

Call: "Humans, energy systems and society" (MESAM)

The Swedish Energy Agency announces grant founding of SEK 60 million within the framework of the five-year research program "Humans, energy systems, and society" (MESAM) 2017-2022. The program is directed to knowledge and expertise where knowledge and skills about the complex relationships and contradictions in the handling of energy and climate issues are the focus. The purpose of this call is to produce knowledge that can lead to change and that address energy and societal challenges associated with transition to sustainable energy systems. This call will close on 14 February at 11.59 pm. Phone support are not available after 4 pm.

Energy and energy systems are in constant change, a change which is created by people. Actors, i.e. humans and groups of people, make choices and take decisions and perform actions all the time, for example through decisions in everyday life, in political decisions, at the contractor's choice of business strategies as well as for states' and regions' decisions in energy and climate issues. The energy system consists of a combination of humans, technology, and infrastructure together with institutions such as policies, laws and societal values that all are linked together and influence each other in issues concerning design and change of the energy systems. By knowledge with a diversity of scientific and societal perspectives and questions, this research will contribute to improve societal understandings of complex interactions in the energy systems and conflicting interests.

The focus of the call is research that can contribute with new and brave knowledge and skills that can help society to understand energy and climate issues in new ways. This includes research that studies current knowledge and practices and examine the effects of established solutions. The call also includes research challenging existing knowledge and that open up for alternatives that today seems both unrealistic and uneconomic but that can help us to understand and apply ideas and solutions in new ways. This might lead to change and to sustainable energy systems. Equally important is that this knowledge is used by society. Research shall be communicated in ways that increases the possibilities for actors to get a deeper understanding of change processes on energy and climate, and the effects of them.

The call welcomes research projects that for example, is based on questions about who, how, where, when and why. This makes this call is directed especially to those who do research about societal, social, humanist, system- and gender-related issues about energy and climate issues. Perspectives and methods drawn from interdisciplinary research, social sciences and humanities, preferably with qualitative methods, is particularly welcome in this call.



The research projects may address stakeholders in industry, the public sector, academia, civil society as well as individuals and their choices, decisions, actions related to energy and climate issues. Projects can also be about change and interaction in the energy systems as well as common solutions and contradictions between different parts in the energy systems. The research projects may also address energy and climate policy actors and issues that can contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Issues linked to geopolitics and energy security as well as internationalization and competitiveness are included.

We also welcome research with gender equality and equity perspective related to energy and climate issues. Comparisons in time, between Swedish and international context, as well as with other sectors of society is also welcomed. This also applies to questions of governance and policy making and control measures.

The call welcome applications containing interaction and collaboration between researchers and actors such as authorities, community stakeholders and users. This also includes international cooperation and/or participation in international research projects.

The program welcomes applications from young as well as senior researchers. Reference to international research in the chosen field of research is required. Projects that aims to develop technology, or analyses of technological parts of the energy system is not included in this program.

Projects eligible for grants can start no earlier than 1 June 2018 and last until 31 December 2022.

The application may be written in Swedish or English. The application text is expected to be formulated so that anyone who is not familiar with the subject to understand what the project is all about. An English text have to be supplemented by a Swedish summary. A Swedish summary is required for applications in English.

What percentage of the project's costs can I receive support for?

For projects conducted by higher education institutes, the Swedish Energy Agency may grant state aid by up to 100 % of the project's costs according to the applicable spending authorization ([Regulation](#)). Research institutes and public organisations may make up for costs for overhead with of up to 30% on their eligible staff costs

Companies can receive different levels of support depending on the direction of the project. For applied research, a maximum of 50 % and for fundamental research 100 %. This is governed by the EU regulation ([Kommissionens förordning \(EU\) nr 651/2014](#)). In some cases, the Swedish Energy Agency may grant a higher percentage of state aid such as for small (+ 20 percentage points) and medium size (+ 10 percentage points) companies (item 6 according to the link above). This means, for example, that a project conducted by a small company and which embraces experimental development can at most receive 45 % in state aid (25+20) ([Regulation](#)). The Swedish Energy Agency may set higher demands on co-financing than what the regulation demands if it is deemed necessary in order for the project to be given support.

