

1. Third call: Humans, energy systems and society (MESAM)

The Swedish Energy Agency is allocating SEK 70 million within the research program “Humans, energy systems and society” (MESAM). In this call we welcome project proposals that can increase the understanding of potential possibilities, risks and conflicts of interests associated with the transitioning into sustainable energy systems for all. This call is therefore primarily aimed at researchers working with perspectives and methods based in e.g. social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary research. Proposals should be submitted by December 3, 2020, 23.59 at the latest.

The energy system consists of a combination of actors (humans, organizations and institutions), technology, infrastructure, policy, legislation, markets as well as social aspects such as norms and values, that are all linked together and influence each other in matters such as the design and change of structure of the energy systems. Through the production of knowledge with diverse scientific and societal perspectives, research within the MESAM program is expected to improve societal understanding and management of complex energy and climate issues on various levels of society.

The purpose of the call is to increase the understanding of potential possibilities, risks and conflicts of interests associated with the transitioning into sustainable energy systems for all. This includes research that study current knowledge and practices and examine the effects of established solutions. The call also includes research that challenges existing knowledge and suggests alternatives which, at present, might seem both unrealistic and uneconomic but has the potential to help us understand and apply ideas and solutions in new ways. Research results are expected to be communicated in ways that increase the possibilities for actors to gain a deeper understanding of energy- and climate transitions. It is crucial that the new knowledge is to be utilized by actors on local, regional, national and possibly international level and that it brings about change.

The call welcomes research projects that revolve around the questions who, how, where, when and why. This call is therefore primarily aimed at researchers working with perspectives and methods based in e.g. social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary research as well as energy and climate issues.

Collaboration between researchers and actors such as authorities, community stakeholders and citizens is encouraged in this call. This also includes international cooperation and/or participation in international research projects (the main applicant needs to be a Swedish actor). In collaborative activities, a mutual exchange between actors is considered central.

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 aim to develop technology, or analyses of technological parts of the energy system are not included in this program.

The earliest start date for successful projects is between September 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, and they may run for 3-4 years. One proposal per project manager is permitted.

Grants in this call is limited to a maximum amount of 9 million SEK per project. Applications for funding over 9 million SEK will be declined.

2. Who can apply?

Research partners such as actors from the corporate and public sector as well as NGOs can participate in projects eligible for funding. However, the main applicant and project manager should preferably be:

- Universities
- University colleges
- Research institutes

The call is aimed at researchers working with perspectives and methods based in e.g. social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary research and welcomes proposals from junior as well as senior researchers.

Projects that aim to develop technology, or analyses of technological parts of the energy system are not included in this program.

For information about the level of support that different kinds of research actors can receive and what project costs can be granted state funding, please see the Swedish call text (6. Hur stor andel av projektets kostnader kan vi få stöd för?).

International activities

The Swedish Energy Agency has limited possibilities to fund international research actors and activities. International actors can be granted funding if the following criteria are met in the project and motivated in the proposal:

1. The main applicant is a Swedish actor.
2. Project participants that do not operate in Sweden have unique competence that is 1) needed for the project implementation, and 2) is not found among equivalent Swedish actors.
3. The project can contribute to the implementation of the Swedish national energy- and climate targets.

4. There will be a knowledge transaction between international and Swedish actors.

The Energy Agency can deny funding of internationally based actors even if the above criteria are met by the project.

3. Assessment criteria for submitted proposals

The proposals are evaluated in accordance with the instructions and the assessment criteria stated below:

Scientific quality

- The degree of originality, novelty and innovation of the project in its content in relation to its scientific research area.
- The project's choice of method(s) and its suitability to respond to selected research questions.
 - • If applicable, the inclusion and integration of gender and diversity aspects and its suitability to respond to selected research questions.
- The project's positioning to previous research within the field.
- The quality of research questions, purpose and objectives.

