?

No.

25. Could you please expand on the Nova Scotia content requirements?

There are no Nova Scotia content requirements as such. The Lead Applicant must be based in Nova Scotia and there is an expectation that a certain amount of the project work will be undertaken in the province, but there are no set criteria for local content. Keep in mind, the program aims to support made-in-Nova Scotia solutions for GHG emissions reduction in the province, which can be economically developed for market to other jurisdictions as well.

26. Does this fund support projects that are already happening either in NS or elsewhere?

The funds are to support pre-commercial ideas that create made-in Nova Scotia solutions (stream 1) or adopt already existing technologies/methods outside of Nova Scotia, for new deployment to address GHG emissions reductions, in the province (stream 2).

27. Is it acceptable to re-submit an adjusted application in future rounds?

Yes, definitely.

28. If I propose a project for stream 2, it is possible to get a comment that you can support it in stream 1?

Proposals will be evaluated within the stream that is stated in the application alone. It is the proponent's responsibility to determine the appropriate steam, stating clearly the alignment of the project within that stream.

29. Do you have an estimate of number of projects you may be able to fund in each call?

NZA does not have a quota on projects awarded per call, stream or priority research themes. The number of awarded projects will be dependant on the quality of the applications. It is estimated that NZA may fund up to 10-12 projects per call.

30. What does the ECT program do to help the development of electricity storage methods?

Energy Storage and Electricity System Challenges are Priority Research Themes (please refer to Appendix A of the Applicant Guide for more information). Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that address knowledge gaps in GHG emissions reduction in these themes as well as the other priority research themes listed in the applicant guide.

31. Does the program cover developing and validation of tools to monitor GHG in the agricultural sector?

Yes, the subject Agricultural Emissions is a Priority Research Theme.

32. What kind of environmental benefits are being sought, beyond GHG reduction, for example, arresting biodiversity loss?

The primary objectives of the program are identifying and addressing knowledge gaps in hard-to-abate GHG emissions reduction solutions, and creating intellectual property/economic development opportunities for Nova Scotia. Other benefits realized from the projects are a plus and are encouraged.

33. Would similar project submissions be recommended to combine and collaborate together into a single project?

Generally, we do not plan or seek to combine projects; however, in a situation where collaboration makes obvious sense, we might suggest (on a project-by-project basis) that proponents work together and resubmit a combined project in a future call.

34. 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?

Where there is no specified word limit, feel free to be as comprehensive as you wish. 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.

35. **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).

36. **Will our project be considered if we electrified and automated a technology on a small scale with an aim to electrify on a larger scale?**

Considered projects include completely novel concepts or technology (stream 1) or concepts or technology that exist outside of Nova Scotia that will be adapted and implemented in Nova Scotia (stream 2). Your idea/proposed solution is applicable if it fits into one of these two streams. Pls see the applicant guide for more information on the two streams.

Eligibility

37. **Are companies that do not have an office in Nova Scotia eligible to receive funding?**

The Lead Applicant must be registered, incorporated or based in Nova Scotia. This means that non-Nova Scotian 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.

38. **What stage of advancement of a made-in-Nova Scotia project would cause an application to be disqualified because it is not early-stage enough? Can you add more clarification on the definition of 'early-stage'?**

The ECT research program defines early-stage projects as pre-commercial i.e., not on the market already. Therefore, the target projects are those earlier on the path to commercialization. NZA does nor intend to be restrictive, hence all proposals under stream 1 will be considered provided there is a clear argument for the project being at an early enough stage.

Partnerships/Lead Applicant

39. **With the Net-Zero ECT funding, can a company include an extra-provincial university as a collaboration partner?**

Yes.

40. **If we outsource to another country for some hardware design and manufacturing -- is this considered a partner as per the application?**

It could be, depending on how you describe your relationship with the company. Otherwise, it's simply a subcontractor, which is also eligible to receive funding through you as the lead applicant.

41. Can an independent member (outside an organisation) submit a proposal?

Yes, the Program is open to sole proprietors on the understanding that NZA Program Managers may require specific assurances and documentation to prove that funds are appropriately managed and HST/GST taxes remitted if applicable.

42. Are you accepting applications from one single organization or are we required to have a partner involved in the project we are proposing?

Yes, we are happy to accept applications from single organizations. Partnerships are not a requirement.

43. Does it satisfy the requirements for a partner organization to lead the project proposal if it is federally incorporated, not-for-profit, with an office located in Dartmouth?

The described organization satisfies the requirements for the lead researcher since they are located in Nova Scotia.

44. If I am listed as a collaborator (or team member) on another project application for an ECT Call, am I eligible to submit another application in the same ECT Call as the Principal Investigator? There is no overlap of concepts.

