

Supplementary Application Guidelines for the

# Zero Emissions Award

Pioneering the Green Revolution

Vienna, 13/03/2025

Discovering  
what  
matters.

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## 1 Eligibility

Eligible for funding are projects with concisely defined objectives and methodology, which are subject to duration and funding limits analogous to the provisions of the FWF's [Principal Investigator Projects](#) (PAT) and [ESPRIT](#) (ESP) programs, and that focus on one of the following areas:

- Pioneering research/excellent basic research in all scientific disciplines to promote innovation in the field of renewable energies and the energy transition
- Research on the technological framework conditions required for widespread implementation of the energy transition
- Behavioral research on the use of renewable energies

## 2 Application process

The guidelines and forms required for submitting a [Principal Investigator Project](#) or an [ESPRIT](#) project apply for this call.

All applications are submitted online using [elane](#), the FWF's digital application portal. Please note that both Principal Investigator Projects and ESPRIT are subject to the [PROFI](#) funding mode. When applying, first select the appropriate program (PAT/ESP), then choose "Zero Emissions Award" from **the drop-down menu**.

An additional program-specific form must also be filled out in elane. This form will help the FWF decide whether the Principal Investigator Project or ESPRIT project described in the application actually meets the thematic specification of the current call. If not, the applicant agrees that the application will be processed and decided upon like a regular proposal in the Principal Investigator Project or ESPRIT programs.

After the application has been submitted, changes/additions can only be made if specifically requested by the FWF. Changes must be made within the period indicated after receipt of notification (all requested changes are submitted online as supplementary applications).

## 3 Eligible costs

Depending on the project, project-specific funds (personnel and non-personnel costs) can be applied for. Please note that the number of reviews required is based on the amount of funding requested.

For submissions to the ESPRIT program, the maximum amount is based on the program's current funding limit per project.

## 4 Decision-making process

Assuming the review process is complete, the Foundation will decide on all applications submitted by October 16 of the current year, in the following May. The decision of the alpha+ Foundation Board of Directors will be announced at the START/Wittgenstein Award Ceremony in June 2024.

Any applications received after October 16, which have not been fully reviewed by May will automatically be decided at a later Scientific Board meeting and a later meeting of the alpha+ Foundation.

€900,000 are available for the first call for proposals for the Zero Emissions Award.

If the required funding amount for an eligible project exceeds the amount available, the FWF will cover the difference from its own budget.

Excellent reviewed proposals that cannot be funded through the Zero Emissions Award will be funded directly by the FWF; however, the call-specific provision on general project costs does not apply to these applications.

## 5 Special features

For Principal Investigator Projects funded by the Foundation, the general project costs are increased to 15%. ESPRIT projects receive 10% more budget.

Applications submitted for this call are not subject to the restriction on the number of projects in progress ("[3 projects regulation](#)", PDF, 79 KB).