



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

EU Innovation Fund

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Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications

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National Contact Point



- The Environment and Climate Research and Advisory Unit of DECC is the National Contact Point (NCP) for the Innovation Fund in Ireland
- We sit on the DG CLIMA Innovation Fund Expert Group engaging with the Commission on the development of the Fund and associated calls for projects
- We promote awareness of the Fund by giving guidance to prospective applicants, circulating up-dates and attending meetings hosted by the Commission
- We host [Information Seminars](#) to publicise the Fund. Our last seminar was on 16 December 2021.
- We manage a distribution list so we can provide updates to prospective applicants and others. To be added to the distribution list please email InnovationFund@decc.gov.ie

Aims of the Fund

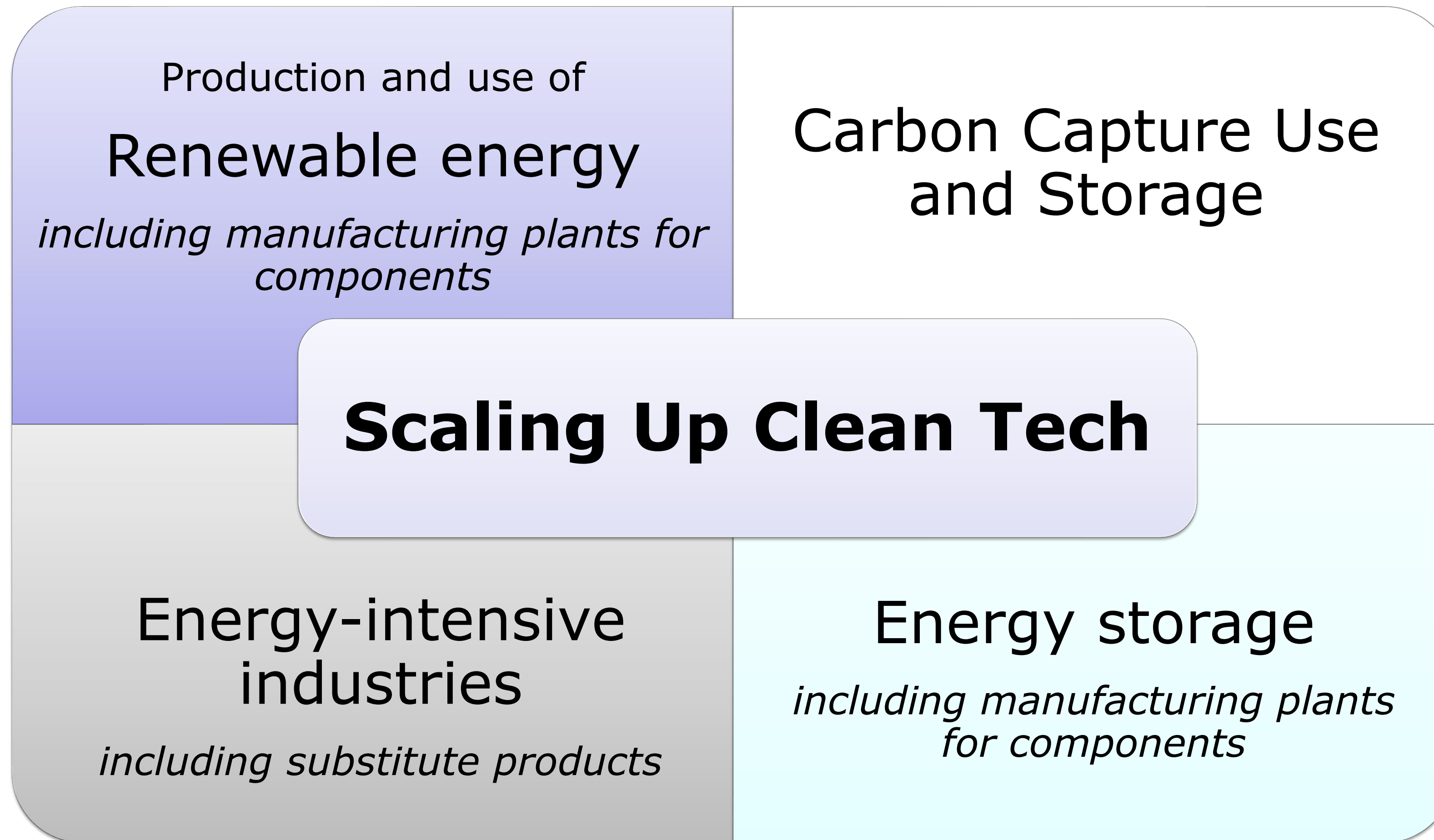


Commercial demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies
Bringing industrial solutions to decarbonise Europe to the market
Supporting the transition to climate neutrality