There is no concern if you are lead on one project and contributor on another. We welcome both proposals.

45. In the application, we are asked to specify a lead researcher/ institution. Can our collaboration partner be another private company and not an academic or research institution?

The lead researcher/ institution can be anyone based in Nova Scotia. You are not required to collaborate with an academic or research institution, and you can apply with a partner from a private company.

46. Can we be a participant for more than one stream?

Yes, applicants will not be penalized if they are contributors to multiple projects if the project scope is not the same.

47. Are multiple proposal applications allowed in multiple streams or different provinces i.e., both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick?

Multiple submissions are allowed across the different streams and in both provinces. However, take note that the requirements for the specific provinces/streams must be met.

48. Can the application be submitted by the research partner?

There is no preference on who the lead applicant is. We are interested in providing funding to a variety of organizations. However, the lead applicant's institution must be incorporated, registered or based in Nova Scotia.

Funding/MITACS/Budget

49. For Mitacs funding, are NSCC students or high school students eligible or just students enrolled into an undergraduate program?

Post-secondary students are eligible for Mitacs funding.

50. Can ECT support the "company portion" of Mitacs project costs?

Yes, NZA is considered a private partner by Mitacs, thus ECT funding would be matched by Mitacs.

51. In the budget, would a Mitacs supported student researcher (i.e. employed by the University partner) be listed as a contractor, or under salaries and benefits?

If you are the Lead Applicant, it would be listed under contractor since the university would be your contractor/partner. If the University is the Lead Applicant, it would be listed under salaries and benefits since the intern is part of the Lead Applicant's team.

52. If an applicant requests Mitacs funding and identifies Net Zero Atlantic as the anticipated partner providing funds, should the partner funds requested by NZA be included in the project budget at this stage? My understanding of the guidelines is that these funds should not be included, and Mitacs funds could be included under the cash from other sources (not yet secured).

Correct. Mitacs funding would be listed under cash from other sources (not yet secured).

53. How will the grant funds for Stream 1 be distributed? It is listed as a grant, however in a few sections (under budget) the costs are listed as eligible or ineligible for "reimbursement".

NZA will typically e-transfer a portion of the total funding award upon contract signature, then dole out the remainder over the course of project. There is no "claims process" as such, just simple lump sum invoices that are typically tied to project milestones. For Stream 1 for example, we might provide 20K up front, 20K at mid project, then 10K at the end. NZA will not typically write a cheque for the entire amount up front but are happy to provide some sort of commitment letter or whatever else might be needed to ensure the matching funder is satisfied. NZA is happy to make project-specific payment arrangements on a case-by-case basis, especially if it helps secure matching funds.

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

Yes. For proposals which have indicated the necessity of Mitacs funds, NZA will arrange for completion of a Mitacs application by the proponent during the contracting phase.

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

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.

56. **We were uncertain if the budget submission is intended to show how the original grant of $50 000 would be used. Is the budget to show the planned cost of the specific work submitted in the application (*redacted*) up to the maximum amount of funding from the Net Zero ECT program in stream 1 ($50 000)? Or is the budget to show the project planned cost for the year for all operations and product development to stage completion, even if it is in excess of the amount of funding from the Net Zero ECT program.**

The budget should show how the ECT funds would be used, naturally, but the budget should also provide enough detail so that the broader funding structure of the full project can be understood by reviewers. Thus, the final suggestion is the most applicable.

57. **Is taking advantage of the MITACS program explicitly factored into the evaluation criteria? i.e., will this be considered as leverage?**

Yes, using the Mitacs opportunity is considered leverage and is explicitly factored into the evaluation criteria, but in a comparatively minor way. Please see the Evaluation Criteria section in the Applicant Guide to review the weighting criteria.

58. **Can you please confirm what application would need to fill out with Mitacs? Would we submit that application while we submit this application, or should we wait till we received approval from Net Zero?**

In collaboration with Mitacs, we are currently preparing a submission template that will be partially 'pre-populated' with relevant information so the proponent would largely 'cut and paste' information from their proposal to NZA to complete the Mitacs template. The Mitacs template would be completed *once the proponent has been notified by NZA that their proposal has been selected for funding*.

59. **We are wondering if we could apply this application towards an already approved Mitacs application? For more context, last year we received approval to hire a Mitacs student in conjunction with (*activity redacted*). This contract with Mitacs began August 16, 2023, and runs for two years. Our most recent student's term ends at the end of August when we hire him full time. As a result, we need a new student to take on the second term of our current Mitacs agreement. If we were successful with NetZero's application, could we apply funding towards that Mitacs contract?**

Yes, but please note the student must be named when the Mitacs application is submitted.

