

Funding opportunity

Land use for net zero – Hub (LUNZ-Hub)

Opportunity status:	Upcoming
Funders:	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) , UK Research and Innovation, Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) , Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
Co-funders:	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£6,250,000
Maximum award:	£6,250,000
Publication date:	3 April 2023
Opening date:	19 April 2023 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	25 July 2023 4:00pm UK time

Last updated: 3 April 2023

Apply for funding to establish a coordination and translation hub for the transforming land use for net zero, nature and people programme.

The hub will convene a transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral community to support the UK in achieving net zero, while meeting other environmental and societal goals. It will advance research, integrate knowledge, identify routes to impact and fast track evidence into policy.

The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £7,800,000. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will fund 80% of the FEC (up to £6,250,000).

Funding is available for up to 40 months, with a fixed start date of 1 November 2023.

You must be based at a UK research organisation to be eligible for UKRI funding.

Who can apply

Who is eligible to apply?

Standard UKRI eligibility criteria apply. Transforming land use for net zero, nature and people hub proposals are invited from eligible UK-based organisations, in accordance with standard UKRI practice.

Before applying to this funding opportunity, please check the following:

- [BBSRC guidance for applicants](#)
- [eligibility of your organisation](#)
- [eligibility of applicants and co-applicants](#)

Institutional eligibility

Institutions and research organisations normally eligible for UKRI funding include:

- higher education institutions
- strategically funded institutes
- approved public sector research establishments (PSREs)
- approved independent research organisations (IROs)

Please note that:

- applications from organisations or individuals that are not eligible will be rejected without reference to panel review
- each institution may lead on only one application. However, institutions may be a partner in multiple applications
- institutions are encouraged to rigorously consider and prioritise applications submitted to this funding opportunity

Public sector research establishments

PSREs with 10 or more researchers with PhDs (or equivalent) are eligible to lead on an application. If PSREs wishing to apply have not previously applied for UKRI funding and do not currently have a designated IRO status, they will be required to complete both the [application for eligibility for UKRI funding](#) and the [self-assessment for project funding under full economic costs](#) forms. Please see [guidance on eligible public sector research establishments](#) for details.

Collaborations and partnerships

New collaborations and partnerships are encouraged, especially across disciplines and sectors, as the hub will be required to be transdisciplinary ([see collaborations section of the BBSRC grants guide](#)).

Multiple institutions

Teams should involve multiple institutions. The lead organisation will be responsible for submitting the grant application and managing the award.

Private and third sector

Private sector organisations, charities and non-governmental organisations which do not have UKRI-approved IRO status may participate as collaborative partners, but such organisations are not eligible to apply for, or receive direct funding from this opportunity.

Where applicable the nature of the collaboration and the role of private and third sector partners should be made clear.

International

This funding opportunity is focused on research in the UK and funding will only be provided to UK eligible researchers, but international researchers can be named as project partners where they add value to the project through access to key facilities or in-kind.

In all instances of collaborative activity with organisations other than the classes of eligible institutions listed, please note that any costs incurred by project partners cannot be met through this funding opportunity.

Investigator eligibility

To be eligible to apply for this funding opportunity as principal investigator or co-investigator, you must be a resident in the UK and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- be employed by an eligible UK research organisation at lecturer (or equivalent) level or above
- be on a fixed-term contract that extends past the duration of the proposed project

Before you proceed with the application, please check if you meet the requirements for [eligibility of applicants and co-applicants](#). If you are not eligible to apply as principal investigator or co-investigator but you are interested to participate in this funding opportunity, please refer to the [BBSRC guidance for applicants](#).

For this funding opportunity, an individual may apply only once as a principal investigator but may appear as a co-investigator on other applications, preferably not

more than two in total (one as principal investigator and one as co-investigator).

There is no limit to the number of co-investigators per application, but it must be clear from the application what unique contribution each co-investigator will make to the success of the proposed project.

Principal investigators should normally hold a permanent post. Fixed-term employees may be eligible provided that the host research organisation commits in writing to give the individual all the support normal for a permanent employee and that there is no conflict of interest. The term of employment of a fixed-term employee must extend beyond the duration of the proposed hub project.

