



Women in Climate Tech FAQs

What is the purpose of the Women in Climate Tech call for innovation?

At CICE, we recognize that there is a gender imbalance in venture funding that can only be corrected through sustained collective effort and are taking action to secure our low carbon future. Our goal is to foster an environment where all individuals, regardless of gender, have equitable opportunities to participate and succeed.

Who can apply for the Women in Climate Tech call for innovation?

This program is focused on B.C. climate tech companies with founders and co-founders who identify as women; however, CICE will also consider applications from companies with those who identify as women in C-Suite positions and who have equity within the company.

CICE will also consider applications from founders of these groups who are based outside B.C. with a project in the province. A founder is defined as an individual who has formed or established the business and holds equity shares within the business.

CICE is committed to enabling meaningful gender equity in climate tech. Informed by existing research, this call focuses on individuals who identify as women. Additionally, CICE is dedicated to exploring pathways to support non-binary and other gender diverse individuals. We invite founders who identify as non-binary or otherwise gender diverse in climate tech to apply to this opportunity and connect with us to share their innovative work.

What are the key challenges faced by women founders in the cleantech sector?

Key challenges faced by women founders in the cleantech sector include limited access to funding, fewer networking opportunities, and barriers to mentorship and support. Addressing these challenges is part of the support framework of the Women in Climate Tech call for innovation.

How is this program different from other CICE funding initiatives?

Although all of CICE's funding initiatives hope to connect and work with underrepresented groups, this call is designated to fill the gap of women-led companies in climate tech.

How can I apply for the Women in Climate Tech call for innovation?

Applications open on November 5th until November 28th, 2024. The apply now link [link once live] on the call page will bring you to the application. It includes detailing your project through short written questions, and a 5-minute video discussing your project.



Are CICE funding applications somewhat similar across various funding calls?

For each call for innovation, CICE uses the same application process of a short, written expression of interest and a 5-minute video detailing the proposed project. The focus of each call may vary, and innovators are encouraged to highlight specific aspects of their developing projects that align with the call's strategic objectives.

How much funding is available through this call for innovation?

CICE will provide up to \$3 million in non-dilutive funding across all recipients. To maximize impact, this funding will be distributed among multiple projects selected through this call.

What are the minimum and maximum total amounts that can be requested?

While there are no strict minimum or maximum funding amounts, CICE aims to support multiple projects through this opportunity, so requests under \$3 million are preferred. The average funding per project is \$700,000, and funding requests above 50% of project costs will not be prioritized.

What will the funding cover? E.g. prototyping of new equipment, R&D, employee salaries?

Project funds can be used to pay salaries, consultants, and reasonable direct costs related to the project proposed in the application. Funds can also be used to secure demonstration sites (including the operating costs of demonstrations, and land or lease costs), build prototypes, integrate system components, demonstrate pilot production or scale up manufacturing.

Project funds cannot be used to enhance normal business operational capabilities, purchase capital equipment, perform capital or leasehold improvements or purchase furniture or other equipment to be used in the routine course of business. Project funds cannot be used for advertising or other forms of business promotion. Human resource costs cannot be 'marked up' to include blanket overheads.

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

As part of its mandate, CICE supports the development of technologies between the [Technology Readiness Level \(TRL\)](#) 4-9. CICE will prioritize solutions that offer significant co-benefits, including carbon reduction, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and enhancing community resilience and socio-economic benefits through emission abatement efforts. Priority will be given to solutions that demonstrate potential use cases within CICE's four focus areas: battery and energy storage, carbon management, low carbon hydrogen, and low carbon fuels.

Are projects/technologies currently in development eligible?

Project activities may include, but are not limited to, demonstrations and pilot projects, innovative implementation solutions, novel linkage of system components, mitigation or monitoring technologies, and business model innovations.



My company is based outside of B.C., but we have a project in the province. Are we eligible?

CICE will consider applications from companies based outside of B.C. if the project is located within the province. Applicants must demonstrate a tangible positive impact for B.C., such as job creation or emissions reductions.

