



ZEP Briefing – €3 billion under the Innovation Fund

Background

The European Commission launched the [third large-scale call](#) of the Innovation Fund on 3 November 2022. As mentioned in the Communication 'REPowerEU Plan' published in May 2022 the size was doubled to **€3 billion in grant funding** compared to the previous large-scale call.

Funding

€1 billion is available under 'General decarbonisation' for projects in:

- Renewable energy
- Energy-intensive industries
- Energy storage
- **Carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS)**
- Products substituting carbon-intensive ones (eg low-carbon transport fuels)

€1 billion is available under 'Innovative electrification in industry and hydrogen' for projects in:

- Electrification methods to replace fossil fuel use in industry
- Renewable hydrogen production
- hydrogen uptake in industry

€0.7 billion is available under 'Clean tech manufacturing' for projects in:

- manufacturing of components
- final equipment for electrolysers and fuel cells
- renewable energy
- energy storage
- heat pumps

€0.3 billion is available under 'Mid-sized pilots' for:

- highly innovative projects in disruptive or breakthrough technologies in deep decarbonisation in all eligible sectors of the Innovation Fund, **including CCU and CO2 storage**

The call is open until 16 March 2023. Grants will be awarded in Q4 2023.

Award criteria

An evaluation committee assisted by independent outside experts will assess applications. Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against operational capacity and

award criteria and then ranked according to their scores. Projects will be graded with a maximum of 75 points. The award criteria are the following:

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Degree of innovation	9	15
GHG emission avoidance potential		
Absolute GHG emission avoidance	n/a	2
Relative GHG emission avoidance	n/a	5
Quality of the GHG emission avoidance calculation, minimum requirements	3	5
Total GHG emission avoidance potential	n/a	12
Project maturity		
Technical maturity	3	5
Financial maturity	3	5
Operational maturity	3	5
Total Project maturity	n/a	15
Scalability	9	15
Cost efficiency		
Cost efficiency ratio	n/a	12
Quality of the cost calculation	1.5	3
Total Cost efficiency	n/a	15
Total (without bonus)	n/a	72
Bonus points		
Bonus point 1 [Net carbon removals]	n/a	1
Bonus point 2 [Other GHG savings]	n/a	1
Bonus point 3 [Commitment to use electricity from additional renewable sources]	n/a	1
Total (with bonus)	n/a	72 to 75