



VORZEIGEREGION  
ENERGIE



# Guidelines Energy Model Region

Call 2021

RTI initiative by the Climate and Energy Fund



Vienna, April 2021

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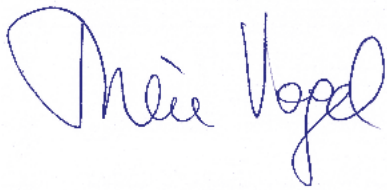
# Preface

The goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2040 calls for a radical restructuring of the energy system. This enormous challenge can only be mastered with innovation. Existing and new technologies must be linked across sectors, new business models developed and new stakeholders involved.

As part of the “Energy Model Region” initiative, Austrian climate protection innovations are developed and demonstrated in large-scale real-world applications with international visibility. The initiative strengthens energy research in Austria and underpins it with a social and systemic dimension.

This is designed to establish Austria as a lead market for innovative energy solutions at the international level. It allows Austrian technology providers to maintain and further expand their competitive edge, while at the same time creating jobs in future-oriented industries.

We invite you to submit your innovative project and join us in shaping Austria’s successful future.



Theresia Vogel  
Managing Director  
Climate and Energy Fund



Ingmar Höbarth  
Managing Director  
Climate and Energy Fund

# 1.0 Key Items at a Glance

**Tabelle 1: Call overview, selection process, budget, submission deadlines, language**

Further information	Further details
<b>Brief description</b>	<p>The Energy Model Region serves to develop and demonstrate model solutions for intelligent, safe and affordable energy and transport systems for the future based on innovative energy technologies from Austria.</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of an international evaluation panel, three model regions were selected in the 2017 call: <i>Green Energy Lab</i>, <i>NEFI – New Energy for Industry and WIVA P&amp;G – Hydrogen Initiative Model Region Austria Power &amp; Gas</i>.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Funding for each model region is limited to EUR 40 million. Any funding beyond this amount will only be covered subject to availability.</p>
<b>Eligible projects</b>	Research, development and demonstration projects which make a direct and substantial contribution to solving the problems addressed by the three selected model regions and support the implementation and further development of their overall strategies.
<b>Technology readiness levels</b>	Model regions aimed at reaching technology readiness levels 8 to 9 at the end of the project will be given priority in this RTI initiative. Sub-projects of a model region may also aim at lower technology readiness levels (primarily 5-9).
<b>Budget</b>	Min. EUR 23 million. The objective is to reach a funding volume of EUR 40 million with additional funds from the 2022 budget.
<b>Selection process</b>	2-stage process with hearing
<b>Submission deadlines</b>	Stage 1 – interim report cluster projects: 30 September 2021, 12:00 noon  Stage 2 – funding applications for sub-projects: 4 March 2022, 12:00 noon, following positive assessment of the interim report

<p><b>Sustainability</b></p>	<p>Future-oriented research and development seeks to achieve the current global, European, national and regional goals that are designed to put us on a path to a sustainable future. The integration of sustainability aspects in research and development projects generates new knowledge which is essential for supporting ecological, social and economic transformation processes. Responsible research funding therefore supports social adaptation, learning and decision-making processes that are of relevance for industry and science and promote their sustainable development.</p> <p>This call requires applicants to address the key sustainability goals to which the proposed project makes a concrete positive contribution. The planned sustainability effects must be described in the application and taken into account in the research design. What are the underlying sustainability initiatives and measures?</p> <p>The call makes reference to the global Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs) and the European elements of the EU Green Deal. This is supplemented by additional national goals specified in the Government Programme 2020, including climate neutrality, efficient use of resources and implementation of a clean circular economy.</p> <p>More detailed information can be found in the Technical Guidelines on the <a href="#">FFG website</a>.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> Applicants should cite only those sustainability goals and aspects to which the project makes a substantial contribution and which are relevant for the content, implementation and exploitation of the project. Citing a large number of sustainability goals will not necessarily lead to a better assessment of the project.</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>
<p><b>Online information</b></p>	<p><a href="#">FFG Energy Model Region website</a></p>

## 1.1 Funding instruments for sub-projects

The RTI initiative “Energy Model Region” is carried out with research and environmental funding made available by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC).