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

UKRI recognises that EDI is a critical aspect of a healthy research culture, and that research and innovation should be 'by everyone, for everyone'. Therefore, EDI principles and practices should be embedded at all levels and in all aspects of research practice.

We therefore welcome applications from all individuals who meet the eligibility criteria from all backgrounds regardless of:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race (which includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins)
- religion or belief
- sex or sexual orientation
- neurodiversity
- socioeconomic background
- any other relevant factor

We are committed to supporting the research community in the diverse ways a research career can be built with our investments. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

With this in mind, we welcome applications from those who:

- job share
- have a part-time contract
- need flexible working arrangements
- are currently committed to other longer, large existing grants

Funding partners have conducted an equality impact assessment for this opportunity which can be found under 'supporting documents' under 'additional info'.

Please contact UKRI if you have any concerns around potential EDI relevant barriers to this funding opportunity so that UKRI can endeavour to make associated reasonable adjustments where possible.

Find out more about [EDI at UKRI](#).

What we're looking for

Transforming land use for net zero, nature and people – a coordination and translation hub

This funding opportunity is co-funded by UKRI, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (on behalf of England and Wales) and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. It has been co-designed with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Welsh Government and Scottish Government.

Agriculture and other land uses currently have a major impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and a wide range of other environmental, social and economic outcomes.

Land use change has three major roles to play in meeting net zero:

1. Reducing direct GHG emissions (especially from agriculture and degraded peatlands).
2. Sequestering carbon to offset emissions in hard to mitigate sectors.
3. Enabling decarbonisation of other sectors (for example, generating energy from woody biomass, solar and wind, producing low-carbon building materials, and growing feedstocks for the bioeconomy).

To achieve net zero by 2050 while meeting our wider environmental goals, a large-scale transformation is urgently needed in the way land is used and managed. The scale of change needed is unprecedented and will be highly complex to achieve.

World class research and innovation working in partnership with government and other stakeholders is needed to help:

- understand how the desired change can be achieved
- predict impacts across multiple environmental, societal and economic objectives

Programme aims

The aim of the transforming land use for net zero, nature and people programme is to mobilise and support research to work in partnership with government and industry to

tackle net zero through action in the UK land sectors.

The programme will fund research that feeds directly into policy and decision-making in three interlinked themes:

- soil health
- agricultural systems
- land use change

Consortia will be expected to form relationships with government, industry and other stakeholders to develop and explore plausible and innovative pathways to net zero across these three themes that:

- are adapted to the impacts of climate change
- provide societal and environmental benefits
- meet policy commitments of the UK government and devolved administrations such as those set out in the 2023 environment improvement plan

In doing so the programme will seek to fast-track the uptake of research outputs back into policy and decision-making, while adding value to relevant previous and other current programmes such as the:

- Farming Innovations programme
- Greenhouse Gas Removal Demonstrators programme
- Transforming UK Food Systems Strategic Priorities Fund
- Agri-food net zero Network+ (Agrifood4Netzero)
- UK Treescapes programme

Programme objectives

The programme objectives are:

- to support government and industry to deliver UK legal commitments on net zero and the environment, increasing food security and economic growth
- to deliver strategic high impact transdisciplinary research, expert knowledge and community that is co-designed and co-led with policymakers
- transform the way research and government work together to tackle our most pressing environmental and societal challenges
- to build on past investments and deliver impact

Programme outcomes

Putting the UK at the forefront of a sustainable transition to net zero by:

- strengthen UK transdisciplinary capability and capacity that results in community mobilisation, advancing knowledge, partnerships, and skills in net zero for land use practitioners and policymakers. Generating research, tools and evidence that informs policy to explore different UK land-use scenarios and appraise the economic, energy security, biodiversity and carbon impacts of these

- embedding research into policy integration of new and existing evidence on land use for climate mitigation, biodiversity, agriculture, and other land uses, to enable policymakers or decision makers to design climate resilient land-policy for 2030 and beyond
- developing clean growth opportunities (practices and technologies) that have real world transformational impact

The programme consists of two components:

1. The coordination and translation hub: convene a transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral community building relationships with government and industry to co-develop pathways, advance research, integrate knowledge, identify routes to impact and fast-track evidence into policy to support the UK in the transformation towards net zero, while meeting other environmental and societal goals such as those listed in the 2023 environmental improvement plan.
2. Research projects: transdisciplinary research consortia that can deliver cutting edge research to find solutions and provide evidence to inform policy options for driving the desired systems transformation.