Innovation Fund will provide around €25bn of support over its lifetime to 2030

Helping business to invest in clean energy
boosting economic growth
creating local future-proofed jobs
reinforcing European technological leadership on a global scale

Focus



Key Features

Volume of at least EUR 25 billion until 2030 (depending on the carbon price)

Support of up to 60% of additional the additional capital and operational costs of the projects.

Annual calls for large-and small-scale projects

Financed from the revenues of the EU Emissions Trading System

Support of additional capital and operating costs (up to 10 years)

2nd call opened with a volume of €1.5 billion for the large-scale call, and €100 million for the small scale call.

Large-Scale Projects (LSP)

total capital expenditure > €7.5m




- First call - July 2020
 - Two-stage process, an expression of interest & submission of full proposal
 - 311 applications received
 - 70 successful invited to Stage 2
 - 7 projects were successful – grant agreement stage in process.
- Second call - October 2021
 - One-stage process
 - *Closing date, 03 March 2022*
- Further information is available [here.](#)

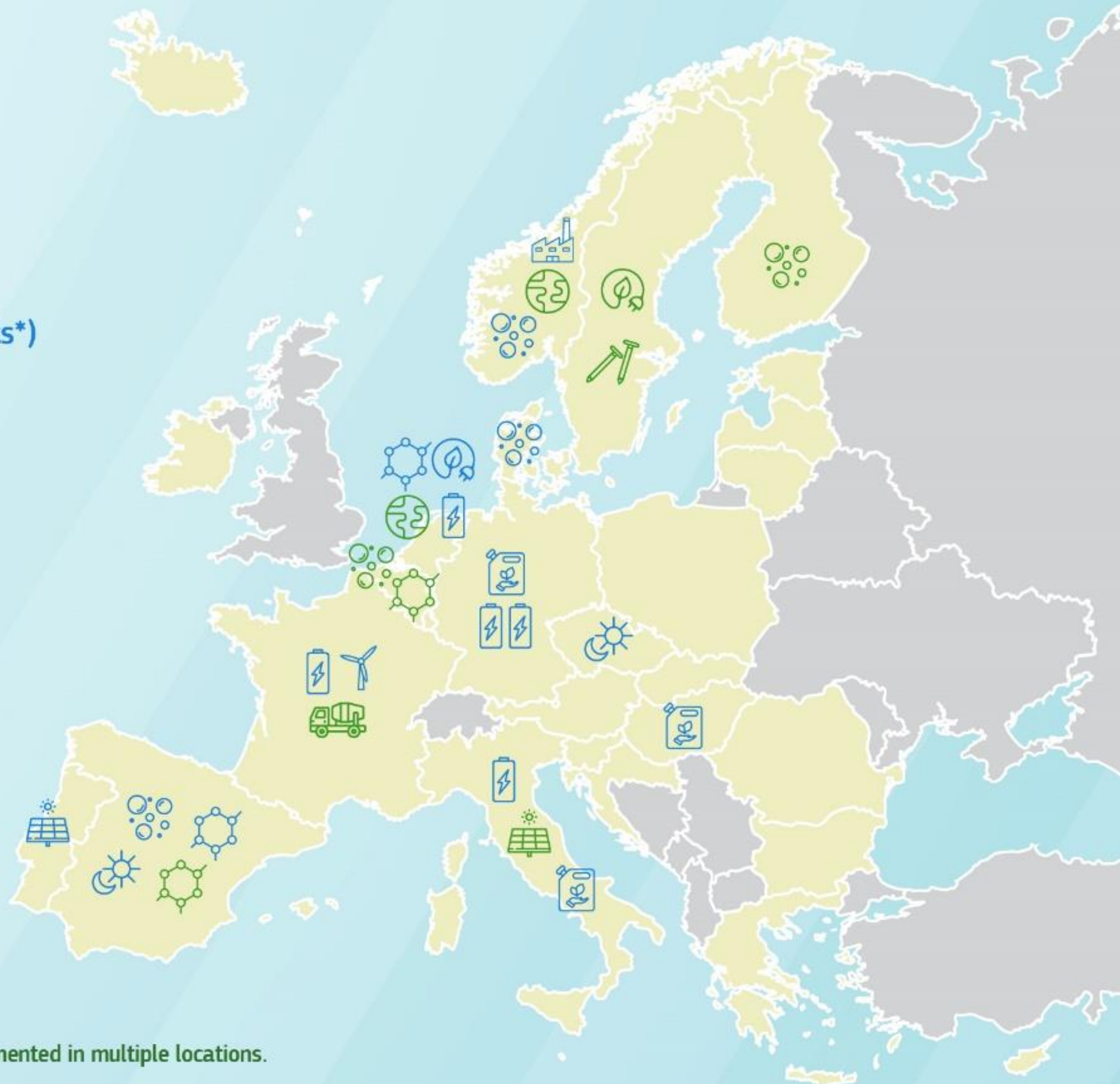
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Large-scale projects