The research funding instruments include “Cooperative R&D Projects of Experimental Development” and “Flagship Projects”. Applications are submitted to and processed by the FFG.

Demonstration facilities which have a relevant environmental impact (reduction in energy consumption, innovative renewable energy supply, etc.) can apply for funding under the 2015 Funding Guidelines for Environmental Assistance in Austria (UFI). Applications are submitted to and processed by KPC.

**IMPORTANT: As a rule, UFI funding should account for around 30 % of the total funding requested for the relevant Energy Model Region.**

**Table 2: Overview of instruments for sub-projects**

Instrument	Cooperative R&D Project	Flagship Project	Demonstration Facility Environmental Assistance in Austria
<b>Max. funding [EUR)</b>	Experimental Development	Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development Both research categories can be included in one project; <b>Industrial Research must not exceed 50% of total project costs.</b>	Experimental Development
<b>Förderschwerpunkt Talente</b>	100,000 to max. 2 million	min. 2 million	max. 4,5 million
<b>Funding rate</b>	35 – 60%	35 – 85%	Up to 40 % A 10% bonus may be granted for eco-innovations based on recommendations of the evaluation panel.
<b>Project duration</b>	max. 3 years	2 to max. 3 <sup>1</sup> years	Not applicable
<b>Cooperation required</b>	Yes	Yes	No

<sup>1</sup> In contrast to the maximum project duration of 4 years specified in the Guideline for Flagship Projects, projects under this call are limited to a maximum duration of 3 years. All other regulations of the Guideline for Flagship Projects continue to apply.

## 1.2 Process and submission

Projects are selected in a two-stage process consisting of an interim report on the progress of the model region's cluster project (stage 1) and the funding applications for the associated sub-projects (stage 2).

In **stage 1**, an **interim report on the cluster project** must be submitted by the cluster coordinator of the relevant model region. The report must be sent to the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) via [eCall](#) by 30 September 2021, 12:00 noon at the latest.

The interim report is designed to preselect and describe the planned sub-projects. This is done in coordination with the designated cluster coordinator in a transparent process defined by the relevant model region. The involvement of additional partners in the cluster project is encouraged.

In **stage 2**, funding applications may only be submitted for those sub-projects of a model region which are assigned to a **positively assessed** cluster project **interim report** and have been **recommended for submission to stage 2 by the evaluation panel**. The funding applications of the sub-projects are submitted in coordination with the relevant cluster coordinator.

### PLEASE NOTE:

If the application does not meet the formal requirements for the submission of sub-projects in accordance with the conditions and criteria of the relevant funding instrument and the call, and if the deficiencies are not rectifiable, the application will be **excluded from the further procedure** and will be **formally rejected without exception** in accordance with the principle of equal treatment of applications.

A detailed check list specifying the conditions and criteria of the relevant funding instrument and the call can be found at the beginning of the relevant application forms (Project Description). Funding may only be granted if it has an incentive effect. In stage 2 of the selection process, all project partners must therefore declare via eCall whether the funding leads to a change in their behaviour.

# 2.0 Strategic Focus and Goals

## 2.1 Programme strategy

The aim of the Federal Government is to achieve climate neutrality for Austria by 2040. Climate neutral means that greenhouse gas emissions are completely or almost completely avoided and residual emissions are compensated by negative emissions.

Energy innovations are required in order to implement this technological and economic change in a socially responsible manner.

With its focus on developing highly efficient and intelligent energy systems based predominantly on renewables, Austria has quickly and successfully positioned itself as a leading energy pioneer, building up technological expertise and developing demonstration projects of international repute. The RTI initiative “Energy Model Region” is intended to build on previous findings, existing technologies and solutions, as well as completed pilot projects, in order to drive forward development, system integration, and market entry. This strategy is designed to support and strengthen Austria’s leading position in this field, and to open up new opportunities for Austrian stakeholders.