This funding opportunity is for the coordination and translation hub. There will be a separate funding opportunity for the research projects.

Hub scope

Convene a transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral community to support the UK in achieving net zero, while meeting other environmental and societal goals. The hub will advance research, integrate knowledge, identify routes to impact and fast track evidence into policy. There are three interlinked areas of focus:

- soil system health and carbon dynamics
- reduce agricultural emissions
- land use change

The programme will seek to understand the co-benefits, trade-offs and risks on the wider environmental policy (such as air and water quality, biodiversity, and more). The hub should provide evidence to underpin policy development and implementation in support of government's net zero strategy, including evidencing appropriate options for the seventh carbon budget period (2038 to 2042).

In the context of 'reduce agricultural emissions' the term 'agriculture' refers to all activities pertaining to crops and farmed animals, including horticulture, aquaculture, as well as mixed systems such as agroforestry and silvopastoral systems.

Please note that this funding opportunity focuses strictly on UK land use and does not include land use and net zero research and interventions in overseas countries that are part of the UK supply chain or that are under its influence.

Key themes

The coordination and translation hub will support policymakers to address key challenges in the three focus themes as set out below. These include, but are not limited to:

Land use change

Drivers:

- what are the key drivers of land use change in the UK?
- how do they interact?
- how are these likely to change by 2050?
- how might environmental, economic or social change influence land use change in the UK?
- how might emerging market opportunities affect UK land use?

Outcomes:

- how does UK land use drive multiple social, environmental, and economic outcomes?
- what is the value of natural assets associated with land use under different future scenarios?
- what are the risks to natural capital from climate change?
- what are the intended and unintended consequences, and co-benefits of land use changes on people (including future generations)?
- what are the solutions to facilitate a just transition, as part of changes to land management?
- what are the tensions between national and local priorities for land use, and how can they be reconciled?

Scenarios:

- what does our understanding of the drivers tell us about trajectories of UK land use change to 2050?
- what land use changes (including agri-system or nature-based solutions) are needed to meet net zero and our wider environmental and socio-economic goals at national and local levels?

Policy:

- how is the breadth of government policy driving land use change and which drivers of future land use change can be influenced through policy action?
- how can changes be achieved at national, regional and local scales?
- how can national and local interventions work effectively together?
- what levers can be used to influence change in different land-based sectors?
- how can actors be effectively engaged to enhance collaboration and deliver solutions?

Decision support:

- what is the underpinning research required to support development of accessible and usable decision support tools to drive land use policy and day-to-day decision-making at multiple levels, from national to local, and how can their use be embedded?
- to support these tools data must be at the heart of land use decision-making
- how do we obtain and utilise the complex socio-economic, biological and environmental data required to inform decision-making?

Soil system health and carbon dynamics

Rethinking soil health:

- in its own context, what defines a healthy soil system?
- what new and novel indicators (biological, physicochemical, social, economic, cultural) need to be developed to gauge the extent to which a soil system is delivering multiple functions including sustaining low carbon agricultural production, biodiversity recovery and carbon sequestration?

Soil monitoring:

- what tools and technologies do we need to develop and adopt at scales suitable to enable reliable measurement, monitoring, and thereby prediction of soil system state including carbon fluxes and biodiversity change under different land use and management practices, and climate scenarios?

Rethinking soil management:

- how can we use multiscale and layered datasets to drive innovative analysis, visualisation and prediction to transform farming and wider land management systems to deliver sustainable soil systems that support carbon sequestration and biodiversity, among other ecosystem services?