Green: Projects pre-selected for a grant (7 projects*)

Blue: Projects awarded project development assistance (15 projects*)

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Biofuels and biorefineries |  Other energy storage |
|  Chemicals |  Bio-electricity |
|  Planned CO ₂ storage location |  Pulp and paper |
|  Hydrogen |  Refineries |
|  Intra-day electricity storage |  Renewable heating/cooling |
|  Iron and steel |  Solar energy |
|  Non-ferrous metals |  Wind energy |
|  Glass, ceramics and construction material |  Cement and lime |



*The number of symbols is higher than the number of projects, as some projects are implemented in multiple locations.

Small Scale Projects (SCP)

total capital expenditure from €2.5m to €7.5m.



















- First call - December 2020
 - *232 applications received*
 - *32 projects successful and were invited to grant agreement stage*
 - *Budget of €100 m*
- One successful Irish project .
 - *Aughinish Alumina “The project aims to partially decarbonise production of high-pressure steam used in the refinery, substituting existing gas-fired boilers with an electric boiler powered during peak renewable production of electricity”*
- Second call – to be launched on [31 March 2022](#).
 - *submission by late August 2022,*
 - *Budget allocation of €100 million.*

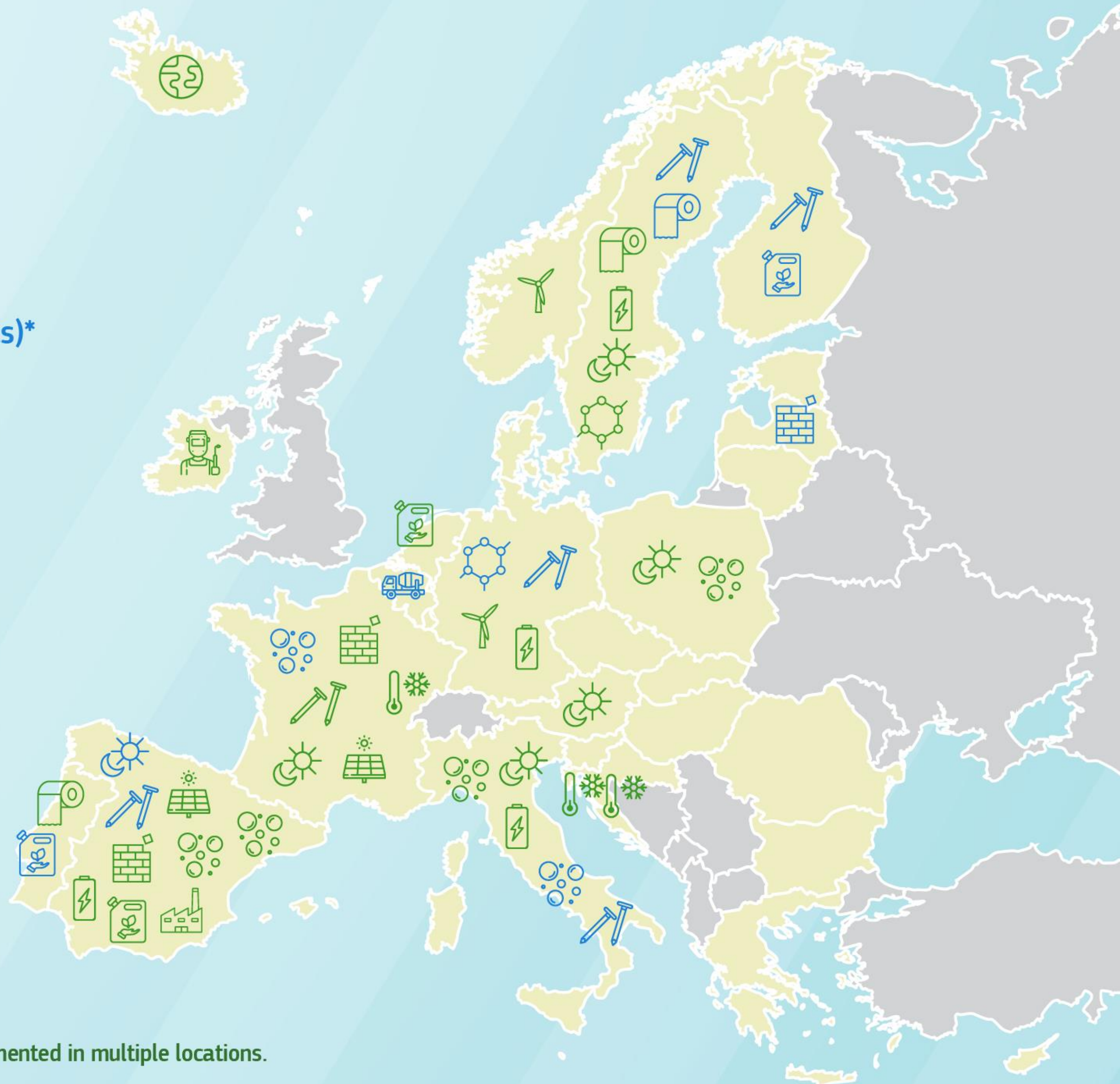
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Small-scale projects

