



CARBON CAPTURE KICKSTART

*\$30 million for design
and engineering*

Online Submission:
ERAadmin.ca

Deadline:
Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5 PM Mountain Time

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Introduction

This document is intended to provide answers to common questions from prospective applicants to ERA's funding programs. In the event of discrepancy between this document and the official Call guidelines/template, the latter shall govern.

Applicants are encouraged to contact ERA (applications@eralberta.ca) with specific questions regarding their proposals or to clarify any of the information provided.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is ERA?

ERA is Emissions Reduction Alberta. We previously operated as the Climate Change and Emissions Management (CCEMC) Corporation. ERA is a key partner in implementing Alberta's climate change strategy. Our funding, which comes from the Government of Alberta's Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Fund, is helping to shape a province with a diverse economy, a healthy environment, and a robust innovation ecosystem. For more information, visit the [About ERA](#) webpage.

2. How can I stay apprised of ERA funding opportunities?

The best way to stay apprised of our activities is through subscribing to the [ERA Update Newsletter](#).

3. How does ERA find projects to fund?

ERA regularly selects projects to fund through a competitive call for proposals process. Visit our [Apply For Funding](#) page to learn more about our process.

4. How can I get funding for my study from ERA?

To receive funding from ERA, your study must meet the criteria set out in an active funding opportunity. The criteria are in the Guidelines Documents that are published on our website for each opportunity. The guidelines vary for each round of funding, so it is important to review the Guidelines Document for the specific opportunity that you are responding to.

5. How do I apply? How can I access the EOI template? Can I submit an EOI without using the online system?

Applicants must complete an Expression of Interest (EOI). The EOI template can be downloaded on ERA's application portal (<http://www.eraadmin.ca>) after you have created an account and started a submission. All submissions must be completed through the ERIMS online system; no submissions will be accepted via other means.

6. How do I determine if my project qualifies for funding? What sectors are eligible for this call? What are some examples of technologies you are looking for?

This Call for Proposals is targeted at accelerating development of carbon capture and/or transportation network projects in Alberta via support for pre-construction studies. Studies must be focused on an eligible Ultimate Project.

In general, this Call is not technology-prescriptive or sector specific. Projects may occur at facilities in any sector provided the required minimum CO₂ capture/transport rate is met. Any capture/transport technology can be considered as long as it is a sufficient level of technical and commercial readiness. A non-exhaustive list of example technology areas of interest can be found in the official Call guidelines document. When in doubt, applicants are encouraged to contact ERA's technical team (applications@eralberta.ca) to discuss the eligibility and fit of their technology.

7. How does ERA define “pre-construction studies”? What stage of development do projects need to be to apply?

The objective of this Call is to accelerate industrial-scale carbon capture/transport projects through project development towards final investment decision (FID). The Call will support work to refine the feasibility, technical design, site integration, budgetary estimates, and business case for carbon capture/transport projects under consideration. As such, strong opportunities under this Call are likely to be projects where some pre-feasibility and scoping work has occurred but where more detailed feasibility and/or Front End Engineering Design needs to occur prior to FID and commencement of detailed design and capital spending.

Funding will not be provided for fabrication, construction, commissioning, or operating costs.

8. Are carbon storage/sequestration studies eligible for this Call?

No, only the upstream/midstream elements of the carbon value chain (capture/transport) are eligible for consideration in this Call. All proposals must provide a clear line of sight to offtake and permanent sequestration, and studies that cover the full value chain may apply for a funding top-up (see guidelines). However, ERA funding will not be provided to any study/project activities downstream of the transportation component. Moreover, studies focused on standalone storage/sequestration projects are not eligible for this Call.

9. Are carbon transportation studies eligible for this Call?

Studies focused on CO₂ transportation networks (or hubs) are eligible for funding under this Call. Such studies must involve multiple sources of CO₂ totalling a minimum of 1 MtCO₂ in annual capture & transport. Projects focused on point-to-point transportation (single pipeline from one source to one sink) are not eligible.