Co-financing can, for example, consist of working hours, cash and experiment costs. If the co-financing includes Government money, this should not be included in the co-financing. For example, if an institute receives 25 % of its basic funds in the form of Government money, only 75 % of its project costs can be included as co-financing.

Conditions for projects

Funding can be awarded to research projects that are within the responsibility areas of the Swedish Energy Agency and within the framework of the call.

The Swedish Energy Agency's decision regarding aid is based on an agreed project and cost plan. In order for aid to be paid to approved projects, the beneficiary must confirm that he/she has studied the Swedish Energy Agency's decision and that he/she accepts the conditions for the support. A more detailed description of the conditions can be found in the appendix below.

How to apply

The application must be written in accordance with the Notice to Applicants and be submitted via the Swedish Energy Agency's electronic application tool [E-channel](#). Remember to obtain user access in E-channel in good time, since it may take a few days.

What the application must contain

The application must be written so that those not fully conversant with the subject have the possibility to understand what the project concerns. Applications that may get funding in this call must contain:

- A summary in Swedish and in English.
- A background description of the project containing an overview of the research field including references.
- A description of the project's societal and energy relevance.
- A purpose and clear interim and final goals. Aim and goals must be formulated in such a way that they can be met during the time the project is in progress.
- Project description including project design, theory, methods, performance and implementation. Include a brief description of relevant collaborations with national and international researchers and community stakeholders, as well as how gender and diversity aspects are integrated in the project.
- A budget.
- A plan for focused communications efforts and interaction with stakeholders, and a plan for the reference group for the project and how it will be used in the project. This may mean that the results influence, change or have importance for different levels and groups in society.
- CVs.

The complete application must be submitted at the latest on 14/02/2018 at 23.59 p.m. Phone support are not available after 4 pm.

Assessment criteria

The applications are assessed by an evaluation panel that is composed of scientists and people with competence to assess the relevance of the research areas. The applications are evaluated in accordance with the instructions and stipulations stated in the call announcement text. The evaluation criteria are:

Scientific quality

- The degree of innovation of the project in its content in relation to its scientific research area
- The project's scientific awareness
- The project in relation to the research field.
- Research questions, aim and goals.
- Originality and novelty

- Reasons for and extent of interdisciplinarity.

Relevance for energy and societal transition

- The project's expected contribution in relation to the focus project's contribution to increasing knowledge, skills, and knowledge dissemination on the basis of the program's perspective on energy systems.
- The project's connection and contribution to selected energy and societal challenge.
- The inclusion and integration of gender and diversity aspects.

Methods and implementation

- The project's choice of method/methods in relation to selected research questions.
- The project's choice of scientific method/methods and its suitability to respond to selected research questions.
- Plan for implementation of the selected method/selected methods.
- Reasonableness of project scope and time schedule in relation to the plan of implementation and the proposed budget.

Create dialogue, and disseminate knowledge and expertise

- Project definition and description of target groups and other stakeholders, national and international
- Project's detailed and concrete dialogue and communication plan to reach the target groups and other stakeholders
- The project's level of thoughtful and innovation in dialogue-building and dissemination and communication activities of the project's implementation and results in relation to the project's research questions and knowledge claims.
- The project plan for the implementation of cooperation and collaboration with relevant actors in society for the project.
- The project reference group and plan for the work of the group.
- In project participation in international research projects: the project's plan to bring home, include and disseminate international research results to relevant audiences.

Qualifications of the research group

- Scientific and related skills in the research group in relation to answering selected research questions and complete the project.
- Collaboration with for the project, relevant networks of national and international researchers and community stakeholders.

Decision on financial support

The Swedish Energy agency may request you to supplement the application if we find reason to do so. The request may concern, for example, increased demands on co-financing, changes to the project plan or a detailed description of the project concept. Your application will be assessed by external evaluators. They will make a recommendation to the Swedish Energy Agency for projects to be supported.

The final decision will be made by the Swedish Energy Agency by May 2018 at the earliest. Shortly thereafter, you will be informed of the decision taken and the reason for the decision.