Green: Grant agreements signed (30 projects)*

Blue: projects awarded project development assistance (10 projects)*

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Biofuels and biorefineries |  Other energy storage |
|  Chemicals |  Bio-electricity |
|  CO ₂ transport and storage |  Pulp and paper |
|  Hydrogen |  Refineries |
|  Intra-day electricity storage |  Renewable heating/cooling |
|  Iron and steel |  Solar energy |
|  Non-ferrous metals |  Wind energy |
|  Glass, ceramics and construction material |  Cement and lime |



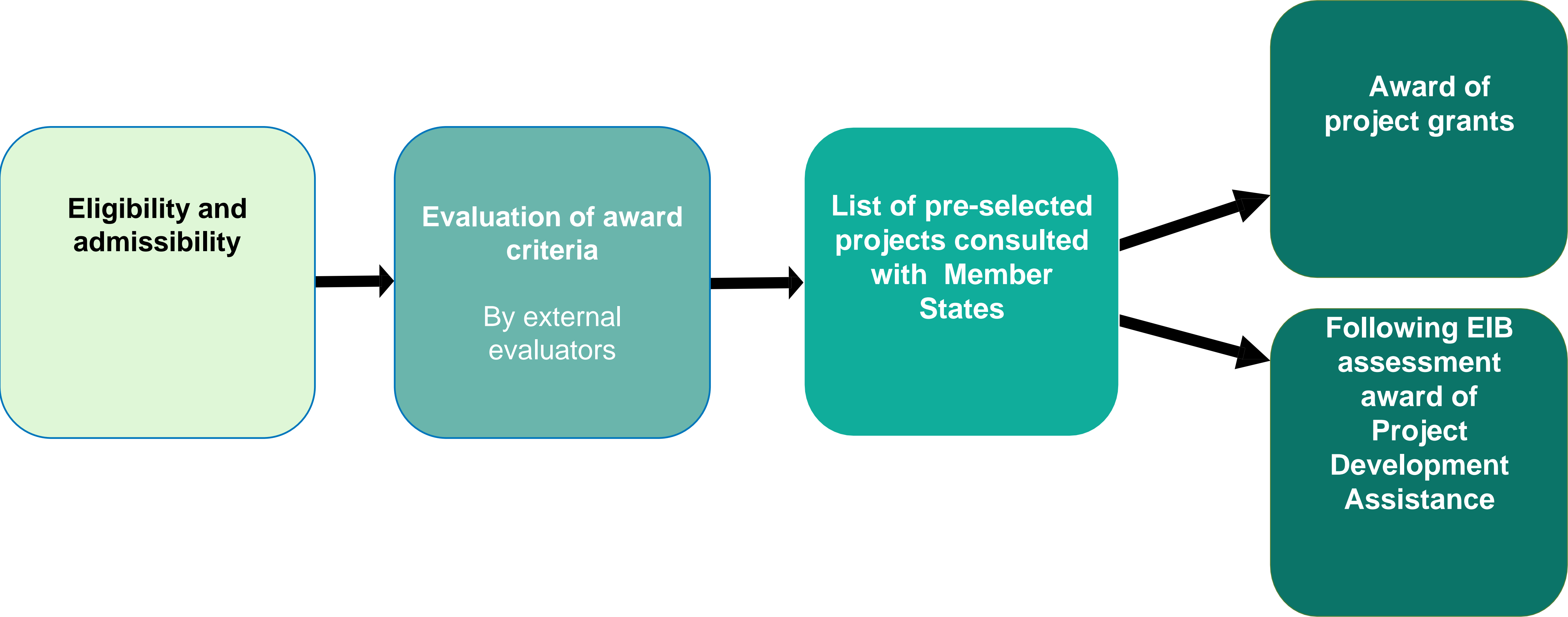
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Is my project a fit for the Innovation Fund?