Relevance for energy and societal transition

- The project's capability to contribute with innovative and transforming perspectives and knowledge regarding the possibilities, risks and conflicts of interests associated with the transitioning into sustainable energy systems for all.
- The project's expected contribution to the call in general

Project implementation and qualifications of the research group

- The feasibility of the project including implementation of the selected method/selected methods to meet the research aims and objectives.
- Reasonableness of project scope and time schedule in relation to the plan of implementation and the proposed budget.
- The scientific and professional skills in the research group needed to answer the research questions and carry out the project.
- Collaboration with relevant networks of national and international researchers and community stakeholders.

Communication and dissemination of knowledge and expertise

- Project definition and description of target groups (local, regional, national and international within and outside of the academic community).
- The project reference group and plan for the work of the group.
- The project's level of novelty and suitability in creating and supporting dialogue with, for the project, relevant stakeholders. How well the interaction, dissemination and communication activities correspond with the project's research questions and knowledge claims.
- Suitability of the project's dialogue and communication plan designed for interaction with relevant stakeholders.
- In case of participation in international research projects: the project's plan to include and disseminate international research results to relevant stakeholders in Sweden.

4. How to apply

The proposal must be completed as described in the notice to applicants and submitted via the Swedish Energy Agency's electronic application tool [E-kanalen](#). Remember to obtain user access to E-kanalen well in advance, as this may take a few days.

The proposal may be written in Swedish or English (an English text must be supplemented by a Swedish summary). The proposal must explain the project in language that can be understood by those who are not experts in the field. Your proposal will be reviewed by an evaluation panel consisting of representatives from academia, public and private sector. The panel covers different fields of expertise, which means that not everyone might have full knowledge of the specific theoretical framework/perspectives referred to in the proposal.

The proposal must be submitted by December 3, 2020, 23.59 at the latest. Phone support is available until 16.00 the same day.

5. What to include in the proposal

Be very clear on how and in what way the proposal fits within the range of the call and its assessment criteria.

Proposals that may get funding in this call must contain:

- A description of the project's societal and energy relevance.
- A background description of the project containing an overview of the research field, including references.

- A clear purpose as well as interim and final objectives. Purpose and objectives must be formulated in such a way that they can be achieved during the lifetime of the project.
- A project description including project design, theory, methods, performance and implementation. This includes a description of the project's theoretical framework(s) (including references) and how these are to be applied in the project.
- A thorough description of potential collaborations with relevant stakeholders and how this can contribute to the project and its results.
- An elaborate plan for communication efforts aimed at relevant stakeholders (academic and other).
- A brief description of the project reference group and how it will be used in the project. The reference group is expected to take on an advising role during the project and should preferably cover various societal perspectives. The expertise that you plan to include in the reference group should be described in the proposal. Names of members of the reference group is to be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency within the project's first status report.
- A summarized budget.

Proposals may contain a maximum of three attachments. These may include the following:

- All resumes/CV:s in one document.
- References.
- An extended schedule and budget.

The Swedish Energy Agency works to promote diversity and equality, and applicants are therefore asked to consider these issues in the composition of the project group, the choice of project leader, and in the management, content, objectives and impacts of the project.

6. What happens when I have submitted my proposal?

All proposals are assessed by an externally recruited evaluation panel that is composed of scientists and experts from the corporate and public sector within various fields. The evaluation panel will make a recommendation to the Swedish Energy Agency on which projects to be supported.

The version that is submitted to the Energy Agency before the call's final closing date constitutes the basis of the evaluation, along with the three optional appendixes. The Swedish Energy agency may ask you to provide additional information if we think there is a reason to do so. For example, we may ask you to provide details of an increased co-financing requirement, changes to the project plan or a more detailed description of the project concept.

The final decision will be taken by the Swedish Energy Agency, by June 2021 at the earliest. Shortly thereafter, you will be informed of the decision taken and the reason for the decision.

7. If you are granted funding

The Swedish Energy Agency's decision regarding funding is based on an agreed project plan and cost plan. Before funding can be released to approved projects, recipients must confirm that they have read the Swedish Energy Agency's decision and that they accept the conditions for the funding. A more detailed description of the conditions can be found in the appendix below.