The programme is directed towards all stakeholders engaged in research, development and innovation relevant to the energy transition and its contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2040.

## 2.2 Programme objectives

Energy model regions use innovative Austrian energy technologies to develop and demonstrate model solutions for tomorrow’s intelligent, safe and affordable energy and transport systems. They demonstrate the efficient coordination of generation, consumption, system management and storage, in an overall system optimised for all the market participants, and with up to 100% renewable energy supply from largely regional sources. Optimisation measures must include a reduction in the use of non-renewable resources, the integration of renewable energies and economic investments along the entire value chain.

This focuses on the key challenges of the energy transition, namely integrating the highest possible proportion of renewable energies, flexibilisation, a variety of security aspects, appropriate business processes and attractive services and business models, establishing new cooperative partnerships and including new stakeholders, as well as efficient technologies and system integration.

Designed to run over about eight years, the long-term RTI initiative is intended to help secure and extend value creation in the field of innovative energy technologies in Austria, based on robust framework conditions and funding opportunities.

Against this background and to achieve the objectives of the Climate and Energy Fund, the following **3 objectives** were defined for the **Energy Model Region initiative** in accordance with the strategic focus of the programme. Substantially contributing to achieving these programme objectives is a precondition for a positive evaluation.



**Objective 1:****Development and model use of local energy and energy-related transport technologies for the large-scale field testing of intelligent system solutions in live operation.**

The model region should demonstrate that, by applying Austrian innovations, an up to 100% renewable energy supply is achievable, makes economic sense, and offers ecological advantages.<sup>2</sup>

**Objective 2:****Strengthening and developing Austria as a lead market for innovative energy and energy-related transport technologies and services.**

The lead market assists Austrian businesses in positioning themselves as lead suppliers and acts as a visible point of reference in the international market.

**Objective 3:****Involvement and active participation of users**

The model region should demonstrate the use of energy technologies as close to actual operating conditions as possible. This requires the involvement of users – businesses, end users, local communities, etc.

Furthermore, Austrian citizens should be able to experience the use of innovative energy technologies in large-scale projects. This arouses curiosity, with familiarity generating trust in, and acceptance of, innovative technologies.

<sup>2</sup> In line with ensuring the Climate and Energy Fund's policy of achieving greatest possible relevance in terms of climate protection, the programme follows the decarbonisation pathway by setting a technology neutral focus on fully electric, locally emission-free vehicles powered by batteries, fuel cells or high-performance capacitors. The use of hydrogen in combustion engines is not eligible for funding.

In addition, ecodesign principles must be applied when further developing vehicle and/or infrastructure components. The environmental impacts must be taken into account across the entire product life cycle (from design and use through to recycling, reuse, disposal etc.) and minimised as far as possible. The further development of battery concepts should take into account the goals of the European Commission's current Proposal for a regulation concerning batteries and waste batteries, repealing Directive 2006/66/EC and amending Regulation (EU) No 2019/1020, in particular by:

- reporting the carbon footprint of the battery
- making at least partial use of recycled materials (e.g. lithium and cobalt)
- complying with OECD Due Diligence Guidance for the sourcing of raw materials and performing a risk assessment of potential negative environmental impacts (Art. 39)
- designing the concept such that it enables a high recycling rate and second-life use.

# 3.0 Purpose of the Funding

## 3.1 Requirements for the sub-projects

Every model region represents a cluster of research and development projects aimed at the development and large-scale demonstration of energy and energy-related transport technologies based on up to 100% renewable energy.

**The 2021 call is designed to identify and develop specific sub-projects for implementing the strategies defined by the three model regions Green Energy Lab, NEFI and WIVA P&G.** The projects should respond to new applications, partners and technology developments arising in the context of emerging or changing markets, existing white spots and other necessary developments.

