

# Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund (QSEIF)

## Funding Guidelines for Energy-saving technologies

### Closing dates:

**Note that draft and final applications will only be considered if received by the closing dates in each funding round.**

**(Refer to the website of the Department of Environment & Resource Management or QSEIF Application form for dates of the next funding round).**

QSEIF assists Queensland organisations develop innovative technologies or processes that reduce consumption of fossil fuels, greenhouse gas emissions or water consumption<sup>1</sup>.

Technologies eligible for QSEIF funding include those that:

- Reduce energy use and are more energy-efficient,
- Use renewable energy sources to replace fossil fuels,
- Substitute biomass or waste for fossil fuels,
- Reduce greenhouse gas and other pollution emissions resulting from use of fossil fuels.

Eligible projects must have a strong innovative component. QSEIF is intended to offset the technical risk involved in developing new technologies or process improvements through to the commercialisation stage. Applications must propose a clear pathway to commercialise the newly developed technology. QSEIF does not fund projects that are able to proceed on a commercial basis without government support.

QSEIF encourages collaboration between the applicant organisation and one or more project partners. Applicants may contract technological development to an external research institution, university, consulting group or another company.

University researchers with a project proposal should seek an industry partner with the capability to commercialise the technology, contribute at least 20% of project funding, and exercise oversight and financial management of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> For projects dealing primarily with reducing water consumption, separate guidelines are available.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Project proposals must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must be Queensland-based organisations, and the main project activities must be undertaken within Queensland. Applicant organisations must be incorporated before government funding is committed to the project.
- Projects must have a strong innovative component.
- A minimum 20% of total external project costs<sup>2</sup> must be borne by the applicant. Applicants are expected to contribute a greater share of funding for projects having less technical risk. Other government grant funding may not contribute to project costs.
- Only applications that have been submitted in draft format will be eligible for submitting as a final application.
- Projects must lead towards a commercially-viable outcome.
- Intellectual property developed in the project must belong to a Queensland-based organisation.
- Projects must enhance Queensland's position as a source of sustainable energy and water technologies.
- Draft and final applications will only be considered if lodged by the closing dates.
- Projects must be able to commence once funding is approved, and should be completed within about eighteen months.
- Project outcomes must be compatible with legislation, standards and building codes likely to be in effect when project outcomes are ready to be commercialised.

QSEIF funding is NOT available to State or Federal government departments or to government-owned corporations.

### **Selection criteria for applications**

QSEIF is a competitive process. Applications that meet basic eligibility requirements are evaluated against the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrated potential to achieve substantial reductions in use of fossil fuels and greenhouse emissions.
- Demonstrated potential for broad adoption and commercialisation of technology or process developed in the project.
- Feasibility, practicality and a sound technical basis.
- An effective strategy to manage the Intellectual Property developed in the project, and to commercialise or implement the project outcomes.
- The technical and financial capability of the applicant and project partners to successfully undertake and complete the project and achieve the intended outcome.
- A need for Queensland Government funding support.
- The track record of the applicant and project partners in acting in an environmentally, financially and socially responsible manner.
- The completeness of the application.

Applications are expected to meet all the above criteria.

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<sup>2</sup> External costs are products or services purchased from organisations that are independent of the applicant (i.e. excluding payments to employees, or to companies with common Directors or ownership, of the organisation receiving QSEIF funding).

The amount of QSEIF funding available for any one project will generally be limited to \$200,000.

### **Application process**

- Prospective applicants should contact a QSEIF Project Officer in the Department of Environment and Resource Management, DERM (see contact details below) to discuss their proposal and obtain an application form).
- Applicants are encouraged to seek guidance at each stage of preparing their application.
- **Draft applications must be submitted by the closing date in the current funding round.**
- The Department will provide feedback on draft applications to assist applicants to further develop and refine their proposals. Only applications that have been submitted in draft format before the draft application deadline will be eligible to be submitted as a final application.
- **Final applications must be received by the closing date in the current funding round.**
- Each final application that meets eligibility requirements will be forwarded to a leading specialist in the respective technology area for in-depth assessment.
- Additional information may be sought from referees, searches of financial records of the applicant, and compliance with environmental permits.
- Evaluation of final applications will be undertaken by an independent Queensland Sustainable Energy Advisory Council (QSEAC), which will recommend projects for Ministerial approval.
- Information about the status of applications will not be available until the evaluation process is complete.
- Approved projects are expected to be announced publicly, and a description of each approved project published on the DERM website. The decisions of the QSEAC and the Minister are final, and no discussions will be entered into.
- Offers of QSEIF funding will be subject to specific conditions set out in a project contract, and the amount (or proportion) of DERM project funding may differ from that proposed in the project application.
- No funds will be paid until a contract has been agreed and signed by the applicant organisation and DERM. Payments will be made after achievement of specified milestones set out in the contract. General conditions for a typical contract can be viewed on the DERM website at: <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/qseif>

For further information or to discuss your proposal, contact:

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