

Innovate UK - Future Ready

There are three key areas of support that the Net Zero Living programme will provide

1. The Collective Power of an Active Cohort
2. Training Modules
3. Access to Specialist Support

1. The Collective Power of an Active Cohort

The Net Zero Living programme will be funded for three years and recognises that the successful applicants will have lots of experience to bring to the programme from existing activity as well as the new funded activity. We want to create a strong cohort of local authorities who are open to sharing experiences and learning between each other and will commit to peer to peer support.

To achieve this, we will be working with a delivery partner to develop a cohort programme to bring together representatives from all the local authorities that we are engaged with. We anticipate that the cohort will take part in a minimum of monthly events and meet face to face at least quarterly to not only share experiences but also to have the opportunity to meet other stakeholders who will be relevant to each cohort members plans.

2. Training Modules

As part of the Fast Followers stream, there will be a programme of learning modules funded by Innovate UK and delivered by a range of partner organisations. We are anticipating topic areas such as:

- Diagnosis
 - our net zero challenge definition and net zero vision for your place
 - citizen engagement to understand the needs of all communities within their place and the development of a citizen challenge group
 - re-development of your plans for delivering net zero
- Development
 - a general understanding of relevant emerging innovative technologies related to the delivery of net zero to increase confidence in decision making
 - basic training about net zero and carbon literacy for a specified number of employees
 - attendance at engagement events with net zero innovators including SMEs, communities and academics
 - energy efficiency and retrofit training, getting inspiration from advanced local authority led projects, as well as detailed models for delivery
- Delivery
 - Critical system interactions and dependencies – e.g. in mobility, or energy
 - procurement training for net zero
 - financial training for potential investment activities
 - data standards and practices training

However we will work with the successful cohort to develop this programme and ensure it meets the needs of the group in terms of skills, knowledge and capability required to meet net zero. These modules will also be available to our Pioneers where they are of interest and value.

3. Access to Specialist Support

We recognize that it is challenging to not only clearly articulate the challenges relating to net zero to deliver the most appropriate actions and solutions; but the fact that there are also many suppliers and tools for net zero solutions.

Through the Future Ready programme we will be providing access to our colleagues at Innovate UK KTN who will provide expertise to the cohort in translation and triage of challenges:

- Identifying existing activities and key stakeholders to help overcome the challenges and barriers
- Identify the best route forward, for example:
 - Stakeholder engagement and connections to businesses and other organisations
 - Provide a range of engagement / support activities between local authorities, industry and academia, which may include, site visits, round tables, workshops, establish working groups, tech showcase etc.

We will also be employing specialist partners who will be available to provide both group and 1-2-1 support to the cohort. We anticipate that this will cover key areas such as:

- PR and communications support to help to maximise the messaging around the activities and progress towards net zero
- Financing net zero and attracting investment
- Policy and regulatory support, for example, advice on how to maximise influence over policy and regulatory needs
- Citizen engagement methods and techniques
- Data best practice and standards

We will work with the cohort to understand the key needs and ensure that we have partners on board to provide the most relevant services and support to ensure successful delivery of your plans.