- The Fund focuses on **highly innovative technologies** and **flagship projects** that can lead to significant GHG emission reductions. It is about **sharing the risk** with project promoters to help with the demonstration of **first-of-a-kind** highly innovative projects.
- It aims to finance a **varied project pipeline** on a wide range of innovative technologies in all eligible sectors. **Sectoral** and **geographic balance** is an objective for the duration of the programme
- The projects need to be **sufficiently mature** in terms of **planning, business model** as well as **financial** and **legal structure**.
- The fund also supports **cross-cutting projects** on innovative low-carbon solutions that lead to emission reductions in multiple sectors, for example, through industrial symbiosis

Selection Procedure



Selection Criteria



- **Effectiveness** of greenhouse gas emissions avoidance
- Degree of **Innovation**
- Project **Maturity**
- **Scalability**
- **Cost Efficiency**

Project Development Assistance & NER 300 Financial Advisory Support



Project Development Assistance (PDA)

- The European Investment Bank provides and manages PDA support
- An amount of €8 million was set aside for PDA in 2021, for projects that have met certain criteria but are not yet considered mature enough.
- After the First Call process 25 projects were selected, 15 Large and 10 Small Scale Projects

NER 300 Financial Advisory Support

- Offers free financial advice aimed at *innovative low-carbon energy demonstration projects* within the European Union, assisting early-stage innovative projects, that are preparing for commercial roll-out.
- For those you may wish to apply they should contact the [NER 300 Taskforce](#) at ner300finadvisory@eib.org, which will remain open until the **end of 2022**.

Lessons Learned & Best Practices from First Calls



- In the LSP call, 70 projects invited to the full proposals stage, a further 47 met the minimum thresholds.
- In the SSP call, 32 successful projects, a further 6 projects met minimum thresholds.
- In the LSP call , invited projects provided more elements to better substantiate their maturity (including high quality feasibility study, business plan and implementation plan).
- In the SSP call, projects were first assessed on degree of innovation with a minimum score of 3 (out of 5) required in order to be considered further in the evaluation process. 75% of projects invited to grant preparation scored 4 or more points.
- The Commission recommends that applicants should ensure consistency of claims and numbers across all documentation in their proposals.
- With regard to the various criteria being assessed the Commission recommends: use the GHG Calculation Tool, apply only if the proposal is sufficiently innovative, when the project is financially and technologically mature enough, clearly define the scalability prospects of the project

How to Prepare a Good Proposal – Some Recommendations



- Start early and make sure to have all the supporting documents ready on time
- Be realistic in your assumptions and calculations.
- Carefully read all the requirements in the call text (including the admissibility and eligibility ones)
- Get familiar with and follow the call methodologies and guidance (GHG and relevant costs)
- Check whether your project fulfils all the requirements of the call.
- Do not wait the last day to submit, trying to upload your application on the Funding and Tenders Portal may prove problematic as a result of large volumes of applications trying to gain access prior to the deadline
- Applicants are asked not to underestimate key regulatory barriers (e.g. possible issues related to the adoption of directives and/or national laws) which could hamper the implementation of the project.

Further Information



- Submitting a project proposal application along with call documentation are available on the [EU Funding and Tenders portal](#) including:
 - Guidance and calculation tools on GHG emissions and relevant costs
 - Frequently asked questions
 - Innovation Fund helpdesk:
- Further info, planning of new calls, recorded webinars, available on the [IF Website](#), and [Gov.ie](#)
- Innovation Fund - [YouTube](#)



Thank You

InnovationFund@decc.gov.ie