

# Q&A for the Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund

TE TARI TIAKI PŪNGAO  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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Questions from individual applicants should be referred directly to EECA: [LEVFund@eeca.govt.nz](mailto:LEVFund@eeca.govt.nz)

## 1. What is the fund for?

The purpose of the Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund (the Fund, or LEVCF) is to encourage innovation and investment that will accelerate the uptake of electric and other low emission vehicles (LEV) in New Zealand that might not otherwise occur.

## 2. How much money can I apply for?

The Fund will offer up to 50% funding towards suitable projects. The minimum level of co-funding must be cash and not in-kind and must not come from other central Government grants. Total EECA funding available per project is generally limited to \$500,000. Proposals for more than this will be considered in exceptional circumstances only if:

- the project is likely to demonstrate significant public benefits resulting in outstanding value for money; and
- the project cannot be scaled down without significantly affecting the project's objectives, viability or value for money; and
- the applicant contributes greater than 50% co-funding.

## 3. Is the investment focus different in round 10?

Round 10 has three investment focus areas; electric vehicle charging; technology and services; and demonstrating low emission vehicles. The Request for Proposals document (RFP) section 3 sets out the definition of each area and what is included, and details examples of the types of projects we are looking for. It also details the types of aspects that should be demonstrated in order to score more highly.

Section 3 also lists exclusions, some of which are new to round 10.

Read section 3 carefully; your project idea may no longer qualify for co-funding. We are happy to talk to you about any ideas you may have.

Most notably, new areas for exclusion are:

- Car share, lease, subscription and rental services – there are considered to be sufficient supported and unsupported services underway and businesses are now operating commercially.
- Electric buses – several Councils are operating electric buses. The Government has also announced separate funding to support future Council purchases of buses.
- E-bikes and secure storage – there are considered to be sufficient projects underway to provide insights.
- Vehicle conversions – e.g. converting a truck from diesel to electric. The model is considered to be proven.

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#### **4. My project idea is similar to a previous successful Fund project, can I apply for co-funding?**

Make sure your project fits one of the round 10 focus areas. The Fund has been running now for 9 rounds so it is becoming more difficult to bring something innovative or unique for consideration. Consider your proposal in light of previously approved LEVCF projects; projects that are similar or the same as previous projects will need to demonstrate a high level of innovation, advancement of the objectives and public benefit to score highly. Talk to us at EECA if you would like to discuss your project idea.

#### **5. What do you mean by incremental cost in the RFP Response Form?**

Your project may be very similar to what you do in your business as an ongoing activity, except for the fact that you are purchasing a low emission vehicle instead of an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle. By incremental cost we mean all the additional costs of going the low emissions route, e.g. project management for delivery, the difference in cost between the low emissions vehicle and the ICE, and the total cost of charging infrastructure.

#### **6. What do I have to do?**

You will need to submit a proposal for funding on the RFP Response Form. Instructions and guidance on completing the form are in the RFP document on the EECA website.

#### **7. What can I use the funding for?**

Innovative projects that will accelerate the uptake of electric and other low emission vehicles (LEV) in New Zealand that might not otherwise occur. The Fund is limited to projects involving mainstream vehicles (and related technologies) that operate on roads used by the public.

These projects will contribute to:

- increasing the variety and supply of LEVs available
- improving the availability of servicing or charging infrastructure in areas where demand is uneconomic or not fully developed
- increasing demand for LEVs
- developing innovative products or systems to take advantage of growing electric vehicle use
- overcoming barriers to uptake of LEVs and related technologies.

The RFP document outlines projects that would be outside the scope of the fund, notably research, projects purely focused on delivering education and information, and projects involving bicycles, quadricycles, hybrid vehicles and off-road vehicles.

#### **8. How soon can I access the funding if I am successful?**

Once a proposal has been approved for funding by the EECA Board, EECA and the successful applicant will negotiate a funding agreement that commits the recipient to implementing the project. The funding agreement will detail the obligations on the recipient for the duration of the project, which must be met in order to receive funding from the LEVCF.

#### **9. Who decides what proposals will be funded?**

An assessment panel will assess the proposals against a set of criteria and then make recommendations to the EECA Board. The EECA Board will make the final decisions on which proposals are offered funding and how much that offer will be.

**10. Who is eligible to apply for funding from the LEVCF?**

The Fund is open to all New Zealand-based legal entities except Public Service Departments, non-Public Service Departments, and Statutory Crown Entities such as District Health Boards.

**11. Where can I find out what projects have been funded?**

Details are available on the EECA website.

**12. Who can I talk to about my project idea?**

Our Points of Contact for all enquiries, such as questions on the scope of the Fund or assistance with filling in the Response Form:

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