The focus should be on developing prototypes, demonstration measures and pilot projects, as well as testing and validating new or improved products, processes and services in an environment representative of actual operating conditions (technology readiness levels 5-9 with the medium-term goal of achieving technology readiness levels 8 to 9 by the end of the model region cluster project).

**IMPORTANT: The development, testing and validation of innovative business models and services is only permissible if it forms an integral part of a technological research and development project.**

**NOTE:** Where pilot projects require exemptions or local authority permissions for their implementation (e.g. with respect to data protection, security, competition law, public procurement law), then this must be clarified in advance with the relevant authorities and indicated in the sub-project proposal.

## 3.2 Expected results

The following results are expected at the sub-project level:

- A model solution to **technologically and scientifically sophisticated, economically and socially significant problems and challenges** associated with the energy transition, and with significant potential to reduce greenhouse gases;
- **Pre-existing elements** (individual technologies, system architectures, business processes, pilot projects, available assets, etc.) **are combined to form comprehensive system solutions which are tested and validated in practice**;
- Development of **strategic knowledge about effectiveness** (integration of renewable energies, viability of business models, etc.) and **efficiency** (energy and resource efficiency, costs-benefits, etc.);
- Development of **integrated, scalable, comprehensive solutions** for tomorrow's energy systems **across several system levels and fields of technology** in accordance with the overall concept.

## 3.3 Project success factors

The proposals should present the contributions made to the targeted (measurable) objectives for the relevant model region (Green Energy Lab, NEFI or WIVA P&G) and the planned sub-projects. The following factors are important:

- **Innovations** resulting from the initiative  
Criteria: prototypes, demonstrators, pilot applications, product improvements, business models, etc.
- The **innovative content** of the developed and demonstrated solutions must clearly surpass the current state-of-the-art  
Criteria: utility models, patent applications, patents, etc.
- **Public visibility** (national and international) for the developed and demonstrated solutions among expert audiences and society  
Criteria: publications in respected journals, presentations of project findings at conferences, trade shows and workshops, etc.

- The **market access activities** and further technological developments initiated by the model regions  
Criteria: involvement of users (businesses, end users, communities, etc.) in developing and implementing the demonstrators, setting up innovation platforms, community building (expansion and strengthening of cooperation with businesses – especially SMEs and start-ups – and research institutions), follow-up projects etc.
- **Economic successes** resulting from the funded projects  
Criteria: spin-offs, number of jobs created or secured, new orders, new customers, revenue increases, etc.

### 3.4 Public involvement and dissemination of results

The model regions should be designed so that the public can experience the use of innovative energy technologies in large-scale projects. The participation and involvement of a significant portion of the population is intended to foster awareness, trust and acceptance of innovations in energy systems.

The resultant outcomes must be presented to the public. They should demonstrate that Austrian energy technologies make the energy and mobility transition technically feasible, economically sensible, and environmentally beneficial.

The follow-up sub-projects submitted to the 2021 call must make a contribution to the targeted information and communication plan of the relevant model region. The focus should be on informing users and encouraging broad acceptance and demand for innovative energy technologies. Supra-regional and international visibility must be ensured.

### 3.5 Supplementary funding and financial assistance

It is in the applicant's own interest to investigate options of supplementary funding and financial assistance (EU, federal, regional, local) available for the proposed project of the Energy Model Region initiative.

This applies, in particular, to the use of commercially available distributed energy generation and storage technologies, electric vehicles or infrastructure components (see also Section 8.3). The results of these investigations must be presented in the sub-project proposal.

### 3.6 Accompanying research

The Climate and Energy Fund has separately commissioned accompanying research, which will cover the entire duration of the Energy Model Region initiative.