10. If I have already received funding from ERA, can I still apply?

Past recipients are eligible for funding for new projects or technologies, or for follow-on projects. Projects that have received funding or funding approval from ERA/CCEMC are not eligible to receive further ERA funding. The scope of proposals submitted to this Call must be distinct from work previously funded by ERA.

11. Does the applicant need to be incorporated in Alberta? Do all partners need to be from Alberta?

No. The applicant, technology, and consortium partners can come from anywhere. However, the ultimate carbon capture/transport projects considered by studies must be focused on a specific industrial facility in Alberta. All studies supported through this Call must demonstrate a clear and justified value proposition for accelerating deployment of carbon capture/transport in Alberta.

12. Can a portion of a study occur outside of Alberta?

Yes, studies may involve activities or incur expenses outside of Alberta. However, a minimum of 50% of eligible costs must be incurred within Alberta. Applicants must justify the balance of in-province and out-of-province activities associated with their proposal.

13. Can one applicant submit multiple applications?

Yes. There is no limit on the number of submissions from any party. Due to the large volume of proposals expected and the competitive nature of the process we encourage applicants to present only their highest quality opportunities.

14. Would a portfolio of studies qualify or is it preferable to submit as individual proposals? Are generic/sector-wide studies eligible?

Each study funded in this Call must pertain to a specific carbon capture/transportation project at a distinct industrial facility. Studies considering multiple projects, multiple potential site hosts, or a "model plant" concept where a design would be developed for a generic facility within an industry are not eligible. As an exception, studies contemplating a carbon transportation network may include multiple host facilities.

15. Can ERA's funding be used as provincial matching for other programs? Are projects/studies that have received other government funding eligible?

Yes, ERA can fund studies that have received or will receive other government funding. ERA does not have a strict "stacking" limit for government funds if ERA's contribution is matched at least 1:1 by industry dollars. However, other funding organizations may restrict stacking of government funds.

If the intent is to apply to other grant programs with the same study, ERA recommends that this is noted when completing the financing table in the ERA application. Having other grant proposals in progress can improve ERA's assessment of the financial viability of the project/study. ERA reserves the right to award less funding than requested, so it is

necessary for applicants to justify the amount requested from ERA, taking into consideration the likelihood of securing other grant funding.

16. Can I apply to both ERA’s Carbon Capture Kickstart and the Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) “Seeking FEED Studies for CCUS Facilities” program?

Yes, projects/studies that fit both programs can apply to both - and could potentially be funded by both. The fund matching and stacking requirements of both programs would still need to be met. ERA and NRCan have a proposal sharing arrangement whereby FPP applicants to NRCan may submit their NRCan proposal to ERA without needing to reformat their proposal using ERA’s template. NRCan FPP applicants wishing to make use of this arrangement should contact applications@eralberta.ca to ensure their submission meets all of ERA’s requirements.

17. Why does ERA request permission to share my application with Trusted Partners? What does this mean?

ERA collaborates with other funding organizations to share application materials and, in some cases, jointly consider proposals for funding. This provides applicants with greater exposure to other funding organizations and programs. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications to other programs in parallel to ERA where appropriate. ERA proposal sharing does not guarantee consideration by partner organizations.

18. How does the amount of ERA funding requested impact the decision whether to fund a proposal?

The amount of funding requested does not change how proposals are evaluated. Proposals are not sorted or grouped based on funding amount or project size; all applications must stand on their own merits regardless of the funding amount requested. It is necessary for applicants to justify the amount requested. Funding requests should be commensurate with the scale of the ultimate project and potential associated outcomes.

19. For calculating GHG reductions, what timeline should we consider?

ERA will base assessments on annual emissions reductions for the life of the carbon capture/transport project, and will consider the overall GHG impact by 2025, 2030, and 2040. Further information is available in the Call Guidelines.

