CICE

B.C. CENTRE
FOR INNOVATION
& CLEAN ENERGY

Call for Innovation Applicant Guide

February 2025

B.C. Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy

info@cice.ca

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Introduction

To grow our economy and create jobs, we need to fast-track solutions to the toughest decarbonization challenges—innovations that can scale up, be widely adopted, and exported globally. That's exactly what the British Columbia Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy (CICE) exists to do.

CICE is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that funds the development, commercialization, and scaling of made-in-B.C. climate and clean energy solutions – from Canada to the world. We unite B.C. innovators, leading corporations, governments, investors, academia, communities, not-for-profits, and Indigenous partners to advance economic prosperity, competitiveness, and sustainability through innovation. Since launching in October 2021, CICE has become a proven catalyst for early-stage investment and the scale-up of B.C.'s leading climate technologies. We've invested $39 million into 59 projects valued at over $195 million, helping local innovators build a more sustainable, prosperous future.

Our startups have raised $110 million in seed and series A funding, and we have catalyzed $280 million for our portfolio companies. CICE makes non-dilutive investments in climate technology projects across the following focus areas:

FOCUS AREAS

CARBON MANAGMENT | LOW CARBON HYDROGEN | LOW CARBON FUELS | BATTERY & ENERGY STORAGE

This Applicant Guide describes the CICE February 2025 Call for Innovation, its objectives and limitations, as well as application and evaluation processes. This document is intended to provide guidance to applicants and is not in itself binding in any way.

Call for innovation priorities

At CICE, our top priority is identifying high-impact projects that accelerate the reduction of global greenhouse gases (GHGs), while creating meaningful jobs and economic prosperity.

Our second priority is supporting B.C. innovators—whether they're advancing new technologies or business model innovations—as they scale their solutions to global markets, amplifying both economic and climate impact.

For this Call, CICE has identified the following areas of priority within each of our focus areas:

LOW CARBON BIO & SYNTHETIC FUELS	**Advanced biofuels:** Technology and business model innovations to diversify feedstocks and integrate value chains for advanced biofuel production with an identified customer. **Biocarbon:** Conversion technologies that accelerate the commercial production of biocarbon products including biochar, bio-oil, and syngas with an identified market.
BATTERY & ENERGY STORAGE	**Performance and Sustainability:** Innovative solutions that boost the competitiveness and sustainability of battery and energy storage systems by enhancing operational performance, safety, and supply chain processes, and reducing environmental impact through reuse, upcycling, or recycling.
LOW CARBON HYDROGEN	**Promoting hydrogen end-use:** Use of hydrogen, hydrogen derivatives, and co-products of hydrogen production in applications that de-risks hydrogen adoption and creates demand.
CARBON MANAGEMENT	**Wildfire:** Solutions across the value chain that address predictive modeling, early detection, land management, firefighting, spread halting, fire-resistant materials, increased forest and community resiliency, and other wildfire innovation technologies and practices.

This innovation call presents an opportunity for B.C. innovators in the climate technology sector to validate and scale their world-class solutions in any of the focus areas outlined above. CICE invites proposals for innovative climate solutions from all qualified applicants for any solutions that meet our objectives.

Project funding

Historically, CICE has awarded an average of $700,000 per project to applicants applying through our innovation calls. In total, CICE contributed close to $18 million in the calendar year 2024. Funding for this Call may be distributed between multiple projects at our discretion, depending upon the strength and number of proposals received. CICE reserves the right not to fund any projects.

Who can apply?

CICE will accept applications for project funding from incorporated organizations with a B.C. presence. Companies must demonstrate effective management, operational capacity, and sufficient financial backing to complete their project and advance their commercial potential.

Consortia of companies working together to complete a project are acceptable and welcomed. In such cases a single lead company must become the applicant.

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What projects are eligible?

Eligible projects include both new technologies and innovations in business processes that are at a **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4-9,** ranging from early stage of development to early commercialization.

Eligibility is based on activities that will accelerate the technology development and broader implementation and will enable the testing, validation, demonstration, development, commercialization, and scaling of innovative solutions in one or more of the CICE focus areas listed in the introduction.

Project activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Integrating and testing components in a laboratory or simulated environment to validate or improve technology reliability
- Demonstrating prototypes or system models in operational environments to enhance technological maturity
- Demonstrating and implementing plans to scale technology production
- Linking system components to create complete solutions
- Developing standards to enable technology deployment
- Creating business partnerships to demonstrate system solutions and conducting demonstration projects with potential customers.

How can project funds be used?

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), 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.

Project evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated by CICE staff and subject matter experts. The following lists the seven major decision criteria which will be applied to project proposals:

1. **Strategic Alignment**

- The project furthers the commercialization of a technology or business model innovation with potential to significantly reduce GHG emissions in the province and achieve substantial global GHG reductions when scaled.
- The technology or business model innovation is validated, developed and commercialized by either a B.C.-based company or through a project completed in B.C.

2. **Portfolio Match**

   - The project fits within the CICE portfolio and complements its balance of risk / reward profile of CICE investments.
   - The opportunity is within a TRL 4-9 and within one or more of the CICE focus areas.

3. **Team Strength**

   - Application presents a strong management team with the required skills for growth aspiration.
   - The team possesses a depth of knowledge on what is required to successfully scale their solution.

4. **Technology Viability**

   - The overall plan for technology development is realistic.
   - Barriers have been identified and plans to overcome barriers have clear and measurable targets.
   - Regulatory, permitting, and IP ownership issues are addressed to enable project implementation.

5. **Corporate Readiness**

   - Teams have a finance framework in place to partially fund and scale the opportunity.
   - No encumbrances or other liabilities exist to prevent implementation and scaling.
   - Planned partnership agreements are in place.

