

Network H+C Call 3
 Funding Application Guidance
Decarbonisation of Heating and Cooling
Project Development Sandpit

Contents

1. Call Headline Details1
 2. About Network H+C.....2
 3. About this Flexible Funding Call.....2
 4. Call Overview and Timeline of Events.....3
 5. Eligibility.....4
 6. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)4
 7. Eligible Costs4
 8. What reporting will be required?4
 9. Further requirements5
 10. FAQ and Contact Us5
 APPENDIX 1:6

1. Call Headline Details

Maximum proposal value	£50,000 at full economic costing (fEC)
Funding level	80% of fEC
Number of awards available in this call	Funding for up to 2 projects
Total available funding across this call	Up to £80,000 (fEC)
Call opens	1 July 2024
Closing date for Expressions of Interest	30 th July 2024 at 16:00 (GMT)
Project duration	6 months
Anticipated project start date	By 1 st November 2024
Anticipated project end date	By 1 st May 2025 latest – no extensions will be permitted past this date

2. About Network H+C

The Network for Heating and Cooling Research to Enable a Net-Zero Carbon Future (H+C Zero Network) has been established by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to maximise the impact of UK-funded research and innovation. It is formed by a research partnership between Durham University, Oxford University, Brunel University London, Heriot-Watt University, University of Leeds and Northumbria University.

The aim of the Network is to facilitate researchers, technology developers, managers, policymakers and funders to come together to share their progress, new knowledge and experiences. It also offers seed funding to address key technical, economic, social, environmental and policy challenges.

The Network's focus is on the following five themes which are essential for decarbonising heating and cooling:

Theme 1 Primary engineering technologies and systems for decarbonisation

Theme 2 Underpinning technologies, materials, control, retrofit and infrastructure

Theme 3 Future energy systems and economics

Theme 4 Social impact and end users' perspectives

Theme 5 Policy support and leadership for the transition to net-zero

3. About this Flexible Funding Call

This call aims to foster **new** collaborations between researchers who have **not** previously worked together on a project.

Register your interest

The first step in this process is to register your interest in joining a cohort of researchers keen on forming new collaborations around the topic of the Decarbonisation of Heating and Cooling. Please complete the online form by 16:00 (GMT) on 30th July 2024 [REGISTRATION FORM](#)

When registering your interest, there are 2 ways to be involved.

1. As a project lead – in which case you are invited to submit a project idea
2. As a collaborator on a project

Note that we are seeking to fund areas of research that have not received previous funds from the Network. A list of previous research projects is provided within the Appendix.

Sandpit event

All project ideas will be reviewed and a shortlist of projects to be 'pitched' at a sandpit event on the 15th and 16th August 2024 at Durham University.

The sandpit event will be split into 3 parts.

15th August

1. **Pitching and Voting:** The morning will be dedicated to the pitching of project ideas. These pitches will be voted on by attendees and the successful proposals will move forward to be further developed in the afternoon. At this stage, it is considered that all successful pitches are suitable for funding.
2. **Project development:** In the afternoon attendees will be supported to co-develop project teams and shape the pitches into projects which can be delivered over 6 months.

16th August

3. **Project Awards** – In the morning final project ideas will be presented to a panel of judges who will choose two projects to fund.

After the event, these project teams will then be invited to finalise their 1–2-page proposal by 6th September 2024 for confirmation of funding. This document should detail the aims and objectives, methodology, tasks and deliverables, along with a budget and justification of resources.

***Please note, if you do not attend the sandpit event, you will not be eligible for funding.

4. Call Overview and Timeline of Events

Network H+C is adopting a supportive, flexible approach to identifying new collaborations and project ideas around the topic of Decarbonising Heating and Cooling.

The Network strongly encourages engagement from Early Career Researchers and we encourage all registrants to watch this "[How to pitch](#)" video, which will provide tips and guidance on how to present their project ideas and engage with a prospective project team.