60. **It is likely that ECT projects will also be SR&ED (Scientific Research & Experimental Development tax credit program) eligible. Other funding (such as ECT) must be included to reduce a company's SR&ED claim to the extent that it is for SR&ED / covers SR&ED eligible costs. Some of the ECT eligible costs (such as salaries, contractors (if in Canada), overheads)**

are SR&ED eligible cost types and so ECT funding for those costs would reduce the SR&ED claim. However, other ECT costs may not be SR&ED eligible (capital, results dissemination, any contractors from outside Canada) and so funding for those costs may not have to be netted from the SR&ED claim.

My question is, can the ECT funding be directed at specific cost types (targeting costs ineligible for SR&ED) to allow for optimizing total funding? This would need to be supported by ECT claim documentation to avoid CRA applying 100% of the ECT funding against the SR&ED claim.

Yes, we are open to creating tailored contracts with successful proponents that permit the maximization of total SR&ED funding.

61. **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 on a sliding scale.

62. **Is Mitacs billed separately or within the project budget?**

In the contracting period we will distinguish the funds that you would like to be diverted to Mitacs. NZA will send funds directly to Mitacs, but these funds are to be factored into your 50k (stream 1) or 130k (stream 2) project budget.

63. **Are there total percentages limiting how many funds are allocated to salaries/wages, capital equipment, and travel expenses?**

No, there is no cap on salary/wages. Please review section 7.3 of the applicant guide for more details.

64. **Is the "cash from other sources" column supposed to deduct from the total ask from the ECT?**

The "cash from other sources" is to capture any leverages funds. This does not subtract from ECT.

65. **Is overhead supposed to be around 15%?**

Overhead can be a maximum of 15%.

66. **When it comes to Mitacs funded interns: do we put the amount we ask from ECT as the usually amount paid to Mitacs; Mitacs usually does a 1/3 or 1/2 funding where the company puts in for this case 10,000 and they multiply that by 2 for post-graduates' salary of 20k. So, in the budget do we put on the ECT ask side 10k and then Mitacs 20k or 10k?**

Mitacs has a 1:1 matching funding agreement with NZA for the ECT research program. Therefore, in the budget, there is a dedicated column for ECT ask, and the next column for Matching Mitacs funds. Funds for student interns should be inputted side by side on the same row.

67. Rate/Day or Explanatory Notes refers to the person hourly rate for a day or could we put their hourly rate with a note as to why they are included? For the explanation is it easier to note their role in each task/subtask?

Yes, you can use a day or hourly rate. It is recommended to put the estimated number hours or days that lead to the total line-item value. You do not need to explain why the staff is included in the budget form.

68. If I request the maximum allowable funding for expenses, is there a possibility of receiving a reduced amount, or will the full requested amount be granted?

The full amount of the award will be granted to awardees.

69. Is there a policy indicating the percentage of funding that must be spent within Nova Scotia? One of our researchers is from another province and collaborating with a lead investigator in Nova Scotia.

There is no financial limitation on what needs to be spent in Nova Scotia. However, the lead applicant should be based or registered in Nova Scotia and the application should make a connection on how the research is working to close a knowledge gap needed in Nova Scotia and the potential economic development should the project advance.

70. Clarity on the information on page 9 of the guide:

   E. Eligible Expenses considered "Other"

   • **Printing and translation services.**

   • **Data collection services, including processing, analysis and management.**

Who is the beneficiary of the data collection services, including processing, analysis and management? Is it the applicant or the employees on the payroll of the Lead Proponent? And is it limited by a certain percentage?

Should you require data collection and analysis from parties external to your project team, as a part of your work, and this is associated with a fee, these costs are eligible to be covered by the ECT funding that will be released to you, which will then be paid by you to the external party. The percentage of your budget allocated to this is up to your discretion.

Priority Research Themes (PRT)

71. Would landfills be considered as a project research theme?

The priority research themes for the ECT research programs are listed in the Applicant Guide. However, there is potential for landfills to be connect to one of the existing seven (7) priority research themes. It is up to the proponent to make the connection/alignment with the theme depending on their project objectives. The research subjects and key issues listed are not intended

to be exhaustive nor restrict Applicants to consideration of these issues alone. The Priority Research Themes are regularly reviewed and may be updated in future calls with added themes. Feel free to suggest new themes for consideration by emailing the NZA ECT team at info@netzeroatlantic.ca.

72. If for example the technology relates to green resources energy generation, is that of interest? Or only energy storage?