The objective is to increase the effectiveness of the RTI initiative, to achieve a high level of visibility and a broad impact both in Austria and abroad, as well as supporting the establishment of an innovation ecosystem. The accompanying research serves as a quality control instrument and supports the Climate and Energy Fund in managing and developing the programme.

The three key tasks of the accompanying research are:

- Scientific support, including indicator development, continuous scientific monitoring and evaluation at both programme and model region level, and deriving recommendations for action;
- Cooperation and network building (national and international), including support for the model regions in standardisation processes and in discussions on shaping future legal and regulatory framework conditions by involving relevant stakeholders at both national and international level;
- Transfer of technology, expertise and scientific findings (national and international), at programme level in close coordination with the model regions, including design, implementation and support for measures to boost acceptance and participation, with the aim of enhancing trust in, and acceptance of, innovative energy technologies from Austria.

**Close cooperation between the model regions and accompanying research is a basic precondition for funding approval.**

# 4.0 Consortia

The **partners in a model region** should represent the key stakeholders in the value chain, including science, and reflect the specific project objectives. They should include, in particular, technology providers and users, energy utilities, network operators, energy service providers, end users and research institutions. The inclusion of regional authorities, associations, private and municipal initiatives (e.g. citizen power plants, energy banks, etc.) is encouraged.

The implementation of the selected model regions should involve the development of applications for new technologies and make a contribution to shaping emerging and changing markets. **The involvement of additional project partners in the further implementation of the model regions is expressly encouraged.**

The **cluster coordinator** (for details see [Guidelines of 2017 Call for Energy Model Region](#), Section 4.1) takes all coordination measures required to meet the objectives of this RTI initiative. These measures must be designed to guarantee implementation of the overall project for the particular model region and the long-term involvement of the consortium partners, and ensure that the consortium can grow and adapt to changing needs as the model region develops.

## 4.1 Requirements for partners in sub-projects

The provisions of the relevant Technical Guidelines apply. For details, see [FFG Download Center](#).

## 4.2 Cluster agreement

Cluster agreements have been concluded for each model region as part of the 2017 call of this RTI initiative. The cluster agreement specifies the rights and obligations of the sub-project partners of a model region towards the FFG and KLIEN. The cluster agreement applies in addition to any cooperation/consortium agreements which specify the internal regulations for the projects of a model region and does not replace the individual funding contracts concluded between the FFG and the sub-projects.

The cluster agreement includes but is not limited to:

- rights and obligations towards the FFG and the funding provider;
- provisions on rights and obligations between the partners of the individual sub-projects;
- liability issues;
- planning, decision-making and control structures and processes;
- provisions on the expansion of the concepts;
- data protection and data management;
- settlement of disputes;
- exploitation of results.

**The sub-projects funded under the present call must also join the existing cluster agreement.**

# 5.0 Administrative Information

## 5.1 Milestones of the Energy Model Region initiative

Table 3: Overview of milestones of this call

<b>6 April 2021</b>	Start of 2021 call
<b>30 September 2021</b>	Submission deadline for stage 1 – interim report for cluster project
<b>15 and 16 November 2021 (CW 46)</b>	Hearing on interim reports of model regions
<b>1 December 2021 (CW 48)</b>	Approval for submission of funding applications for sub-projects to the 2021 call
<b>4 March 2022</b>	Submission deadline for stage 2 – funding applications for sub-projects
<b>from May 2022</b>	Contract preparation and start of approved sub-projects
<b>2022 – 2025/2026</b>	Conclusion of the sub-projects of the selected model regions (no funding planned for additional sub-projects)

## 5.2 Submission and selection process

The two-stage selection process for the 2021 call consists of the interim report for the cluster project (stage 1) and the funding applications for the sub-projects (stage 2).

The submission of the application documents does not imply a right to receive funding. The documents submitted need not be returned to the applicants.

## 5.3 Stage 1: Review of interim reports

The full **interim report for the cluster project** must be **submitted** to the FFG in English by

**30 September 2021, 12:00 noon**

via [eCall](#).