The Network is looking to fund 1-3 projects from this call and based on the funding available, a project proposal is likely to be made up of a 2 – 4 researchers each with a % FTE across the 6 months, along with budget for travel, consumables, and institutional overheads.

The timeline for this call is below:

Date	Activity
1 July 2024	Call opens
30th July 2024 at 16:00 (GMT)	Deadline for registering your interest and submitting project ideas
Week commencing 30th July 2024	Cohort will be confirmed and email introductions will be made
15 th /16 th August 2024	Sandpit event will take place at Durham University (physical event). Accommodation can be booked at Hatfield College here
6 th September 2024 at 16:00 (GMT)	Deadline for 1-2 page approved proposal
1 st May 2025	All projects complete

1 st June 2025	All final invoices submitted
---------------------------	------------------------------

5. Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

- (1) Academics based at a UK institution when carrying out the project.
- (2) Applications are encouraged for projects led by ECRs from groups that are under-represented in heating and cooling related disciplines. We define an ECR as any academic who has been awarded a PhD but has not yet held a research grant of £100,000 or more.
- (3) Network-H+C investigators can apply but will not be considered as PI for the final submitted proposal.

For this call, standard UKRI eligibility rules apply relating to the status of the organisation and the employment status of individuals applying.

For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive UKRI funding, please refer to: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/>

6. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The Network is committed to EDI and this is at the heart of the Network's activities at all levels. The Network recognises the importance of EDI and that the link between diversity and research productivity is well established. It also understands the benefits that can be achieved through building an inclusive partnership within a multi-disciplinary collaboration with representatives, both academic and industrial stakeholders, across the five themes which underpin the Network.

7. Eligible Costs

Applicants must discuss their applications with their local research office and obtain project costings on the institutions standard EPSRC template.

Eligible costs are in line with EPSRC - UKRI terms and conditions: [Costs you can apply for – EPSRC – UKRI](#)

Please note that large equipment cannot be supported by this call.

8. What reporting will be required?

- It is anticipated that a project will be of 6-months duration, during which an interim report will be required at the end of month 3, detailing progress.
- A final report will be required within one month of the end of each funded application covering the project outcomes, publications and any future plans.
- A final expenditure statement will be required within one month of the end of each awarded project noting the actual costs at 100% and 80% fEC.

9. Further requirements

- **Dissemination:** You must be willing to contribute to the overall aims of Network H+C and engage in building Network H+C's ethos into your project. Furthermore, you will be required to provide an executive summary of the project, to be published on our website: <https://net-zero-research.co.uk/network-hc/>.
- **Webinars:** Successful applicants will be required to participate in our webinar programme to showcase their project funded by this scheme.
- **Publication:** it is a condition of funding that each project leads to the submission of a journal publication.

10. FAQ and Contact Us

If you have a question, please do not hesitate to contact the Network by emailing Jacki.Bell@durham.ac.uk

APPENDIX 1:

Previously funded projects

Award 1: - *Heat4All: Economics-informed optimisation model for future-equitable-decarbonised-distributed heating systems*

- Led by Dr Lirong Liu, University of Surrey

Award 2: *Distributed green hydrogen for building heating and cooling decarbonisation using circular economy and AI control*

- Led by Dr Lu Xing, Northumbria University

Award 3: *Whole-life heat decarbonisation of existing campus building*

- Led by Dr Julio Bros-Williamson, University of Edinburgh

Award 4: *Solid-solid phase change materials for thermal energy storage applications*

- Led by Dr Sumit Konar, University of Lincoln

Award 5: *Pump Priming*

- Led by Dr Jake Barnes, University of Oxford

Award 6: *Increasing urban overheating risk from cooling decarbonisation by heat pumps*

- Led by Prof Vincent Luo, Cardiff University

Award 7: *Impact of REMA on the electrification of heat*

- Led by Dr Andrew Lyden, University of Edinburgh

The final reports from all of these projects can be found on the Net Zero Research Network website here: [Our Network | Net Zero Research Network \(net-zero-research.co.uk\)](https://net-zero-research.co.uk)