**Scotland Beyond Net Zero**

**Seed Fund Application form 2025**

Please complete this form and submit by 5pm, Friday 23rd May 2025.You should submit this to [k.symons@ed.ac.uk](mailto:k.symons@ed.ac.uk) and [sbnz@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sbnz@ed.ac.uk). **Your email *must* contain the phrase ‘seed\_fund\_application\_2025’ in the subject line** and ensure any attachments (e.g. budget, letters of support, CVs) include your project title and the name of at least one lead applicant in the text.

Please note that this application will be assessed by an interdisciplinary team who will not necessarily be specialists in your topic, so we advise that you use straightforward language to describe your project and explain any specialist terms.

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| **APPLICATION DETAILS** | |
| Lead applicant name, job title and institution (University 1) |  |
| Email address for lead applicant 2 |  |
| Lead applicant name, job title and institution (University 2) |  |
| Email address for lead applicant 2 | *(please add further lines if applying across more than two universities)* |
| Project title |  |
| Proposed start date | *(please note projects should start on or after 1st August 2025)* |
| Proposed end date |  |
| Total amount requested in GBP |  |
| Allocation of funding across partners | *(please note the panel is likely to favour roughly even splits across each partner)* |

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| **PROJECT DETAILS AND AWARD CRITERIA** |
| **Please provide a non-technical description of your proposed project (max 350 words, not scored)** |
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| **Criteria 1: Quality and relevance (max 350 words, worth 25% of score)**  Your proposal should clearly explain the objectives of your research or collaboration activities, how you will go about fulfilling them, and likely results and insights. Your proposal should strongly align with Scotland Beyond Net Zero strategic priorities and the goals of the seed fund. Research should also align with one or more of the Scotland Beyond Net Zero themes, and this should also be clearly described in the proposal. Your proposal will be assessed on overall alignment with the seed fund’s priorities, along with the soundness of the research concept and its potential to lead to future high-impact collaborative research. |
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| **Criteria 2: Impact (max 350 words, worth 25% of score)**  Please explain how your proposed research or collaboration activity would contribute to the relevant field of research and to Scotland’s transition to net zero. We also want to know about your pathways to impact - if your research and collaboration were to be scaled up, what contributions would you make to Scotland’s transition net zero (and beyond), and how would you achieve that impact? We understand this is a relatively small award so are also interested to hear about potential future impact were your collaboration to continue. Your proposal should also explain how the findings will be communicated to different audiences (e.g. blogs, workshops) as well as any proposed academic outputs. If your application is successful, we will ask you to write short summary of the research for SBNZ communications along with other proposed dissemination. |
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| **Criteria 3: Co-creation of research across partnership (max 350 words, worth 25% of score)**  Your application must propose a partnership between **at least one other participating SBNZ university member plus a partner from a non-university organisation** (e.g. industry, community group, local or government). This can be a brand-new partnership, or can be new activity between partners who have worked together before. You should set out how your partnership will work together to co-create relevant research challenges and activities.  You should explain and provide evidence for the proposed partnership arrangements, and explain how the partnership relates to research goals. Evidence for partnership arrangements with non-university partners can range from letters of support and commitment to participate in the research, to commitments to contribute to funding the research – this will be assessed on the basis of appropriateness to the specific proposal. You can briefly outline the support in the application and attach additional information (such as letters of support) if you wish. You should also explain how the project will develop or strengthen a durable collaboration, for example a brief overview of any long-term plans for any further engagement, plans to scale up the research, or plans to attract further funding. |
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| **Criteria 4: Project plan and costs (max 350 words, worth 25% of score)**  The proposal should provide a credible project plan with milestones that are achievable with the budget and timeframe available. The application should explain the role of each partner in the delivery of the project, and each partner should have a valid role which is supported by resources allocated in the budget. You may attach separate CVs if you wish, though please ensure you briefly explain the person’s role in the project in this section. The proposal should also include a realistic and detailed timeline and budget which is deliverable by the end of July 2025.  The budget should clearly set out the resources requested by each university partner, as well as the total award requested. You may attach a separate budget table if you wish. We also invite you to briefly explain here how your project will be compliant with your university’s policy on sustainability in research and with priority areas of Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice <https://wellcome.org/who-we-are/positions-and-statements/environmental-sustainability-concordat> where those areas are relevant to your proposal. |
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Finally, we are interested in understanding the diversity of applications to our fund, and improving the inclusivity of our community. To help us do this, we invite you to fill in this survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/rqstdGNWa9>

The information you submit will be anonymous and will not be linked to your application in any way. You do not have to fill in this survey if you do not want to.