

NSW Health Sustainable Futures Innovation Fund

Guidelines for Applicants

November 2022



NSW Ministry of Health
1 Reserve Road
St Leonards NSW 2065
www.health.nsw.gov.au

mch-netzero@health.nsw.gov.au

Produced by: NSW Ministry of Health

November 2022

Sustainable Futures Innovation Fund

Call for Applications

NSW Health invites local health district (LHDs), specialty health network (SHNs), pillar and support organisation staff to apply for innovation funding under the Sustainable Futures Innovation Fund (the Fund). These guidelines provide information about the application procedure, selection criteria and reporting requirements for the Fund.

Program Outline

In the [Future Health Strategic Framework 2022-2032](#), NSW Health has committed to an environmentally sustainable footprint for future healthcare. NSW Health recognises it must respond to climate risk to ensure a healthy sustainable future for our patients and communities.

Many NSW Health staff have great ideas to improve care and reduce waste or carbon emissions but may need to purchase a piece of equipment or access initial 'start-up' funding.

NSW Health is therefore offering innovation funding for staff to "kick start" high impact innovation projects that will improve patient care and reduce our environmental footprint (either in emissions or waste).

Priority areas for the Fund

NSW Health is seeking applications for innovative sustainability initiatives or projects across a range of categories.

Applicants are required to demonstrate initiative/project alignment to one of the following areas:

- **Clinical care transformation:** including but not limited to carbon hotspot areas of anaesthetics, metered dose inhalers and critical care emissions.
- **Travel and transport:** including but not limited to staff, patient and business transport emissions reductions and innovations to reduce care-related travel.
- **Energy and Assets:** including but not limited to energy efficiency, energy consumption reduction, resource (including gas use) emissions reduction, water consumption reduction.
- **Procurement and Waste:** improve processes, reduce waste and/or emissions related to procurement practices.
- **Pharmaceuticals and Medicines:** improve quality, safety and reduce emissions in prescribing; reduce waste and/or emissions in medications management.

Other carbon hotspot areas may be considered if applicants demonstrate a strong case, need or evidence gap, and alignment with state-wide strategy and processes. Projects that are business as usual (for example LED energy efficiency projects) are out of scope for this fund and funding should be sought through regular channels.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Fund are to support projects that:

1. **Improve health, patient care and/or human experience:** Applicants must demonstrate how their project improves health outcomes for patients and/or improves the care experience.
2. **Reduce waste and/or carbon emissions:** Projects must support NSW Health's transition to a modern, low-carbon health system. The Fund supports net zero initiatives that reduce NSW Health's carbon footprint across scope 1 (direct on-site emissions) scope 2 (purchased energy) and scope 3 (supply chain emissions).
3. **Are scalable:** Initiatives or projects should have the potential to be translated into policy, practice and/or scaled and shared across other LHDs/SHNs across the state.
4. **Support and engage staff:** Raise awareness that sustainability is part of quality healthcare and enable staff to get involved in net zero initiatives in their workplace.

Timelines

The timeline for the Fund is below. Dates are subject to change.

Dates	Stage
November 2022	Applications open
10 February 2023	Submission deadline
February 2023	Application review period by Review Panel
February 2023	Application outcomes notified, feedback provided, and successful applications announced
February/March 2023	Funding awarded – timing will be discussed with successful applicants

All applications must be submitted via email to the Climate Risk and Net Zero (CRNZ) Unit at the NSW Ministry of Health at MOH-NetZero@health.nsw.gov.au.

Queries regarding the Fund should be directed through the [CRNZ Unit](#). The Unit contacts are:

- Kate Charlesworth, Senior Advisor
- Erynn Johnson, Policy Officer

Eligibility Criteria

1. The application must be led by a NSW Health staff member. Individuals or groups may apply.
2. The initiative or project must be hosted by and conducted within a NSW Health LHD, SHN, pillar or support organisation.
3. The Chief Executive of the Host Organisation must endorse the Application submission and certify that the initiative or project will be supported.
4. To ensure a fair distribution across NSW Health, there is a maximum of 5 applications per organisation.
5. The Host Organisation agrees to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative and share information with the Ministry of Health for distribution.

Details of funding

Innovation funding ranging from \$5,000 up to \$30,000 will be provided to successful Host Organisations for initiatives.

Funds need to be spent by the Host Organisation by 30 June 2023.

Funding conditions and exclusions

Innovation funding may be used for costs associated with the initiative and/or project and implementation activities. Should the initiative or project cease for any reason, or reporting requirements are not met, remaining funds are required to be returned to the NSW Ministry of Health.

Selection Criteria

NSW Health staff may submit an application which will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. The project/initiative improves health, patient care and/or human experience.
2. The project/initiative reduces waste and/or carbon emissions and supports NSW Health's transition to a modern, low-carbon, climate resilient health system.
3. The project/ initiative has the potential to be translated into policy, practice and/or be scaled across other LHDs/SHNs across the state.
4. The project/initiative has a clear approach and anticipated outcomes and represents value for money.

All criteria are of equal weighting.

Applications must be endorsed by the Host Organisation Chief Executive where the project or initiative will be conducted. Applicants are encouraged to consult with the Chief Executive of the Host Organisation well in advance of drafting an Expression of Interest.

The application should clearly justify how the project under investigation is important for the host organisation. The proposed project should also be able to provide evidence of effectiveness, and/or be translated into policy and practice.

The application should be succinct and written in plain English.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed against the selection criteria by the Review Panel comprising experts from across all priority areas with representation from the Agency for Clinical Innovation, Health Infrastructure, HealthShare NSW, NSW Health Pathology, the Ministry of Health Financial Services & Asset Management Division and the Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit. The panel may contact applicants to clarify or confirm information in the application.

Applicants must meet all eligibility criteria. All applicants and their host organisations will be informed as to whether they have been awarded funding. The Review Panel decision is final and may not be appealed. General feedback on applications will be made available upon request.

The NSW Ministry of Health will contact the Host Organisation (LHD, SHN, pillar or support organisation or Ministry branch) for each successful applicant to establish budget supplementation between the Host Organisation and NSW Ministry of Health.

Upon announcement of successful applicants, it is expected that the Host Organisation Chief Executive be responsible for reviewing and certifying the budget supplementation and supporting fund dissemination to the administering department.

Reporting Requirements

Fund recipients must submit a report on their project/initiative's outcomes by end of 2023 and may be required to present to the NSW Health Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee, NSW Health Sustainability Network, other Ministry and/or state-wide agency forums at the conclusion of their initiative or project.

Submitting your Application

Please return the Application form to the NSW Ministry of Health [Climate Risk and Net Zero Unit](#).

If you have any questions, please direct them to: moh-netzero@health.nsw.gov.au

Please submit your approved Application by **COB Friday 10 February 2023**.