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Appendix 1**Conditions for funded projects**

The conditions that apply to funded projects are listed in the Swedish Energy Agency's funding decision. A description of the conditions follows below.

General conditions

The Swedish Energy Agency's funding decision is based on an agreed project plan and budget. The part of the costs not covered by funding from the Swedish Energy Agency shall be covered by resources or funds provided by another financier. The beneficiary is responsible for covering the extra costs that occur during the project period. When the Swedish Energy Agency's funding decision covers funding outside of the current financial year, the decision only applies provided that the Swedish Energy Agency receives/has at its disposal the required funds in the following years.

The shifting of costs between cost categories is accepted up to 10 per cent within each cost category, provided that the total budget does not change. Larger changes require approval from the Swedish Energy Agency.

§ 1 Payment of grants

The grants are disbursed without a requisition form, in the middle of the project period for each budget year, unless otherwise stated in the funding decision. Grants only cover value added tax when it occurs as net cost for the beneficiary (only applies to universities and university colleges). Verifications for accounted expenditures must, upon request, be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency. Funds that have not been used shall be repaid. Advances can be provided, up to 30 per cent of the total grant provided (only applies to universities and colleges). 15 per cent, or another percentage set out in the funding decision, of the grant provided can be withheld until final reporting in accordance with § 4 has been submitted and approved by the Swedish Energy Agency.

§ 2 Employer relationship

The Swedish Energy Agency is not the employer or principal of the beneficiary or anyone else he/she engages in the project. Accordingly, the Swedish Energy Agency does not make deductions for taxes, social security contributions, etc.

§ 3 Notification obligation regarding other funding

The beneficiary is obliged to immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency in writing, if funding for the project in the application process have been applied for or granted by anyone other than the Swedish Energy Agency.

§ 4 Reporting obligation

Reports and surveys as set out below shall be submitted in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions. If additional special reports are required, it is stated in the funding decision.

Annual report

Universities and university colleges are obliged, for each budget year, at the request of the Swedish Energy Agency, to submit annual reports concerning the complete activities of the department and/or research team.

Progress report

The progress report concerning the project's activities shall be provided at the request of the Swedish Energy Agency. The progress report shall include a description of the existing activities and results of the project as well as a financial reporting. In addition, the Swedish Energy Agency may request that the report shall include a technical status report. The progress report shall be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency at the latest on the date stated in the funding decision.

Financial Accounting – only applies to companies

Financial accounts shall be submitted once or twice a year using a specific form provided by the Swedish Energy Agency or downloaded from the Agency's website (www.energimyndigheten.se). The account shall be submitted at the latest on the date stated in the funding decision.

Final report

The final report shall include the project results and contain a description of the implementation of the project and the fulfilment of objectives. Furthermore, the report shall contain a summary of the project results in English of no more than 200 words. The report shall be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency at the latest on the date stated in the funding decision.

A specific final financial accounting shall be submitted no later than on the date stated in the funding decision using a specific form provided by the Swedish Energy Agency or downloaded from the Agency's website (www.energimyndigheten.se).

Survey

As a beneficiary, you need to complete a survey at the end of each year and submit this to the Swedish Energy Agency. We collect, on behalf of the Government, details from all beneficiaries in order to present a number of results in the form of indicators form in our annual financial statement.

§ 5 Changes

Significant changes within project and budget approved by the Swedish Energy Agency must be reported in advance to the Swedish Energy Agency for evaluation and approval. The beneficiary must immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency if circumstances of significant importance occur that result in the cancellation or delay, etc. of the project. The beneficiary is obliged to immediately report any changes in name or address.

§ 6 Publication

The project results shall be published. Publication shall take place in accordance with international best practice for the publication of research results.

The beneficiary is entitled to protect the results by patents or other intellectual property rights and in doing so postpone publication until any application for such property rights has been submitted to the relevant patent office. The Swedish Energy Agency must be notified if the beneficiary intends to protect the results. Applications to the patent office must be submitted without delay. The written approval of the Swedish Energy Agency must be obtained in each individual case if the beneficiary wishes to delay publication for reasons other than those stated above or refrain from publishing certain results.