Reduce agricultural emissions

Solutions:

- how might changing patterns of land use and land availability influence the adoption and use of production technologies and management choices that would help reduce or mitigate GHG emissions or adaptation to their impacts?
- what solutions will enable transformation of production systems under different climate scenarios to achieve lower input production with reduced emissions and impacts on biodiversity and other ecosystem services?
- what could the impact be on other policy goals relating to agriculture?
- which emerging approaches, including GHG removals, might present new solutions for agriculture?
- how can crop and livestock systems be balanced or integrated to optimise productivity while minimising emissions?

System transformation:

- how can the UK agri-food system be transformed to deliver net zero and biodiversity goals while maintaining food security and rural livelihoods?
- what new systems and business models can drive change?
- what social innovations do we need to address cultural and socio-economic barriers to the delivery of net zero agriculture?
- what solutions are needed to enable change at national and local scales?
- to what extent do different models leave us exposed to climate, critical input, and infrastructural disruptions?

Monitoring and scaling up:

- what agriculture production systems are there that can be demonstrated at farm-scale, and which may sustainably enable UK agriculture to adapt to different climate change scenarios?
- what improved metrics of emissions and biodiversity are required to track progress, identify target areas, develop interventions, and flag unintended consequences of change at farm, regional and national levels?
- how could new metrics be integrated into, and be applied alongside existing monitoring, reporting and validation methodologies so that they add value and impact at the farm-scale?

The hub will work in close partnership with government departments, devolved administrations, industry and other stakeholders to:

- co-design and co-develop policy pathways on how to transform land use for net zero, nature and people in the UK. Working with stakeholders to understand the wider context and potential intervention points for land use transformation, including the potential benefits and trade-offs across the system
- identify critical policy-relevant research questions and evidence gaps and provide long term solutions. Policymakers and relevant external actors will be involved in shaping research questions and setting priorities on an ongoing basis
- respond flexibly to urgent and emerging policy questions, for example, acting as a sounding board, convening workshops or undertaking rapid evidence reviews
- manage a flexible fund for agile projects, that provide rapid responses to policy and decision-making needs throughout the programme, that have real world impact (for example, rapid evidence synthesis, convening expert advisory groups or workshops on key issues)
- develop a commonly recognised and accepted shared set of land use scenarios for the UK, focusing on:
 - desired goals, and the trajectories of change that would be needed to reach them
 - forward projections based on identifying key drivers of change and emerging trends in farming, land use and soil management, including benefits and trade-offs across the whole system
- develop capacity and capability in knowledge brokering and decision support that is embedded into policy and practice at national, regional and local levels. For example, by supporting government to access and use land use and environmental

models, by establishing collaborations with government analysts or by developing transdisciplinary ways of working, that can be built into land use governance at local and national levels

- ensure cohesion across the whole programme and develop synergistic links between research projects through events, papers and activities that provide knowledge mobilisation. This will include ensuring that the research feeds into the activities of the hub, and that the hub provides feedback to the strategic research projects
- facilitate embedding policy into research by, for example, secondment of academics into government on a flexible and responsive basis to support urgent policy needs, including rapid, responsive evidence synthesis and policy advice
- build on and link to relevant UKRI and wider UK investments in net zero, in the key themes covered in the scope of this funding opportunity, and other investments in the building a green future theme
- convene key stakeholders across UK land use and management to develop a national dialogue and jointly identify and develop routes to impact. This will require bringing together practitioners to share knowledge and co-design solutions
- develop knowledge brokering systems to facilitate exchange across stakeholder groups and communities and carry out extensive public engagement activities to raise awareness, as well as get feedback from the general public on their expectations from the programme

Outcomes

The hub will have the following outcomes:

- new transdisciplinary research, tools and evidence synthesis that informs policy
- new ways of working between government and academia
- embeds research into policy and practice by catalysing and accelerating collaboration between researchers, government, industry, the public and other stakeholders
- creates increased capacity and capability that results in mobilisation, advancing knowledge, partnerships and skills to rapidly generate and disseminate research evidence that helps policy
- ensures the programme is agile and flexible to address emerging policy needs, working at the interface between science, policy and practice so that the outputs continue to be relevant to policy and decision-makers and other end-users
- ensure cohesion and integrate knowledge across the programme
- clear demonstration of the cost and benefits of specific land use scenarios to net zero, with an analysis of the trade-offs, resilience, and mitigation potential of land use options
- development of modelling tools, mitigation strategies, solution frameworks, assessments of uncertainties, cost benefit analysis, integrated assessment modelling, rapid reviews, and more, to explore plausible pathways towards net zero
- the ability to take a whole-systems view when developing evidence and proposing realistic and viable policy options, crucial to understanding how landscapes can be

designed to deliver net zero as well as delivering on commitments around biodiversity, environment, food and energy security, or resilience

