



EFFICIENCY FOR ACCESS

Efficiency for Access
Research and
Development Fund -
Frequently Asked Questions



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1. Introduction

A. What is the Efficiency for Access (EforA) Coalition?

Efficiency for Access first kicked off in 2015 as a year-long call to action. This collaborative effort, led by Global LEAP & Sustainable Energy for All, aimed to harness the power of energy efficiency to accelerate universal energy access. Now, UK Aid, Power Africa, Lighting Global, Rockefeller Foundation, Shell Foundation, Sida, EnDev, Good Energies Foundation, and others have joined together under a scaled-up Efficiency for Access Coalition. The Coalition is scaling up and bringing together a range of programmes and support mechanisms to accelerate energy efficiency in clean energy access efforts, driving markets for super-efficient technologies, supporting innovation, and improving sector coordination.

The Efficiency for Access Coalition is coordinated jointly by CLASP, an international appliance energy efficiency and market development specialist, not-for-profit organization, and the UK's Energy Saving Trust, which specialises in energy efficiency product verification, data and insight, advice, and research.

B. How much funding is available in the first round of the EforA Research and Development (R&D) Fund?

A minimum of £1 million of funding is available in the first round of the EforA Research and Development Fund.

C. Where is the funding coming from for the EforA Research and Development Fund?

Initial funding for the first round of the EforA Research and Development Fund is coming from UK Aid.

2. Applying to the EforA Research and Development Fund

A. How do I apply?

Please ensure you read the Guidance for Applicants document prior to applying to the Fund. Applying to the Fund is a two-stage process. The first stage involves registration of your organisation on the EforA website [here](#). After you are registered, you will receive an email allowing you to submit an application form. In the application form, you will be asked to provide details of your project. After your application form is submitted, it will be assessed by an EforA assessment panel.

B. When can I apply?

The Fund is now open to registrations and applications. Applications must be submitted by 16 January, 2019, at midnight GMT.

C. Who can apply?

Any legally registered and physically established business, academic organisation, non-profit, public sector organisation, or research and technology organisation based in any country in the world may apply.

D. How does EforA select awardees?

Applications will undergo an assessment by up to two EforA assessors and independent technical experts, selected from a full assessment panel. The applications will be assessed consistently, using the same set of scoring criteria. Please note that EforA reserves the right to apply a 'portfolio' approach, to ensure funding is spread across multiple scope areas, geographic locations, stages of R&D, project durations, or project costs. After the applications are assessed by assessors, the full assessment panel will determine the applications that are successful based on the assessment scores and potentially taking a portfolio approach. The successful applications will then undergo full due diligence, conducted by EforA staff, which may involve an additional financial viability check, an interview, and a site visit.

E. What are the criteria used for assessment of R&D projects?

R&D projects will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Potential to accelerate the availability, affordability, efficiency or performance of off-grid and weak-grid appliances particularly suited to developing country contexts
- Potential to positively impact beneficiaries over the long-term
- Demonstrable understanding of beneficiaries needs and how the R&D will meet them
- Innovativeness and uniqueness from current R&D activity
- Potential to scale
- Integration of gender and social inclusion
- Strength of evidence backing the R&D project
- Capacity of the applicant to implement the project
- How strong and realistic the project plan is
- How appropriate, well-designed and realistic the M&E plan is
- How well the project will be managed
- How well the risk assessment has been conducted
- Cost-effectiveness and value for money
- Financial risk of the applicant

F. Does the EforA Research and Development Fund have a preference for funding specific technologies?

The EforA Research and Development Fund does not have set preferences and is open to funding all innovative appliance technologies or products for use in off-grid and weak-grid settings, which have both a strong potential to positively benefit targeted users and to scale.

Please note: we anticipate that we will have some additional, dedicated funds contributed from a funding partner to specifically fund high-rated applications in the area of electric cooking.

G. Does the R&D project have to be focused on a specific part or a complete solution?

R&D projects may focus on a both a specific part or a complete solution.

H. What is meant by a weak-grid?

A weak-grid is an electrical grid characterised by unreliability, frequent power outages and voltage fluctuations.

I. What do we mean by sub-contractors or supporting parties?

Sub-contractors and supporting parties are third-party organisations that are not part of your project team. The name of these organisations should be provided with a description of their role and the status of their confirmation of participation. Sub-contracting services supplied by partner organisations should exclude any profit element and be charged at cost. Where a partner is also a sub-contractor within a project, it is important that the organisation in receipt of the project funding stays within state aid limits.

J. Does my R&D project have to be conducted in a specific country or region?

No, R&D projects may be carried out in any country or region.

K. How long may projects be conducted for?

As specified in the Guidance for Applicants document, the allowable length of your R&D project is based on the stage of your R&D. Early stage projects (feasibility studies) may last 6 to 12 months, mid-stage (industrial research) projects may last 12 to 24 months, and late stage (experimental development) projects may last 12 to 30 months. The definitions of each R&D project stage are detailed in the Guidance for Applicants document.

L. Does my application have to be in English?

Yes, we do not have the ability to assess applications submitted in languages other than English.

M. Can I submit more than one application in this round?

Yes, we can accept more than one application at a time from an organisation, as long as each application is unique. Multiple applications cannot be submitted for the same project.

N. Can I make updates to my application after submission?

No, you will not be able to update an application once it has been submitted.

