

## Sustainable Communities Challenge: DNSH assessment

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**Challenge:** The Sustainable Communities challenge seeks to create 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.

This assessment is intended to outline the expected compliance of applications submitted under the Sustainable Communities Challenge with the principle of Do No Significant Harm (DNSH), i.e., that the solutions proposed will not have foreseeable harmful impacts in respect to any of the six environmental objectives.

While this assessment outlines broad expectations for how the challenge call does not intend *prima facie* to support solutions that will negatively impact any of the environmental objectives, all applications under the National Challenge Fund must include a DNSH assessment at the project level to confirm compliance of the proposed solutions with the DNSH principle. Applicants should refer to the guidance in the DNSH template document available on the challenge website.

In the context of the DNSH assessment for the Sustainable Communities Challenge, it is noted that the programme remit for the National Challenge Fund expressly excludes research that directly or indirectly supports the further use of fossil fuels, waste landfills, incinerators etc. In addition, it is required that all applications to the Sustainable Communities Challenge are aligned with the Green Transition and must represent research and innovation that focuses on the low-carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change. Please see the programme remit section of the call document for more information on this.

Updated DNSH self-assessments will be submitted at each stage of the programme. Reviewers will receive these assessments as part of the proposal documentation and will be required to confirm that sufficient information has been provided in the self-assessment to demonstrate compliance. Applicants or awardees may be required to provide additional information to SFI upon request.

Does the potential life-cycle impact of the solution developed as a result of this research have potentially harmful impacts on achieving the named environmental objective?		
<b>1. Climate change mitigation</b> <i>i.e., Is the project output expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?</i>	Yes	No
Projects under this call are expected to focus on developing enabling technologies and solutions to allow urban and rural populations to live sustainably. Specific areas that have been highlighted in this call include solutions for the built environment and transport that will help increase energy efficiency or enable energy neutrality. If proposed solutions address these or other relevant areas, it is expected that they would have either neutral or positive impacts on climate change mitigation.  All applications will include a DNSH assessment to confirm that the proposed solution will not cause significant harm in respect to this objective. Applicants will be required to use the best available scientific evidence to complete this assessment but are also advised to include appropriate considerations as part of their research programme.		X
<b>2. Climate change adaptation</b>	Yes	No

<p><i>i.e., Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?</i></p>		
<p>The solutions supported under this call are not expected to lead to increased adverse impact of the current climate or the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets. The projects will be focused on developing resilient and sustainable enabling solutions for urban and rural communities and as such will be neutral or positive with respect to this environmental objective.</p> <p>All applications will include a DNSH assessment to confirm that the proposed solution will not cause significant harm in respect to the climate change adaptation objective.</p>		X
<p><b>3. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources</b> <i>i.e., Is the project output expected to be detrimental?</i> <i>(i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or</i> <i>(ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters?</i></p>	Yes	No
<p>This challenge call is not expected to have any detrimental impact on the use and protection of water and marine resources.</p> <p>Where there are any potential risks to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater, or to the good environmental status of marine waters from the researched technology, product or other solution, these must be evaluated and addressed as part of the project DNSH assessment.</p>		X
<p><b>4. The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</b> <i>i.e., Is the measure expected to:</i> <i>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or</i> <i>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or</i> <i>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy?</i></p>	Yes	No
<p>This challenge call is not expected to lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources, or to significantly increase the generation, incineration or disposal of waste and the long-term disposal of waste is not expected to cause significant or long-term environmental harm. This programme is seeking to support solutions that will help enable resilient infrastructure including in areas such as waste management to help create more sustainable communities.</p> <p>Any potential risks to the circular economy objectives from the researched technology, product or other solution will be evaluated and addressed as part of the project DNSH assessment.</p>		X
<p><b>5. Pollution Prevention and control</b> <i>i.e., Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?</i></p>	Yes	No
<p>The aim of this call is to identify solutions that will support communities to live in balance with nature and the environment. The challenge call is not expected to lead to any significant increases in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land, and it is expected</p>		X



<p>that any researched technology will have better environmental performance than best available alternatives.</p> <p>Any potential risks to generate a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants to air, water or land from the researched technology, product or other solution will be evaluated and addressed as part of the project DNSH assessment.</p>		
<p><b>6. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</b> <i>i.e., Is the measure expected to be:</i> <i>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or</i> <i>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?</i></p>	Yes	No
<p>There is no anticipated harmful impact of this call on the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. This programme aims to fund research that supports a sustainable future for Ireland’s urban and rural populations in balance with the natural environment.</p> <p>Any potential risks to the good condition or resilience of ecosystems or to the conservation status of habitats and species from the researched technology, product or other solution must be evaluated and addressed as part of the project DNSH assessment.</p>		X