Key requirements for the hub

The hub will have the following requirements:

- be UK-wide to include England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- embed principles and best practices to ensure equality, diversity and inclusivity
- take a holistic approach that builds on, and link to other key UKRI and wider UK investments in net zero as stated (see scope)
- involve a broad range of disciplines in transdisciplinary research agendas and engage non-academic stakeholders, including policymakers at national and local levels across the UK
- include regular monitoring, learning and evaluating on progress and reporting to the programme funders
- the programme funders will provide continued oversight and governance, through this reporting, to ensure that policy relevance is maintained throughout, as an essential deliverable of the hub outcomes

The hub team

We are looking for a diverse hub team that includes researchers and innovators from a broad range of disciplines, as well as policymakers, practitioners and wider civil society. The team must be interdisciplinary, and must include academics, policymakers, and external practitioners with skills in knowledge brokering, facilitation, modelling, soft systems methodology, and futures.

Disciplines involved could be drawn from the agricultural, biological, natural, environmental, physical, engineering, mathematical, economics and social sciences.

The hub team will be required to have excellent skills and experience in:

Policy, communication and strategy:

- working with a range of stakeholders to support the application of research into agricultural or environment policy
- translation and communication of research findings into real world scenarios, which capture both benefits and trade-offs across the whole system
- strong leadership, strategic vision and ability to set and meet objectives

Analysis and evidence:

- expertise across a broad range of interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research that is relevant to land use and land use change, soil system health and carbon dynamics, and reducing agriculture emissions
- systems thinking
- modelling
- developing future scenarios

- evidence synthesis and integration
- foresight and scenario development

Co-ordination:

- leadership of interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research
- programme coordination
- knowledge mobilisation
- workshop design and facilitation
- working with a range of stakeholders to support translation of research into policy
- supporting equality, diversity and inclusion in research or programme co-ordination

Governance

The successful hub team will be allocated a project officer assigned by the government funding partners, who will work with the hub on monitoring, evaluation and reporting at least quarterly.

There will be mid-term review to decide if outputs and outcomes are being achieved and if funding should continue. Steering will be provided by a Programme Executive Board, who will provide input throughout the duration of the award.

Duration

Funding is available for up to 40 months, with a fixed start date of 1 November 2023.

Funding available

We will invest a total of £6,250,000 to support one co-ordination and translation hub (at 80% FEC).

Funding under the 'directly incurred' cost heading may include the following costs:

- travel and subsistence: to enable members of the co-ordination and translation hub to meet to exchange ideas and expertise. This may include visits by or to experts overseas. This may also include travel and subsistence costs to support secondments. Where possible, collaborators should meet their own travel costs
- administrative support: a sufficient level of administrative support should be requested to ensure the co-ordination, management and smooth running of the hub. Reasonable costs for monitoring and dissemination of the hub's activities can also be included
- organisation of activities: funding can be requested for costs involved in running activities such as networking events, expert working groups, workshops. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about the range of activities that could support the delivery of the hub's goals
- engagement and access: funds can be requested for engagement activities, such as engaging with farmers and accessing agricultural sites

- activities to identify and disseminate key research challenges in the area, for example, horizon scanning studies
- activities to facilitate impact and advance policy: for example, reports and briefings
- secondment support: funds can be requested for support, including scoping of potential opportunities, travel and subsistence
- activities to support career development: funds can be requested for activities including training, knowledge exchange visits and mentoring
- activities to connect users, industry, policymakers and other stakeholders with the research base: funds can be requested for activities including stakeholder workshops and engagements with farmers and small and medium enterprises to support participation
- communication costs: funds can be requested for communication costs and for additional equipment such as personal computers and web servers
- equipment: funds can be requested for equipment to support networking, events and communication. Equipment over £10,000 is not available through this opportunity

Further details will be covered in the webinar. If there are any queries regarding eligibility of specific costs please use the email address in the contact details section of the funding opportunity. Please provide sufficient time ahead of the submission date when making these queries.

