

Request for grant applications to conduct strategic energy research

The Swedish Energy Agency is requesting applications for grants totalling SEK 17 million to conduct strategic energy research. This third request of the programme focuses on climate policy and sustainable energy systems. The application deadline is 9 March 2016. Strategic Energy Systems is a coordinated programme to research the interplay of various organisations, institutions and other components of energy systems.

The purpose of the programme is to raise awareness about energy systems and contribute to internationally competitive climate and energy system research at Swedish universities, colleges and politically nonaligned institutes, as well as to provide scientific data for the Swedish Energy Agency and other relevant organisations.

Before submitting an application to the Swedish Energy Agency, please read:

- [Förordningen](#)
- [Riktlinjer för naturabidrag](#)

Focus of request: climate policy and sustainable energy systems

Concerted, targeted action and incentives will be required if society is to change course in a way that ensures more efficient use of energy and natural resources and depends increasingly on renewable sources. Sweden is taking a proactive approach at both the national and international levels to create sustainable energy systems. The experience and specific policy tools that Sweden has generated are frequently relevant from an international perspective as well. By sharing the knowledge and skills that it has acquired, Sweden should be able to promote the adoption of new policies in other countries. Similarly, Sweden can learn from the efforts that other countries have made.

Sweden participates in a number of international and multilateral processes that are structuring the commitments and ground rules on the basis of which the various parties and countries are to design and articulate their policies. In addition to the UN Framework of climate negotiations, the multilateral processes include WTO, the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM).

The current request for applications is looking for research projects that shed light on the ways that international climate policy is applied at the practical level by means of incentives (including those that are financial and market-based) that target businesses and other organisations. There is a crying need for research that analyses and discusses the national and international objectives and strategies of the energy, environmental and climate policies pursued by the various parties and

governments, as well as potential synergies and conflicting goals. Such research is relevant at various decision making levels (both nationally and internationally), as well as among and within policy areas (energy, environment, climate, etc.). Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), along with other types of commitments and undertakings, are involved. Analyses of the role played by various organisations, particularly the private sector, in these processes are also important.

The Paris Agreement was signed in December 2015 as part of the UN climate negotiation process. In studying ways for parties to achieve their energy and climate policy objectives, research on the design of emission reduction measures and climate change initiatives, as well as relationships with international financing issues, is vital. Among the terms of particular relevance for this request are transformative change, base lines, tracking, MRV and cooperative approaches.

The request for applications also includes projects that analyse the function of energy and climate policy incentives, such as their efficiency and legitimacy, as well as how they interact to promote or counteract the attainment of stated objectives. The ways that national and regional incentives work in relation to commitments under international regimes are also integral to such considerations. Building knowledge about the impact of incentives and their interactions on areas beyond energy and climate, such as innovation and the labour market, can be of interest. Comparative studies are more than welcome.

The research projects should be able to contribute valuable findings in one or both of the following fields:

- Choices faced by the policymakers of the parties when striving for more efficient use of energy and national resources. Such studies may include ways that Swedish organisation can make a difference internationally while benefitting from the lessons of other countries in order to achieve climate and energy policy objectives.
- The relationship between emission reduction measures and climate change initiatives, as well as relationships to international financing issues (private and public flows).

Period of the projects and support

The request covers projects that will be starting in 2016, no earlier than 1 August. The projects must end no later than 31 December 2018 (the current programme runs from 2014 to 2018). A total of SEK 17 million has been set aside and the Energy Agency is planning to approve 4-6 projects. With respect to projects that include doctoral students, the university or college is fully responsible for financing its third-cycle programmes. The agency can assume responsibility only for research conducted as part of the project between the above dates.

How to apply

Complete an entire application in accordance with [Anvisningar för ansökan](#) and submit it through the Energy Agency's electronic application tool: [E-kanalen](#). Be sure to obtain user privileges to E-kanalen well ahead of time – they may take a few days to go through.

The information you provide through E-kanalen must fully describe the project, including its budget. We will make our decision based on the data you have given us. Attachments that verify the information in the application, including CVs and lists of publications that have been uploaded to E-kanalen, will be regarded as supporting documents.

The principal applicant is to have a doctoral degree or demonstrate long experience as a director of research projects. The application must indicate the percentage of a researcher's time for which financing is requested.

If support has been approved previously or the application is for more than one programme at the agency, that information should also be provided.

Projects that are extensions of previous ones will be assessed on their own merits.

The application deadline is 9 March 2016.

It may take as long as two weeks after the deadline before receipt of your application is confirmed.

Assessing the applications

Only projects that are in line with the terms of the request for applications will be considered. The assessment of a project will be based on its applicability and relevance with regard to energy and policy. It is important that the project be clearly associated with an area or problem of current interest for international climate policy. The application should carefully delineate the research question and describe how it will be addressed through the use of appropriate theories and methodologies. Our assessment will attach particular importance to the skills and abilities of the project team when it comes to implementation in accordance with the theories and methodologies described in the application. We will also assess ways that the findings may be understood and used, given that research and advanced studies within the programme must have the potential to improve the quality and volume of data available to Swedish climate and energy policymakers at both the national and international levels.

Identifying anticipated target groups for the research and including a detailed communication plan are key components of a successful application. Make sure to account for your networks and the potential uses of your research, as well as your capacity for disseminating your results to the general public (popular science). Your application will carry greater weight if you can demonstrate the practical relevance of the project you are proposing.

Because one of our central objectives is to strengthen the skills and international networks of Swedish researchers, international collaborative efforts in which you

are involved will play a key role in our assessments. While our support may also cover costs accrued by your partners abroad, the co-financing they obtain will strengthen your application. The principal applicant must be a Swedish organisation.

Decisions to approve support

Decisions will be made pursuant to the agency's appropriations document and, when applicable, the Ordinance on State Aid to Research, Development and Innovation in the Energy Sector (Swedish Code of Statutes 2008:761).

Projects included in the programme may not start before the appendix of terms and any special conditions have been approved. Funds will be disbursed on the basis of the project's cost plan. Payment will be made without your having submitted a preceding order.

For additional information

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