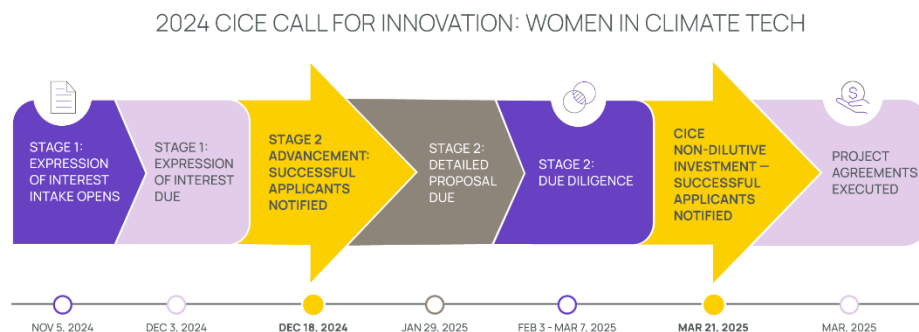
My company is based in B.C., but our project is outside of the province. Are we eligible?

Companies based in B.C. with projects outside the province are eligible. Priority will be given to projects where both the solution and company are based in B.C.

Do I have to be a founder or co-founder to apply?

Yes, this program is focused on B.C. climate tech companies with founders and co-founders who identify as women. A founder is defined as an individual who has formed or established the business and holds equity shares within the business. CICE will consider companies with those who identify as women in C-Suite positions and who hold equity within the company.

What is the expected timeline for the Women in Climate Tech call for innovation?



What is the expected timeline for investment dispersal?

Once the successful projects are notified on March 21st, CICE will collaborate with the companies to establish a milestone plan prior to signing a funding agreement. As each project milestone is achieved, the corresponding portion of the investment will be dispersed.

Is there a required project start date?

To be eligible for this call for innovation, projects must start within 6 months of signing a project funding agreement with CICE (no later than September 2025).

Is there a required project length?



Projects are evaluated based on their specific needs; however, the maximum project duration should not exceed two years

What is the role of partnership from this investment? Is it a cost-share partnership?

This funding opportunity is a non-dilutive investment. Recipients are required to meet designated milestones that we establish together, but no equity is taken in the company.

Can partnerships or consortia of companies apply? Can larger enterprises support and partner with start-ups for this funding opportunity?

Consortia of companies working together to complete a project are acceptable and welcomed. In such cases, it is recommended that a single lead company should become the applicant. B.C.-based companies partnered with start-ups are also welcome to apply.

I've received funding from previous CICE calls for innovation. Can I still apply?

Yes! We'd be happy to hear about your new projects or follow-on funding opportunities.

What types of projects and/or companies have you funded through previous calls for innovation?

We fund companies with clean energy and climate solutions that focus on decarbonization and commercialization. Visit our website to learn more about CICE's funded projects:

<https://cice.ca/projects/>

I don't fit the criteria for this Women in Climate Tech call for innovation but we meet the other criteria. Can I speak to someone about other opportunities for funding?

Sign up for email updates and follow CICE on social media to stay up to date on what calls are being offered! CICE launches a variety of directed calls, as well as open calls to see what innovation is in the market, with a focus on our four focus areas: battery and energy storage, carbon management, low carbon fuels, and low carbon hydrogen. [Check out the current funding opportunities here.](#)

How can I support this call for innovation and what CICE is doing to advance B.C. climate tech solutions?

To innovate and realize solutions for gender equity in climate, we believe we need to build on the knowledge within B.C. to quickly incorporate past learnings and challenge current barriers. To achieve this outcome, we are actively seeking partnerships to finalize the scope, reach the right audiences, compound the funding, bring a diversity of perspectives to selection process, and mobilize the community to ensure the selected participants success.

Who can I contact for more information?



Contact us with any questions at womeninclimatetech@cice.ca.