The cluster coordinator of the model region must submit an annual report, irrespective of the reporting obligations of the individual sub-projects. Participation in a hearing is a mandatory part of the annual reporting

obligations. The hearing serves to answer questions from the members of the panel designated to review the report and members of the funding agency.

It is possible to exclude reviewers of the evaluation panel (individuals or staff of particular organisations) **indicating the reason**.

The report and the hearing provide the opportunity to report about the results achieved and present a concept for additional sub-projects to be approved.

The description of the sub-projects planned for submission at stage 2 will be evaluated. Funding applications for stage 2 may only be submitted for those sub-projects that meet the programme goals and the progress objectives of the model region. Following the examination of the report and the hearing, the evaluation panel can formulate supplementary recommendations or conditions.

The Board of the Climate and Energy Fund decides which sub-projects may submit funding applications based on the recommendations of the evaluation panel.

## 5.4 Stage 2: Submission and selection of sub-projects

If the interim report has received a positive evaluation the cluster coordinator invites the relevant consortium leaders to submit the sub-projects approved for stage 2 of the 2021 call.

### 5.4.1 Research funding from FFG

Projects may only be submitted electronically via [eCall](#) prior to the **deadline of 4 March 2022, 12:00 noon**.

How does it work?

- Download and complete the Project Description template via eCall;
- Upload the necessary documents;
- Finalise application in eCall and click "Submit application";
- Upon successful submission, a confirmation of receipt will be sent automatically by email;
- Not necessary: additional postal submission of duly executed copy.

It is not possible:

- to resubmit or modify individual parts of the application form;
- to revise the application after submission.

More information can be found in the [eCall Tutorial](#).

Applicants are required to use the specific templates provided. The funding conditions, application procedure and funding criteria are described in the relevant Technical Guidelines.

**Table 4: Call documents – research funding**

Funding instrument / other information	Call documents available
<b>Cooperative R&amp;D Project</b>	<a href="#">Technical Guidelines Cooperative R&amp;D Projects</a> (PDF) <a href="#">Project Description Cooperative R&amp;D Projects</a> (DOC) <a href="#">Declaration of SME Status</a> (if required)*
<b>Flagship Project</b>	<a href="#">Technical Guidelines Flagship Projects</a> (PDF) <a href="#">Project Description Flagship Projects</a> (DOC) <a href="#">Declaration of SME Status</a> (if required)*
<b>General cost regulations</b>	<a href="#">Cost Guidelines 2.1</a> (cost recognition for FFG projects)

\* Please note: The Declaration of SME Status is required for foreign companies. In the template provided, applicants must (as far as possible) categorise their business for the last three years according to the SME definition

#### **5.4.2 Supplementary funding for demonstration facilities from KPC (2015 Funding Guidelines for Environmental Assistance in Austria)**

Projects involving the implementation of a demonstration facility as an integral part of an Energy Model Region can apply for funding from Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC) under the 2015 Funding Guidelines for Environmental Assistance in Austria (UFI).

Demonstration facilities are of a highly innovative character. They go beyond standard technologies and serve to demonstrate and introduce new or substantially improved technologies, advanced processes or innovative system components.

**As a rule, UFI funding should account for around 30 % of the total funding requested for the relevant Energy Model Region.**

**IMPORTANT: If the applicant company is registered with the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), it is recommended to contact the funding agency (KPC) prior to project submission to clarify funding.**

Application forms, information sheets, notes and supplementary provisions will be available for download at the [FFG Energy Model Region website](#) from May 2021.

**NOTE:** If the funded measure qualifies as an energy saving measure in terms of end consumption according to the Federal Energy Efficiency Act (EEffG) it will be credited to the Climate and Energy Fund as a strategic measure according to § 5 (1) 17 of the EEffG in proportion to the funding granted. Obligated third parties may claim the eligible measures (in whole or in part) only for the part of the project costs exceeding the funding granted by the Climate and Energy Fund. This applies in particular if the measures are transferred by the funding recipient to the third party for the purpose of crediting them towards individual obligations according to § 10 EEffG.

