

Sustainable Communities Challenge

Challenge Handbook

Sustainable Communities Challenge

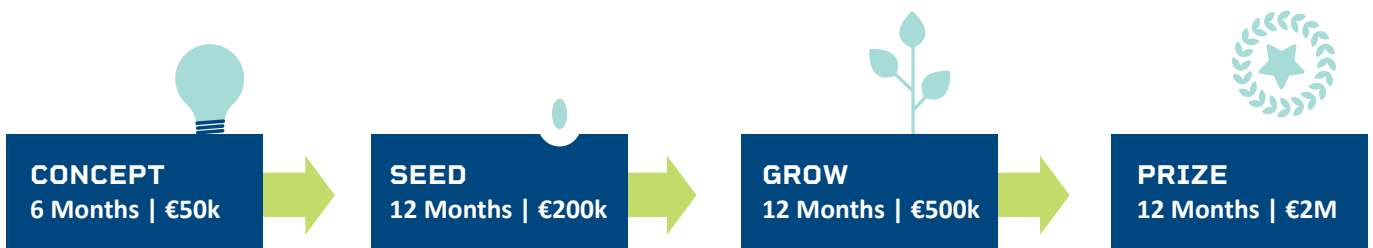
The Sustainable Communities Challenge seeks solutions that will support a sustainable future for Ireland's urban and rural populations.

Why Apply?

The Sustainable Communities Challenge gives academic research teams a unique opportunity to contribute to Ireland's transition to an environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy. Following successful review of applications, teams will receive funding of up to €250,000 and training to accelerate development of their idea. A number of teams will then be selected as finalists and receive up to €500,000 to further develop their idea before an overall winner is selected for the €2 million prize award.

Who Can Apply?

Postdoctoral, early career or established researchers may lead teams in the Sustainable Communities Challenge. Teams will consist of a minimum of two academic researchers with complementary skillsets. At the application or during the first phase of the award, teams must also include a third member who will bring specific knowledge or experience of the societal challenge the team will address.



How To Apply?

Complete a short six-page form that asks you to describe your team, the specific challenge or problem you will address, the solution you propose and how it will create impact. Register and upload your application to SFI's grant management system before the deadline.

Teams should note that they will also be required to upload their CVs and other supporting documentation described in the call document.

What Are We Looking For?

The Sustainable Communities Challenge focuses on creating sustainable and inclusive ways for all people to live, be productive and creative, and to thrive in balance with nature, the environment, and our planet. The challenge provides researchers with the opportunity to explore solutions that will support a sustainable future for Ireland's urban and rural populations. At the heart of the Green Transition and Digital Transformation is imagining how we will live in the future. As society is transformed, we must consider what innovations and improvements are needed and how research now can prepare us for the decades to come.

Find out more about the varied and diverse teams we have funded under other challenges on the SFI website:

www.sfi.ie/challenges



Key Dates



20 February 2023 –
Call opens for
applications



26 May 2023
Application Deadline



1 September 2023
Award start date

More About the Sustainable Communities Challenge

Areas of Interest

- ▲ **Built environment** – solutions that will address the impact of our built environment, for example, through construction materials, energy efficiency and enabling energy neutral or positive energy communities.
- ▲ **Transport and mobility** – solutions for clean transport in cities, towns and rural communities, in areas such as planning and modelling, novel modes of transport, driving modal shifts and enabling technologies.
- ▲ **Resilient infrastructure** – Solutions for sustainable provision of power, water, waste management, transport and other services to communities leveraging new technologies or nature-based approaches.



Further Information

For all information on the Sustainable Communities Challenge, please visit the website: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/Sustainable-Communities/>. Applicants are advised that they should consult the call document for all details and eligibility criteria for the call in advance of preparing an application. For any further queries, please contact the SFI Challenge Team at challenges@sfi.ie