8. The call is part of the research program Human, Energy Systems and Society (MESAM)

The research program Human, Energy Systems and Society (MESAM) is one of the Swedish Energy Agency's initiatives in social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary research. There is a total of SEK 320 million in allocated funds for the program, that will finance research during 2018–2025. 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. This is the third call within the MESAM research program.

9. Contact

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Appendix

Conditions for approved projects

The conditions applicable to approved projects will be set out in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision to grant funding. The conditions are described below.

General

The Swedish Energy Agency's decision regarding funding is based on an agreed project plan and cost plan. The portion of costs not covered by the funding from the Swedish Energy Agency must be met with resources of your own or of another funding body. The funding recipient is responsible for financing cost increases which occur during the project lifetime. The Swedish Energy Agency's decisions on funding after the current budget year are only valid if the Swedish Energy Agency receives/has access to the necessary funds at that time.

Up to 10 per cent of costs may be offset between cost categories provided that the overall total does not change. Larger differences must be approved by the Swedish Energy Agency.

§ 1 Payment of funding

Unless otherwise indicated in the decision, the funding will be paid in the middle of the project period for each budget year without a prior draw-down application. The funding covers VAT only if it appears as a net cost for the funding recipient (universities and colleges only). Verifications of the claimed cost items must be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency on request. Unspent funds must be repaid. A maximum of 30 per cent of the total amount of the funding may be paid in advance (universities and colleges only). 15 per cent, or a different percentage as set out in the decision, of the granted funds may be withheld until the final report described in § 4 is received and approved by the Swedish Energy Agency.

§ 2 Employer relationship

The Swedish Energy Agency is not the employer of the funding recipient or anyone appointed by the funding recipient for the project. The Swedish Energy Agency therefore makes no deductions for taxes, social insurance payments, etc.

§ 3 Duty to inform concerning financing

The funding recipient is under a duty to inform the Swedish Energy Agency immediately in writing if funds for the project in the decision are applied for or obtained from a body other than the Swedish Energy Agency.

§ 4 Duty to submit reports

The following reports and questionnaires must be submitted according to the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions. The decision will state whether special reports are required in addition.

Annual report

Universities and colleges are required to submit an annual report for each budget year at the Swedish Energy Agency's request, covering the overall activity of the institution and/or research team.

Status report

A status report covering the project activity must be submitted at the Swedish Energy Agency's request. It must include a description of the project activity to date, the results, and a financial statement. In addition, the Swedish Energy Agency may ask for a technical status report to be included. The status report must be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency by the date set out in the decision.

Financial statement – companies only

A financial statement must be submitted once or twice a year on a special form provided by the Swedish Energy Agency or downloaded from the Agency's web site (www.energimyndigheten.se). The statement must be submitted by the date set out in the decision.

Final report

The final report must set out the results of the project and must contain a description of project implementation and achievement of objectives. The report must also include a summary of the results of the project in English (up to 200 words). The report must be submitted to the Swedish Energy Agency by the date set out in the decision.

A special final financial statement must be submitted by the date set out in the decision, on a special form provided by the Swedish Energy Agency or downloaded from the Agency's web site (www.energimyndigheten.se).

Questionnaire

At the end of each year, funding recipients must fill in a questionnaire and return it to the Swedish Energy Agency. We collect data from all funding recipients on the government's behalf, so we can present a number of results as indicators in our annual report.

§ 5 Changes

Significant changes to the project and cost plan approved by the Swedish Energy Agency must be notified in advance to the Swedish Energy Agency for inspection and approval. The funding recipient must immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency if serious circumstances arise potentially causing the project to be cancelled, delayed, etc. The funding recipient is required to provide immediate notification of name and address changes.

§ 6 Publication

The results of the project must be published. This must follow international best practice in the publishing of research results.

The funding recipient is entitled to protect the results with patents or other intellectual property rights, and may if necessary delay publication until any applications for such property rights have been lodged with the relevant patent authorities. The Swedish Energy Agency must be informed if the funding recipient intends to protect the results in this way. Applications to the patent authorities must be lodged without delay. If the funding recipient wishes to delay publication for any reason other than the above or to decline to publish particular results, the Swedish Energy Agency's written approval must be obtained in each individual case.

