



EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships

Technical Description Document

September 2020

EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships: Technical Description Document

This document provides the Technical Description for research support to the Climate Change Advisory Council. Applicants should read the following carefully and consult the other documentation provided (e.g. Guide for Applicants, Guide for Grantees, Terms and Conditions for Support of Grant Awards) which are available for download from the [Climate Change Advisory Council website](#).

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Introduction

The Climate Change Advisory Council

The Climate Change Advisory Council was established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and was signed into law on the 18th January 2016.

The Climate Change Advisory Council is an independent advisory body tasked with assessing and advising on how Ireland can achieve the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.

The Council, with the support of its Secretariat, conducts evidence-based analysis on how best to respond to the impact of climate change and provide timely advice on the most effective policies to assist with Ireland's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy.

As part of this work, the Climate Change Advisory Council provides regular reports regarding Ireland's progress in achieving its national policy goals and greenhouse gas emissions targets agreed by the European Union.

The Council also provide statements on issues and topics that it wishes to bring to the attention of government and key stakeholders.

Climate Change Advisory Council Research

Under Section 11 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, the General functions of the Advisory Council include:

(2) For the purposes of the performance of its functions, the Advisory Council may—

- (a) gather such information as it considers necessary or appropriate, and
- (b) meet and consult with such persons (including members of the public) as it considers appropriate.

To enable this the EPA supports the Climate Change Advisory Council in the commission and administration of research.

Application Process

Making an Application

An application form must be completed. This can be downloaded from the [Climate Change Advisory Council website](#). Applications **must** be submitted to info@climatecouncil.ie

You will also need to refer to the following documentation, which is available to download from the [Climate Change Advisory Council website](#):

1. Guide for Applicants;
2. Guide for Grantees;
3. Terms and Conditions for Support of Grant Awards.

Value for Money

Applicants **must** clearly demonstrate the value for money of their proposal and that the amount requested as the project budget will allow the proposed research to be addressed appropriately.

Open Access and Open Data

All projects must comply with the EPA's Open Data and Open Access rules, which are aligned with Horizon 2020. Further information regarding this can be found in the [Guide to Applicants](#).

Deadlines

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that proposals are submitted via email before the closing deadline. This includes the approval of the application by the relevant award authoriser (e.g. Research Offices/Managing Directors for companies). **FAILURE TO MEET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINE MEANS THAT YOUR PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.**

Technical Description

The research support to the Climate Change Advisory Council is to inform policy and develop solutions to challenges of climate change through the provision of strong evidence-based scientific knowledge:

- **Informing Policy:** Generating evidence, reviewing practices and building models to inform policy development and implementation.
- **Identifying Solutions:** Technologies and methods that address climate challenges and identify opportunities.

List of Topics

Research proposals are invited under the 3 topics listed below. Up to one award is expected for each of the topics. Awards will be funded from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 EPA budget (depending on budget availability).

Topic Reference	Topic Title	Max Budget per Project
Project 1	Carbon Budgeting EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowship	€180,000
Project 2	Mitigation EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowship	€180,000
Project 3	Adaptation EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships	€180,000

Call Content

Research Topic Title:	Carbon Budgeting EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships		
Topic Reference	Project 1		
Maximum Budget:	€180,000	Maximum Duration:	24 Months

Context

Ireland has a commitment to climate action to advance the global objectives on climate change agreed under the Paris Agreement. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degrees identified the range of global emissions of greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals. The challenge domestically and across the EU is to develop and implement climate mitigation which is consistent with this ambition.

The Climate Change Advisory Council has a mandate under legislation to review and offer advice to government on major climate policy initiatives. The Climate action plan proposes amendments to the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 which would introduce five-year carbon budgets.

Purpose

To inform Council deliberations on carbon budgets for Ireland within a 2050 context.

Description

Research proposals are invited to:

- assess existing Irish emissions scenarios to 2050 for ambition, feasibility, cost-effectiveness and sustainable development
- design a range of additional emissions scenarios to explore and test how Ireland can meet legal obligations (domestic, EU and international) while maximising benefits and reducing costs, within the constraints of social, economic and environmental sustainability
- carry out sensitivity testing and alternate emissions scenarios
- consider the role and potential of negative emissions for Ireland
- undertake analysis and review of progress towards transition to a low carbon economy for a specific sector
- use scenario analysis and other evidence to prepare assessment of cost effectiveness of policies and measures as required.

Expected outputs

Expert working paper(s). Reports and policy briefing material over the course of the Fellowship. Providing analytical input to the Council as appropriate.

Project Structure and Funding

Proposals that exceed the maximum duration and/or request funding in excess of the maximum specified for this call topic will be considered to be invalid and will not proceed to the evaluation stage under any circumstances.