The proposal needs to align with one of the Priority Research Themes. Please refer to the Appendix 1 – Priority Research Themes, in the Applicant guide to for more information on how your project may be aligned to one of the themes listed in order to address knowledge gaps in GHG emissions reduction in Nova Scotia.

73. Does the project have to be strictly inside in one of the 7 Priority Research Themes?

The set Priority Research Themes are not intended to be restrictive to these issues alone. Projects proposed by the Applicant will be considered as long as they broadly fall within a Priority Research Theme in the Applicant guide. For projects that touch on more than one Theme, Applicants are asked to pick the one Theme that is most representative of their project. Feel free to suggest new themes by contacting us at info@netzeroatlantic.ca and we will consider adding it to future intakes.

74. Can you expand what you are looking for in the Theme: "Electricity System Challenges Post 2030"?

The Theme is broadly written to be as inclusive as possible. Many project types may be eligible; we at Net Zero Atlantic are hoping the proponents will propose projects that we may not have considered, provided they can be shown to relate to one of the Priority Research Themes including "Electricity System Challenges post 2030", and meet Program objectives.

75. Does Green Energy Production fall into any of the existing Themes? Such as Hydrogen, Ammonia, Solar, Wind etc?

Green Energy Production may be related to one or more of the Priority Research Themes.

76. Will the Priority Research Themes change in future intakes?

The Themes may be updated to add on or expand the listed Themes in the future, depending on submissions received and funder priorities. Suggestions for new themes can be submitted to info@netzeroatlantic.ca.

77. About Priority Research Theme 5, how do you define long-term energy storage? Are we talking minutes, hours, days, months? (*redacted*) It is just a matter of getting a better sense of what you consider "long-term".

NZA in agreement with published literatures defines long-term energy storage as storage for up to 8 hours or more. We welcome any energy storage project idea that aligns with the overall Program Objectives, Priority Research Themes and funding Streams.

78. **What is the definition of "nature-based solutions" being used by NZA? Are these existing solutions (tree planting, etc.) or are novel solutions (alkalinity enhancement, rock weathering etc.) eligible as well?**

Pls see the Appendix 1 – Priority Research Themes, in the Applicant guide for more information on this Priority research theme. NZA prefers not to limit project ideas within a given theme. Proposed projects may have a variety of scope falling within stream 1 or 2 that relates to this theme, which identifies and address knowledge gaps in the reduction of hard-to-abate GHGs in Nova Scotia and demonstrate economic benefits to the province.

79. **Do projects applicants have to identify a single research theme? Or can projects cover multiple themes?**

Projects can align with multiple streams but please note that individual projects will only be granted funding up to the amounts listed in the Applicant Guide. That is, a Stream 1 project touching on two Themes would only be eligible for $50K, not 2X $50K. For projects that touch on more than one Theme, applicants are advised to show how their project/solution clearly addresses knowledge gaps in the theme that is most related to their projects while also meeting the program objectives, to strengthen their application.

80. **Would you like us to submit an application that addresses interdisciplinary ECT concepts for long-term energy storage and electricity system challenges OR only a biocentric application for these challenges across the Atlantic?**

Our preference is that projects must align with one or more Priority Research Theme, but we advise to pick one main theme to focus on in your application. See response to question 73.

81. **Would a project focusing a technology for greenhouses fit into the program within the Agricultural emissions theme?**

It is logical that improving the emissions reductions practices associated with greenhouses would be associated with the Agricultural PRT. If your project team can clearly indicate the knowledge gap being addressed, how the project supports the ECT objectives, and the potential for economic development, then it would be an appropriate fit for the program.

82. **Would our project to electrify and automate a common object be considered under the Fishing and Ferry Fleets topic?**

For projects that touch on more than one Theme, Applicants are asked to pick the one Theme that is most applicable or relevant to their project. When adopting existing technology, your proposal must demonstrate the need for the innovation and outline the knowledge gap you are looking to address with the project scope. Please don't forget to include the economic development that is anticipated to follow from your work.

Evaluation/Feedback

83. 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, a Research Management Committee, and Subject Matter Experts of respective themes. The debrief process for unsuccessful applicants will be dependant on the number of applications received.

84. Could you share who will be involved in the evaluation of the proposals?

Proposals will be evaluated by staff at Net Zero Atlantic, the Province of Nova Scotia (DECC and NRR) and external subject matter experts (SMEs) recruited for the evaluation committee.

85. How long is the application review?

The anticipated award date will be in January.

86. How technical should the proposal be written?

The proposals will be reviewed by committee members comprised of subject matter experts as well as non-technical persons. We suggest striking a balance between clear understanding of what the project is about and the work plan to meet the program objectives, as well as demonstrating technical feasibility of the project.