Responsible innovation

As directed by the UKRI policies and standards, [responsible innovation](#) aims to ensure that:

- unintended negative impacts are avoided
- barriers to dissemination, adoption and diffusion of research and innovation are reduced
- the positive societal and economic benefits of research and innovation are fully realised

Applicants for this funding opportunity will be required to practice responsible innovation following the UKRI guidance. This includes avoiding solution options that would require decreasing the overall fraction of locally produced UK food and avoiding negative offshore environmental outcomes as a result of the changes in UK land use.

Environmental sustainability

UKRI recognises that we must embed environmental sustainability in everything we do.

You are expected to consider the environmental impact of the hub's activities and to put in place actions that encourage sustainability and mitigate any risk of environmental harm.

How to apply

Expression of interest

To submit an expression of interest, please fill out the word document on this page. One document is required per team, not per applicant. Please send the completed document to: tlunznp@bbsrc.ukri.org

Full application

You must apply using the [Joint Electronic Submission \(Je-S\) system](#).

You can find advice on completing your application in:

- the [Je-S handbook](#)
- [guidance for applicants](#)

We recommend you start your application early.

Your host organisation will also be able to provide advice and guidance.

Submitting your application

Before starting an application, you will need to log in or create an account in Je-S.

Details on how to submit a full application will be provided to those who have submitted an expression of interest only.

Once you have completed your application, make sure you 'submit document'.

You can save completed details in Je-S at any time and return to continue your application later.

Deadline

BBSRC must receive your application by 25 July 2023 at 4:00pm.

You will not be able to apply after this time. Please leave enough time for your proposal to pass through your organisation's Je-S submission route before this date.

You should ensure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines that may be in place.

Attachments

Your application must also include the following attachments:

- eight page case for support

- two page work plan, including Gantt chart
 - two page justification of resources
 - two page data management plan
 - Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI). Please refer to the [UKRI guidance on R4RI](#)
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How we will assess your application

Applications for the coordination and translation hub will be assessed in a two-stage process.

Stage one: expression of interest (closes on 24 May 2023)

Each hub team proposal must submit an expression of interest (EOI) which should state the principal investigator's name and institution (including position held), and briefly describe their plans for the hub.

Any co-investigators already intending to be part of the project must also provide their names and institutions. The EOI should also list any further confirmed project partners and collaborators.

UKRI and programme partners will check EOIs for eligibility and remit fit against the requirements of this funding opportunity as outlined in the scope, and standard [UKRI eligibility criteria](#).

This will be a light touch check to ensure that prospective principal investigators and co-investigators and their host institutions are eligible for funding, and that the research outline fits within the remit of the programme.

If applicants are eligible, they will be invited within two weeks after the EOI deadline, to submit full proposals.

If there is exceptional demand UKRI reserves the right to implement appropriate demand management measures at this stage. In this case, responses to applicants will take longer than the two weeks stated above.

Stage two: full proposals (closes 25 July 2023)

Only those applications invited from stage one may submit full proposals. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will be given an opportunity to discuss their application with government funders.

Proposals will be assessed by panel, including an interview. The role of the panel is to make funding recommendations to the programme funding partners, who will make the final funding decision.

The outcome of the assessment process will be communicated to principal investigators alongside the panel feedback to applicants shortly following the panel meeting.

UKRI reserves the right to modify the assessment process as may be required.