6. **Plan Readiness**

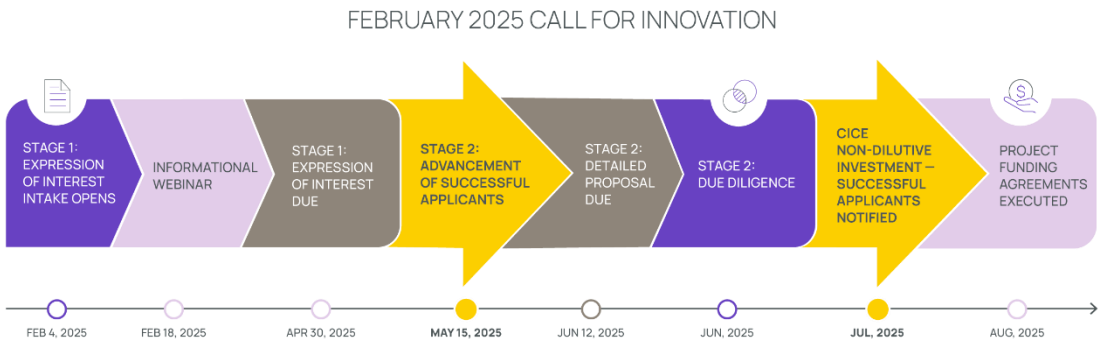
   - Project outcomes lead to a scaling opportunity for the business.
   - A development plan, including assumptions for market readiness and financing, is in place.

7. **Social Impact**

   - Overall environmental, social and governance impact benefits are shown, including impact on Indigenous communities and enhancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Application process

A staged application process will be used to funnel project proposals from initial inquiry to final evaluation, as outlined below.



STAGE 1: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The first stage of proposal includes an expression of interest that requires a short video and provision of basic details about the proposed project, the proponent advancing the project and the alignment with CICE objectives and criteria. Expressions of interest will be submitted via a web-based application form that will be available February 4th, 2025. At this stage CICE expects submissions to involve non-confidential disclosures submitted without a requirement for any non-disclosure agreement.

We encourage participants to refer to the project evaluation criteria as guidance in preparing for submission. To help you and your team prepare for the online submission, a list of information to submit in the EOI is provided for your reference at the end of this document.

More about your video submission

Proponents are invited to submit a 5-minute video that provides an overview of the project, including:

a. What innovation are you developing?

b. What exactly are you proposing for funding?

c. Who is the customer?

d. What is your go-to-market strategy?

e. What impact do you expect your innovation to have (or what impact has it had) on GHG emissions reduction or removal or the enablement of GHG reduction or removal?

f. What makes your company capable of successfully commercializing and scaling this innovation?

g. What existing project funding is in place?

h. How will you move your innovation towards scale?

Videos will be uploaded via the web-based application form.

Stage 1 evaluation will consist of a preliminary review of proposal details to ensure eligibility against program requirements. Eligible projects will undergo a competitive review of the proposed projects against the CICE evaluation criteria as well as in comparison to all other project proposals submitted. In some cases, we may contact the applicants to request additional information related to the project proposal. A limited number of project proposals will be invited to execute a confidentiality agreement and proceed to Stage 2.

STAGE 2: DETAILED PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

This stage includes preparation and submission of a detailed proposal by the proponents, detailed due diligence, third-party assessments conducted by experts in their relative fields and multiple engagements with the CICE project review team.

CICE will provide Stage 2 applicants with a document template for the detailed proposal submission. Applicants will be required to enter into a confidentiality agreement with CICE before confidential or detailed information on the project is submitted.

Upon review of the written submission, CICE may elect to conduct a review meeting with project proponents and request further documentation to support the project proposal.

Project proposals will be reviewed against CICE evaluation criteria and will be ranked competitively with other Stage 2 project proposals. CICE and their third-party reviewers will assess proposals independently and in relation to each other to identify projects most aligned with the strategic objectives of this call for innovation. Multiple projects may be funded, the amounts determined by the requirements of each project.

Successful project proposals will be subject to a final stage of due diligence review after which they may proceed to Stage 3.

STAGE 3: DECISION COMMUNICATED

Successful project proponents will work with CICE to develop and agree on a contribution agreement which will identify obligations of all parties and will become a binding agreement governing the relationship between CICE and the project proponent(s). The contribution agreements will also include key milestones for fund release and reporting requirements.

Proposed schedule

Date	Event
February 4th, 2025	Program Start Date – Open to receive Expression of Interest
February 18th, 2025	Informational Webinar
April 30th, 2025	Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest
May 15th, 2025	Notification of Stage 1 outcome, invitation for successful projects to advance to Stage 2
June 12th, 2025	Deadline for submission of detailed proposals
July 2025	Stage 3 applicants notified of status
August 2025	Stage 3 funding agreement completion

Information for the expression of interest

General Information

Company Name, Incorporation, Address, Website
Project Title, Short Summary, and location
Focus Areas
Main Contact and details

Company Overview

Applicant Description
Technology/Innovation Principle
Technology Baseline Reference
Company Size
Management/Project Team Structure

Project Specific Data

Project description, status, and location
Project partners
Technology readiness level (Current and expected at the end of the project)
IP ownership Status
Regulatory status of project
Commercial readiness level of project
Diversity and inclusion of project

Effect on GHG Emissions

How does this project/technology reduce and/or remove GHG emissions (enablement is included)?
What is the project level GHG emissions impact and over what period?
What is the scaled level GHG emission impact and over what period?
How does this innovation compare to the technology baseline on emissions?
Indicate how GHG emissions claims are validated, if any validation?

Project Cost and Funding Request

Project Total Cost
Fund Requested from CICE
Funding Requested Start Date
Funding Estimated End Date
Remaining funds status