All presentations of the project must state that the work has been conducted with the support from the Swedish Energy Agency (when presentation is held in Swedish, the name should be reproduced as Energimyndigheten).

§ 7 Rights to results

The beneficiary or the rights holder of the results has the commercial right of use of the project results and is entitled to make available or transfer the rights to others.

If the rights to the project results are transferred to a company that runs economic activities, compensation corresponding to the market price for the rights shall be paid (only applies to universities and university colleges).

§ 8 Right to review

The Swedish Energy Agency or person/persons appointed by the Swedish Energy Agency (e.g. certified accountant) are entitled to follow-up the work and study documents that can provide information about the technical and economic development of the project. The Swedish Energy Agency is entitled to issue special instructions for reporting in order to enable the review.

In addition, the Swedish Energy Agency has the right to follow-up completed projects through requesting follow-up reports, that are to be structured and submitted in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions. Such reports can be requested on three occasions within a ten-year period as of the day of the final report.

§ 9 Amendment to the decision

At the request of the beneficiary, the Swedish Energy Agency may grant well-motivated amendments to the project.

§ 10 Annulment of the decision

The Swedish Energy Agency may decide that unused funds shall be withheld alternatively that disbursed funds, that have not been used, shall be repaid if:

- a) the conditions for the project's financing have changed
- b) the project is not run according to the agreed project plan
- c) there is no prospect of achieving a satisfactory result within a reasonable timeframe (for example, due to significantly changed project or market conditions) or if the project's planned continuation cannot be considered secure (for example, due to insolvency in case the beneficiary is a company)
- d) the beneficiary fails to sign and resend a copy of the conditions appendix to the Swedish Energy Agency.

§ 11 Recovery of amounts paid

The disbursed grant along with interest rate of 8 % (eight per cent) above the applicable reference interest rate may be reclaimed with immediate effect if:

- a) the beneficiary does not provide the obligatory reports according to § 4
- b) the beneficiary uses the grant for purposes other than what is stated in the agreed project plan
- c) the project is not run according to the agreed project plan
- d) the beneficiary does not otherwise satisfy the obligations according to the conditions in this Appendix or the special conditions in the funding decision.

§ 12 Retention of grant

The Swedish Energy Agency is entitled to stop further payment of funds until a decision is made to refuse payment or to reclaim granted funds according to paragraphs 10 and 11. Such a stop to further payment of funds may affect payments to other projects administered by the same department, company or corresponding administrative unit, if the Swedish Energy Agency so decides.

§ 13 EU State aid rules

As a condition for aid, funding measures may be repealed or changed and the grant reclaimed if the European Commission through judgements which have

entered into force or the Court of Justice of the European Union has found the aid to be unlawful pursuant to Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The decision to repeal or change the funding measures is taken by the Swedish government. In this context the conditions for repayment of aid are determined in each individual case.

Consent pursuant to the Swedish Personal Data Act and concession to making information available.

The Swedish Energy Agency makes information about projects financed by the Agency available on the Agency's website: www.energimyndigheten.se. Here the general public can search for information about on-going and completed research projects based on different keywords, such as research subject, research organisation, project title, project manager.

As the project manager and authorised signatory sign the conditions, the project manager agrees to publishing personal data (name and organisation), and the authorised signatory to non-confidential information and reports of the project, on the public domain on the Agency's website. The beneficiary is responsible for that the copyright holder has given its consent to this publication and shall ensure that the copyright holder is entitled to enter agreements in each individual case.

Public documents and secrecy

Essentially all post and e-mail sent to the Swedish Energy Agency become public documents. Among other things, this means that the public and mass media may request to view their contents. Official letters and decisions sent from the Swedish Energy Agency are also public documents. The right to view public documents is part of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act, and the Freedom of the Press Act.

However, the Swedish Energy Agency is not permitted to disclose information covered by secrecy in accordance with the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act. This means that a document or certain information in a document may be protected by secrecy. A secrecy assessment is therefore made on a case-by-case basis before a document is disclosed.

Secrecy applies to information on an individual's business or operating conditions, inventions or research findings, for example, if it can be assumed that the individual will suffer damages if the information is disclosed.