Assessment criteria

Proposals which demonstrate that they meet the following criteria are preferred:

Vision

To what extent does the proposal demonstrate:

- an ambitious transformative strategic vision to enable evidence to inform policy for accelerating progress towards achieving net zero targets and other environmental and societal benefits

Fit to the opportunity

To what extent does the proposal demonstrate:

Programme coordination and multi-stakeholder engagement

To what extent does the proposal identify or demonstrate:

- effective strategy for convening a transdisciplinary, diverse, multisectoral community to deliver programme aims at national and local levels across the UK, practitioners and other land-users or managers
- cohesion across the whole programme and develop synergistic links between strategic projects

Transformative potential, policy relevance and impact

To what extent does the proposal identify or demonstrate:

- awareness of the policy landscape
- plans to ensure research and policy are embedded in the programme to achieve impact, particularly in fast-tracking research outputs back into policy
- how the hub will develop capacity across the programme (including new tools, models and ways of working) to embed research within policy making at all levels within the UK

Capacity and capability of the hub team

To what extent does the hub team demonstrate:

- a clear and coherent leadership, management and governance plan with clearly defined roles for all hub team members and approach to ensuring integration of interdisciplinary team expertise and skills

- the hub team members have excellent expertise and skills in key areas needed for the effective delivery of hub objectives
- a clear and feasible monitoring and evaluation framework, including milestones and indicators, and how these will be measured

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

To what extent does the proposal demonstrate:

- embedding of EDI in the design and development of the hub proposal
 - a clear and feasible plan and strategy to ensure EDI throughout the delivery of the hub activities, including knowledge exchange and engagement with the research projects and other related initiatives
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Contact details

Get help with developing your proposal

For help and advice on costings and writing your proposal please contact your research office in the first instance, allowing sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

Ask about this funding opportunity

Email: tlunznp@bbsrc.ukri.org

Include 'LUNZ-Hub' in the subject line.

We aim to respond within five working days.

Get help with applying through Je-S

Email

jeshelp@je-s.ukri.org

Telephone

01793 444164

Opening times

[Je-S helpdesk opening times](#).

Additional info

Online webinar

We will hold a programme level webinar on 19 April, 11:30am UK time, on Zoom for the opportunity to ask questions. This webinar will cover both the hub and strategic projects research opportunities and it will be recorded. Please [sign up to the webinar via Eventbrite](#).

About the programme

Transforming land use for net zero, nature and people forms part of a portfolio of investments under the [UKRI building a green future strategic theme](#) as set out in the UKRI strategy 2022 to 2027.

The building a green future theme addresses environmental and net zero challenges in all sectors of the economy, including amplifying investments to mitigate greenhouse gas issues and support the adaptation and monitoring of climate change.

Investments made under the building a green future theme are intended to support research and innovation activity across the full breadth of UKRI's remit and are overseen by a cross-UKRI programme board.

This opportunity is co-funded by UKRI, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (on behalf of England and Wales) and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. It has been co-designed with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Welsh Government and Scottish Government.

The programme will deliver high impact, cutting-edge research and innovation to achieve net zero, while meeting biodiversity, water, air and other environmental and societal goals.

This is a complex and system challenge that will require multiple policy changes to drive behaviour change across multiple stakeholder groups to achieve multiple environmental, social and economic goals. The programme will establish transdisciplinary, multisectoral community to navigate this complexity and find effective solutions.

Agriculture and wider land uses are major drivers of emissions, biodiversity loss and impacts a wide range of other government commitments. For the UK to achieve net zero by 2050 urgent action is needed. The scale of transformation is large and complex. It calls for world class research and innovation to work closely with policy to inform:

- what land use change is needed?
- how can it be achieved sustainably, while also delivering environmental, societal and economic objectives?

This programme aims to transform the way UKRI, central government and devolved administrations work together to establish transdisciplinary, multisectoral community that is co-designed and co-led.

The programme community will navigate this complexity and find effective solutions needed to achieve multiple environmental, social and economic goals, including achieving net zero.

Supporting documents

[Equality impact assessment \(PDF, 132KB\)](#)

[Expression of interest form \(Word, 32KB\)](#)

Timeline

- **19 April 2023 9:00am**
Expression of interest opening date
- **19 April 2023 11:30am**
Programme webinar
- **3 May 2023 11:00am**
Community workshop
- **24 May 2023 4:00pm**
Expression of interest closing date
- **Early June 2023**
Invitation to submit
- **25 July 2023 4:00pm**
Full submission closing date
- **September 2023**
Panel meeting
- **October 2023**
Funding announcement

○ **1 November 2023**

Project start

Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/land-use-for-net-zero-hub-lunz-hub>