Research Topic Title:	Mitigation EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships
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Topic Reference	Project 2		
Maximum Budget:	€180,000	Maximum Duration:	24 Months

Context

Ireland has a commitment to climate action to advance the global objectives on climate change agreed under the Paris Agreement. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degrees identified the range of global emissions of greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals. The challenge domestically and across the EU is to develop and implement climate mitigation which is consistent with this ambition. The Climate Change Advisory Council has a mandate under legislation to review and offer advice to government on major climate policy initiatives and on compliance with legislated emission reduction targets.

Purpose

To inform Council deliberations on sectoral analysis of options for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland, in the context of national targets to 2030 and 2050.

Description

Research proposals are invited to:

- provide analysis of trends and policies in sectors to inform Council considerations of priority areas for action to progress ambitious climate mitigation in the period 2020-2030 and 2050 in Ireland
- analyse the costs and benefits of policies and measures in the period 2020-2030 and 2050 to achieve mitigation goals
- analysis of the technologies and behavioural changes required to achieve the low carbon climate resilient transition in Ireland.

Expected outputs

Expert working paper(s). Reports and policy briefing material over the course of the Fellowship. Providing analytical input to the Council as appropriate.

Research Topic Title:	Adaptation EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships		
Topic Reference	Project 3		
Maximum Budget:	€180,000	Maximum Duration:	24 Months

Context

Ireland has a commitment to climate action to advance the global objectives on climate change agreed under the Paris Agreement. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degrees identified the range of impacts of climate change which are likely even in the event of achieving the Paris temperature goals. The challenge for Ireland is to implement appropriate measure to adapt to the observed and expected impacts of climate change. The Climate Change Advisory Council has a mandate under legislation to review and offer advice to government on major climate policy initiatives related to adaptation and resilience.

Purpose

To inform the Council and the Adaptation Committee's deliberations in providing an evidence base and assessment of progress in Ireland's climate resilient transition and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Description

Research proposals are invited to:

- assess the implications for policy implementation of climate science and observed and projected climate change for Ireland
- evaluate the implementation of adaptation policy under the Climate Act and the National Adaptation Framework – particularly in mainstreaming, addressing cascading effects, and adaptation policy gaps in sectors such as coasts and the financial sector
- evaluate adaptation options – including costs, investment requirements and the role of insurance
- analyse the implementation of the adaptation measures in sectors and at the local level.

Expected outputs

Expert working paper(s). Reports and policy briefing material over the course of the Fellowship. Providing analytical input to the Council and its Adaptation Committee as appropriate.

Project Structure and Funding

Proposals that exceed the maximum duration and/or request funding in excess of the maximum specified for this call topic will be considered to be invalid and will not proceed to the evaluation stage under any circumstances.

Expected Outputs

Please consult the [Guide for Applicants](#), [Guide for Grantees](#) and the [Terms and Conditions for Support of Grant Awards](#) for the full list of potential expected outputs and interim/final reporting requirements.

It is essential that, in their proposal, applicants clearly demonstrate 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 policies and the protection of our environment. Applicants **must** clearly demonstrate how their proposed research will provide the evidence to support environmental policy in Ireland, in terms of informing policy and developing solutions.

It is recommended that applicants familiarise themselves with and utilise the tools provided in the EPA Bridging the Gap Resource Kit:

- [EPA Research Report 131](#): BRIDGE: Tools for Science–Policy Communication;
- [EPA Research Report 132](#): Good Practice Guide for Science–Policy Communication; and
- [EPA Research Report 133](#): A Knowledge Transfer Guide for Researchers.

Indicative Time Frame

3rd September 2020	Advertisement
2nd October 2020	Deadline for queries relating to the technical contents
9th October 2020	Deadline for submission of applications
23rd October 2020	Evaluation process ¹
13th November 2020	Negotiation

¹ The EPA may consider calling the shortlisted applicants for interview at this stage.

27 th November 2020	Award of successful project
14 th December 2020	Start of successful project

Further Information

Information on research projects is available on the [Climate Change Advisory Council website](#).

The following additional documents are available online for reference:

- [EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships: Research Guide for Applicants](#);
- [EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships: Research Guide for Grantees](#);
- [EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships: Terms and Conditions for Support of Grant Awards](#);
- EPA Support for Climate Change Advisory Council Research Fellowships: [Guidelines on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Horizon 2020](#);
- [Open Access to Publications and Data in Horizon 2020: Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) – Fact Sheet](#);

For updates on research supports to the Climate Change Advisory Council Research please check the [Climate Change Advisory Council website](#)

Any queries that are not covered in the document please contact info@climatecouncil.ie.