#### **5.5 Project changes**

If a sub-project presented in the interim report has changed from the full application originally submitted (focus, consortium partners, costs, dates, etc.), these changes must be immediately communicated to (and, where necessary, approved by) the FFG funding agency via eCall message.

# 6.0 Legal Aspects

## 6.1 Data protection and confidentiality

The FFG is under a legal obligation to maintain secrecy concerning company and project information pursuant to Sec. 9 (4) of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency Act (FFG-G, Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No. 73/2004). External experts who are involved in the assessment of the projects are also subject to confidentiality obligations. Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC) is also obliged to maintain secrecy concerning company and project information.

### **Personal data will be processed pursuant to Art. 6 et seq. of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679:**

- for compliance with legal obligations to which the Climate and Energy Fund, FFG and KPC are subject (Art. 6 (1) (c) GDPR),
- if no legal obligation exists, for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the Climate and Energy Fund, FFG and KPC (Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR), i.e. conclusion and processing of the funding contract and for control purposes.

This use may mean that the data must be transferred or disclosed in particular to bodies and authorised representatives of the Court of Audit, the Federal Ministry of Finance and the EU. There is also the possibility to obtain information from the transparency portal according to Sec. 32 (5) of the Transparency Database Act (TDBG 2012).

All project applications submitted will only be forwarded to the persons responsible for the management of this RTI initiative and to the programme owner. All persons involved are bound by strict confidentiality rules.

## 6.2 Legal basis

This call is subject to the following legal regulations:

- Guideline for the Promotion of Industrial/Technical Research, Technology Development and Innovation ([RTI Guideline 2015](#)), Thematic RTI Guideline. *The Thematic RTI Guideline was prolonged until 31/12/2021 based on the European Commission's prolongation of the State aid provisions (Prolonging Regulation (EU) 2020/972 of 2 July 2020).*
- Funding Guidelines for Environmental Assistance in Austria ([UFI Guideline 2015](#)) as amended.

The company size shall be established in accordance with the corresponding SME definition specified in EU competition law. More detailed information about the SME definition can be found on the [SME page of the FFG website](#).

All EU provisions shall be applicable as amended.

## 6.3 Publication of funding granted

In the event of a positive funding decision, the Climate and Energy Fund reserves the right to publish the name of the funding applicants, the funding decision, the rate and amount of funding as well as the title and a brief description of the project in order to pursue the legitimate interest of the Climate and Energy Fund to ensure funding transparency (Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR).



## 6.4 Open Access – notes on publication

The projects funded under this call and their results will be made available to the public in line with the general objectives and tasks of the Climate and Energy Fund as defined in Sec. 1 to Sec. 3 of the Climate and Energy Fund Act<sup>3</sup> (KLI.EN-FondsG) and the special characteristics of the funding programme, which is specifically aimed at publishing project and contact details for the dissemination of project results, as well as the Recommendation of the European Commission (2012/417/EU) on Open Access. The open access provisions do not apply to confidential information (e.g. related to patent applications). The funding recipient is obliged to ensure that the reports submitted for publication do not contain any sensitive data (Art. 9 GDPR) or personal data about criminal convictions and offences (Art. 10 GDPR).

The funding recipient is also obliged to obtain all other approvals and consents from third parties (including but not limited to image rights) that are required for lawful publication by the Climate and Energy Fund and to indemnify and hold harmless the Climate and Energy Fund in this respect.

Visibility and easy availability of the results are essential to increase the impact of the programme. All relevant project results achieved under this RTI Initiative will thus be published and made available by the Climate and Energy Fund on the [Energy Model Region website](#) in accordance with the principle of open access.