In any presentation of the project, it must be stated that the work was supported by the Swedish Energy Agency.

§ 7 Rights to results

The funding recipient or the right-holder of the results has the commercial use rights to the results of the project and is entitled to release or transfer the rights to other.

If rights to the results of the project are transferred to a company engaged in economic activities, compensation equivalent to the market price of the rights must be paid (universities and colleges only).

§ 8 Right of scrutiny

The Swedish Energy Agency or persons appointed by the Swedish Energy Agency (e.g. an authorised auditor) are entitled to scrutinise the work and to view documents which shed light on the technical and financial development of the project. To enable scrutiny, the Swedish Energy Agency is entitled to issue special reporting instructions.

The Swedish Energy Agency is also entitled to follow up completed projects by requesting follow-up reports, which must be laid out and submitted according to the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions. Such reports may be requested three times over a ten year period counting from the date of the final report.

§ 9 Changes to the decision

At the funding recipient's request, the Swedish Energy Agency may allow changes to be made to the project if compelling reasons are given.

§ 10 Revocation of the decision

The Swedish Energy Agency may decide to withhold unspent funding or to take back funds which have been paid but not yet incurred, if:

- a) the conditions on which the project was financed have changed
- b) the project is not run as agreed in the project plan
- c) there is no prospect of achieving satisfactory results in the project within a reasonable time (for example due to major changes in circumstances or the

competitive environment) or there is doubt that the project will continue as planned (for example due to insolvency if the funding recipient is a company)

d) the funding recipient fails to sign and return to the Swedish Energy Agency a copy of the conditions document.

§ 11 Recovery of paid funds

Paid funds plus interest of 8 % (eight per cent) above the current reference interest rate may be recovered with immediate effect if:

a) the funding recipient fails to submit the reports laid down in § 4

b) the funding recipient uses the funding for purposes other than stated in the agreed project plan

b) the project is not run as agreed in the project plan

d) the funding recipient otherwise fails to meet its obligations in the conditions document or the special conditions in the decision.

§ 12 Withholding of funding

The Swedish Energy Agency is entitled to suspend further payment of funds while it decides whether to refuse payment or recover released funds as described in paragraphs 10 and 11. Such suspension of further payment of funds may also include payments to other projects managed by the same institution, company or equivalent administrative unit if the Swedish Energy Agency so decides.

§ 13 EU state funding rules

It is a condition of the funding that the funding initiatives may be revoked or changed and the funding recovered if the European Commission, in a decision which has become final, or the Court of Justice of the European Union finds that the funding conflicts with Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The decision to revoke or change the funding initiatives will be taken by the government. The conditions for repayment of funding will be determined for each individual case.

Consent under the Swedish Personal Data Act and consent to the release of information.

The Swedish Energy Agency releases information about projects financed by the Agency on the Agency's web site www.energimyndigheten.se. The general public can use the web site to search for information about ongoing and completed research projects using various search terms including research subject, research organisation, project title, project manager.

By signing the conditions, the project manager consents to the release of personal data (name and organisation) and the authorised signatory consents to the release, to the general public on the Agency's web site, of non-confidential information and reports arising in the project. The funding recipient is responsible for

obtaining the copyright holder's authorisation for such release and for ensuring that the copyright holder has the right to give consent in each individual case.

Public documents and confidentiality

All correspondence and emails to the Swedish Energy Agency are in principle public documents. This means that the general public and the media are entitled to request access to the content. Correspondence and decisions sent by the Swedish Energy Agency are also public documents. The right to access public documents is a principle of freedom of information.

Under the Swedish Freedom of Information and Secrecy Act, however, the Swedish Energy Agency cannot disclose information which is subject to confidentiality. This means that a document or certain information in a document may be protected by confidentiality. A confidentiality test is therefore carried out before a document is disclosed in each individual case.

Confidentiality applies to information about an individual's business or work circumstances, inventions or research results if he or she is expected to suffer a loss if these are revealed.