20. If a proposal is accepted, does the IP become public? What information does ERA share for funded projects/studies?

Under normal circumstances all IP remains with the original owner. ERA does require public reporting of the study outcomes and learnings, but business/competitive confidentiality is maintained. Please refer to the knowledge sharing section of the guidelines for further information.

Application details are kept confidential on a permanent basis. When funding is announced, ERA will publicly share a non-confidential summary of the projects selected for funding. Once the funded study is complete, public reporting of outcomes and learnings is required.

Given the targeted outcomes of this Call, ERA will require successful applicants to participate in knowledge sharing activities throughout the ERA funding period and upon study completion. ERA may also require post-study reporting to track advancement towards final investment decision. Additional details are available in the Call Guidelines and will be finalized in ERA's Contribution Agreement with recipients.

ERA reserves the right to publish aggregated data or insights based on the full set of proposals received to advance the state of knowledge around carbon capture and transport in Alberta. Confidential information pertaining to specific proposals, projects, organizations, and/or facilities will not be disclosed.

21. What criteria are used for decision making? Does ERA have Key Performance Indicators or targets for successful proposals, for example: a specific \$/tCO₂e target?

Proposals are assessed based on the criteria described in the Call guidelines document that is posted on ERA's website. All proposals must satisfy the basic eligibility requirements of the Call (for screening purposes.) Once projects are deemed eligible, specific quantitative targets for key performance indicators are not used for adjudication and selection because of the diversity of proposals expected and the need for all proposals to stand on their own merits.

22. What constitutes 1:1 matching? Can use of IP, facilities, etc. be considered an eligible matching contribution? Can debt financing be used to match ERA funds?

ERA will only match contributions related to actual eligible expenses related to the study incurred during the term of the study. Use of patents or existing infrastructure would not be eligible for matching, however certain other in-kind contributions such as use of internal personnel can be eligible. Applicants may use debt or equity financing to provide their share of funds, among other options.

Please refer to the eligible expense guidelines on the ERA website for more details on eligible in-kind and cash matching contributions.

23. If a location has not been finalized for the project can an Expression of Interest (EOI) still be submitted for consideration?

Each proposal in this Call must target a specific facility. To improve the chances of success, applicants should provide clear indications and confirmations of host facility involvement in the study and project consortium, as well as evidence that senior management at the facility are actively considering investments in the ultimate carbon capture/transport project.

24. Do all team members, partners, and consultants need to be finalized prior to the application?

No, ERA recognizes that some elements may not be finalized at the time of Expression of Interest (EOI) submission. Applicants are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible about the core team, plans to acquire expertise where needed, and planned subcontracting to provide ERA's review team with confidence that the right expertise is available to successfully execute the study.

25. If changes/developments to the proposal occur after my EOI is submitted, is there an opportunity to revise?

After the Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline no changes can be made to EOI submissions. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present an updated proposal to ERA's review team for a final decision.

26. Does ERA provide a "matchmaking" service to connect technology developers with host sites or other consortium members?

No, ERA does not provide this type of service. Interested parties are encouraged to make use of industry associations, technology accelerators, and other resources when assembling a consortium.

27. How long does ERA monitor the study? What ongoing verification and validation is required?

ERA monitors the progress of each study throughout the course of the funding (funding award through to study completion.) For this Call specifically, ERA may require additional reporting following study completion to track progression towards final investment decision and execution of the ultimate carbon capture/transport project.

28. Who can I contact for help with my proposal? Does ERA provide feedback on proposals before submission?

General inquiries can be sent to applications@eralberta.ca, and questions about the online submission system can be sent to IMS@eralberta.ca.

ERA does not provide feedback on proposals prior to submission. However, ERA personnel are happy to help with questions about eligibility, fit, or how to best address the criteria.

29. Does ERA provide examples of previously submitted strong proposals?

ERA cannot share previous proposals due to the need to respect the confidentiality of past applicants.