To be able to present the project results in a clear and comprehensible manner, advice on public relations for projects funded under the Energy Model Region initiative is provided in a *“Guide for Project Reporting and Public Relations”*, which also forms an integral part of the agreement.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Act on the Establishment of the Climate and Energy Fund – Climate and Energy Fund Act (KLI.EN-FondsG), Federal Law Gazette BGBl. No. 40/2007 as amended.

# 7.0 Contacts and Advice

## 7.1 Programme mandate and responsibility

### **Climate and Energy Fund**

Leopold-Ungar-Platz 2 | 1 | Top 142, 1190 Vienna

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## 7.2 Programme management

### **Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)**

Thematic Programmes

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**Funding management for investments in demonstration facilities (2015 Funding Guidelines for Environmental Assistance in Austria - UFI)**

### **Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH**

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[www.publicconsulting.at](http://www.publicconsulting.at)

Supplementary Environmental Funding Team

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### 7.3 Cluster coordination

**IMPORTANT:** Please note the deadlines specified by the individual model regions for the submission of project ideas.

#### **Green Energy Lab**

Association 'Forschungsinitiative Green Energy Lab'  
[www.greenenergylab.at](http://www.greenenergylab.at)

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Cluster Coordination of Green Energy Lab

Cluster Manager Green Energy Lab

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Further information:

[Green Energy Lab website – submission of project ideas](#)

#### **WIVA P&G – Hydrogen Initiative Flagship Region**

#### **Austria Power & Gas**

Association WIVA P&G

[www.wiva.at](http://www.wiva.at)

#### **Prof. DI Dr. Horst Steinmüller**

Director of WIVA P&G

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Further information:

[WIVA website – submission of project ideas](#)

#### **NEFI – New Energy for Industry**

[www.nefi.at](http://www.nefi.at)

#### **DI Dr. Wolfgang Hribernik**

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Further information:

[NEFI website – submission of project ideas](#)

# 8.0 Additional information

This section contains information about additional services which you may find useful in connection with funding applications or funded projects.

## 8.1 FFG Project Database

The public access FFG Project Database provides the opportunity to publish brief information about funded projects and an overview of the project partners involved. This enables you to present your project and your project partners to the interested public. The database can also be used to search for cooperation partners.

Once funding is granted, the applicants are informed via eCall that they can publish brief defined information about their project in the FFG Project Database. The information will only be published if active consent is given in the eCall system

## 8.2 Handling of project data – data management plan

A data management plan (DMP) is a tool that supports the efficient and systematic management of all data generated throughout the duration of a project. DMPs can be created, e.g., using the free tool [DMP Online](#). The "[Guidelines on FAIR Data Management](#)" of the European Commission also provide assistance in this respect.

A data management plan describes

- which data are collected, processed or generated within a project
- how these data are handled within the project
- what methods and standards are applied
- how the data are stored and updated over the long term, and
- whether it is planned to make datasets available to third parties for reuse (i.e., open access to research data)

In the event of publication, the data should be "findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable".

## 8.3 Additional funding options

### Research funding

**Table 5: Additional national funding options offered by FFG**

Relevant national funding options	Contact	Programme link
<b>Production of the Future</b>	Dr. Margit Haas Tel.: +43 (0) 57755-5080 Email: <a href="mailto:margit.haas@ffg.at">margit.haas@ffg.at</a>	<a href="#">Production of the Future</a>
<b>ICT of the Future</b>	DI Dr. Peter Kerschl Tel.: +43 (0) 57755-5022 Email: <a href="mailto:peter.kerschl@ffg.at">peter.kerschl@ffg.at</a>	<a href="#">ICT of the Future</a>
<b>Frontrunner - General Programme</b>	Gabriele Küssler Tel.: +43 (0) 57755-1504 Email: <a href="mailto:gabriele.kuessler@ffg.at">gabriele.kuessler@ffg.at</a>	<a href="#">Frontrunner</a>

### Environmental funding

All funding options are available on the [KPC website for environmental funding](#).

KPC will assign the project to the appropriate funding option.

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