O. Will I have to submit any other forms after completing the application form?

No, successful applications will undergo full due diligence, conducted by the EforA team, which may involve requesting additional information, an additional financial viability check, an interview, and a site visit.

P. How will I know the status of my application and how can I inquire about the status?

EforA will provide you with confirmation emails after the submission of both the registration form and application form. You will then receive emails when the status of your application changes to any of the following: Review in Progress, Due Diligence, Intent to Award, or Declined.

If your application progresses to Due Diligence, EforA will contact you to request additional information, and potentially arrange to conduct an additional financial viability check, an interview, and a site visit. EforA may reject an application at any time, and you will receive an email notifying you. If your application is recommended for funding, you will receive a Notice of Intent to Award. EforA will then negotiate with you to finalise the award of the funding.

Q. Will I receive feedback on my application if it is not successful?

Yes, we will provide an email with written feedback to all submitted applications.

R. Can I submit other applications or similar applications in future funding rounds?

Yes, you may submit other applications or a similar application in future funding rounds.

S. I have a project idea but I am not sure whether it would be eligible for the EforA Research and Development Fund. Am I able to ask about it?

Yes, you may enquire as to whether your project idea is eligible by contacting EforAgrants@est.org.uk.

T. Does my organisation have to undergo a financial audit to apply?

You do not have to undergo a financial audit in order to apply. However, in some cases, EforA may require a financial audit if your project progresses to the due diligence stage.

3. Receiving Funding

A. What does the EforA Research and Development Fund provide?

- Grant funding.
- A dedicated funding support team at EforA.
- Partnership facilitation assistance – connecting you to relevant partners to help you scale your innovation.
- Global exposure – EforA will help to promote successful project outcomes through our communications platforms. EforA has a wide international reach and a brand with global recognition.

B. What is the relationship between EforA and awardees?

Awardees may be responsible for the following activities and documentation during the project:

- Submitting progress reports according to the requirements outlined in the award agreement.
- Providing financial reports in accordance with the requirements of the agreement.
- Requesting approval for any changes in project objectives and project staff.
- Notifying EforA when receiving additional funding from another source for this or any related project.
- Briefing EforA personnel online, over phone or in-country on project progress and outcomes.
- Complying with EforA branding requirements.
- Mutual agreement on any additional provisions.

C. Does my organisation have to contribute to project costs to be eligible?

Yes. The proportion of funding you are eligible to receive for your project costs is dependent on the size of your organisation, as [defined by the European Commission](#):

Organisation size	Staff headcount	Turnover	Or	Balance sheet total
Small	< 50	≤ £ 9 m		≤ £ 9 m
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ £ 45 m		≤ £ 39 m
Large	> 250	> £ 45 m		> £ 39 m

If you apply as a partnership between organisations, your organisation size will be considered as the combination of your staff headcounts and turnover/balance sheets.

For early and mid-stage projects, you can receive funding for your eligible project costs of:

- up to 70% if you are a small organisation
- up to 60% if you are a medium-sized organisation
- up to 50% if you are a large organisation

For late stage projects, you can receive funding for your eligible project costs of:

- up to 45% if you are a small organisation
- up to 35% if you are a medium-sized organisation
- up to 25% if you are a large organisation

The remainder of the project cost must be contributed by your organisation.

D. Are there specific activities for which funding cannot be used?

Eligible and ineligible project costs are listed below:

Eligible project costs	Ineligible project costs
Personnel costs	Profit
Services	Bonuses
Direct overheads	Dividend payment
Travel costs - direct	Interest payment/financing costs
Equipment and materials	Currency exchange
Indirect Overheads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General office costs • Admin support • IT/HR/support function 	Recoverable VAT/local taxes
	Loss of income/opportunity cost
	Patent costs
	Other costs

E. Can funding be allocated for salary support?

Yes, funds may be spent on personnel costs.

F. Does EforA have guidance regarding acceptable overhead (percentage) for our proposed budget?

When budgeting for personnel and overhead costs, there are two options. Option one, that you claim actual staff costs and a maximum overhead rate of 25% can be charged on top of the actual staff cost. Option two, that you claim a day rate. If you select Option two please be aware that we may ask for evidence of how your day rate, including overhead rate has been calculated. Please be prepared to provide this on request.

G. How are payments made to awardees?

In your application form, we ask that you propose project milestones and expected dates for each milestone. Your project will subsequently be monitored through milestone reports, which are to be submitted together with grant payment claims and supporting evidence. We shall use reasonable endeavours to make payments within 4 weeks of receiving a complete claim.

H. Does EforA take board seats with its awardees?

No, EforA will not take board seats. However, EforA welcomes awardees to share any board meeting materials and/or read-outs from meetings, as appropriate.

I. Do I have to publicly advertise EforA as the source of the funding? What are the branding requirements if I win funding?

Efficiency for Access encourages awardees to highlight the source of funding where appropriate, such as when you highlight other funding partners. We will work with awardees individually to determine a mutually agreeable plan to highlight our support.

J. Who owns intellectual property rights (IPR) developed during the funded R&D project?

The Energy Saving Trust and DFID will not own any project specific IPR. However, awardees must agree to grant Energy Saving Trust and DFID a perpetual, world-wide, irrevocable, royalty-free, non-exclusive licence, together with the right to grant sub-licences, to the project specific IPR to use or publish the results of the project.

