



Regulations for the innovation programme

Rulebook to the innovation grant programme

The Board of Trustees of the Swiss Climate Foundation, based on Article 2 of the Deed of Foundation dated 4 July 2008, hereby issues the following rulebook for project grants.

Version 03 of November 19, 2025

This version replaces any earlier version of the grant rulebook entirely.

In the event of a conflict of interpretation, the German version of these rulebook shall prevail.

1 Purpose

These regulations define the framework and process for submitting grant applications, assessing the applications received and decision-making by the decision-making bodies of the Swiss Climate Foundation.

The grant program is fully voluntary and there is no fundamental entitlement to a grant.

2 Purpose of the grant

The Foundation's mission is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly and indirectly and to improve energy efficiency in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. To this end, it provides financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Switzerland and Liechtenstein for the development and market-readiness of innovative products and technologies relating to climate protection.

3 Requirements for submitting an application.

Swiss and Liechtenstein SMEs (less than 250 full-time employees across the entire group) are eligible to apply. SMEs where 50% or more of the company capital is owned by larger corporations (including joint ventures) and/or public sector organisations are not eligible to apply.

Projects should mainly be implemented in Switzerland or Liechtenstein. Consideration will be given to the location of the project's development, value creation and climate impact, as well as the headquarters of potential project partners.

Each project must be represented to the Swiss Climate Foundation by a company representative.

4 Submitting an application

To submit an application, the applicant must open a user account on the [Swiss Climate Foundation's Application portal](#). There, applicants are being guided through each step of the application process.

The closing date for applications is 1 March and 1 September of each year.

5 Decision-making

The Swiss Climate Foundation office reviews the funding applications to ensure that they are complete. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Ineligible applications (see Section 2 Purpose of the grant and Section 3 Requirements for submitting an application) will not be considered.

There are two stages to the assessment:

Stage 1: Eligibility criteria (in accordance with Section 6)

Stage 2: Assessment criteria (in accordance with Section 7)

The final funding decision (grant approval, form of grant and amount of grant) is made by the decision-making body twice a year, in spring and autumn. There is no fundamental entitlement to grant, especially since the available resources are limited. The Foundation may decide, without providing justification, not to fund a project. Legal recourse is excluded.

The Swiss Climate Foundation office will inform the applicant about the foundation's decision in writing.

6 Eligibility criteria (Stage 1)

Projects must be aligned with the purpose of the Swiss Climate Foundation and be submitted in the correct format and in full.

Projects must demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Projects must meet the requirements set out in Section 2 and Section 3.
- The funding application must be submitted before the implementation of the project. This also includes commissioning investments (e.g. order confirmations). Funding applications submitted retrospectively will be rejected. For larger or longer-term projects, this means that the Foundation will only consider project phases that have not yet been implemented at the time the application.
- The Board of Trustees regularly defines and reviews funding priorities and exclusions related to specific categories of innovation. Applications related to excluded categories will not be considered. A current overview of funding priorities and exclusions is available on the Foundation's website.

7 Assessment criteria (Stage 2)

If a project meets the eligibility criteria in Stage 1 (Section 6), it will be assessed in detail in Stage 2.

The more the assessment criteria below are met, the higher the probability that the funding application will be approved:

- CO₂ reduction (CO₂ equivalents) calculated for the entire project
- Innovative potential
- Connection to Switzerland or Liechtenstein
- Additionality of the potential funding from the Swiss Climate Foundation
- Communicative suitability of the project and its results
- Organisation and skills of applicants and their partners in relation to planning and implementing the proposed project
- Other positive environmental effects

8 Type, scope and amount of the grant

The type, scope, amount, payment terms and other conditions of the grant will be set out in a contract. The following general conditions apply:

- The grant is provided as fixed-amount financing, without or with a possible repayment obligation, depending on the achievement of specific success conditions..
- Co-financing is permitted but must be disclosed. The strategy of the co-financiers will be reviewed and must not conflict with that of the Swiss Climate Foundation.
- The upper and lower limits of the funding amount are set by the Board of Trustees and reviewed regularly.

9 Payment of grant

Grants will be paid out by agreement in accordance with the regulations.

- Payment will be made in instalments to be agreed in the contract following documented completion of the project phase and full compliance with the agreed conditions. The corresponding documentation/evidence must be submitted in advance.
- The Swiss Climate Foundation reserves the right to review projects during the implementation phase and after completion to ensure that they comply with the objectives. If essential obligations under the regulations or the agreement are not fulfilled, or if there are significant deviations from the work schedule and timeline, payment of the grant may be stopped.
- If no extension is agreed in writing, the entitlement to the grant and the agreement will expire at the end of the period agreed in the contract.
- Grants from the Swiss Climate Foundation are considered VAT-exempt services in accordance with Article 21 paragraph 2 number 27 of the Swiss VAT Act (Mehrwertsteuergesetz – MwStG).

In the event of the misuse of funds, the Foundation reserves the right to reclaim any funds already paid out.

10 Reporting

The project management of a supported project must keep the Foundation updated on the progress of the entire project in accordance with the agreement. The information must be provided in writing or digitally (by email to info@klimastiftung.ch). The Swiss Climate Foundation has the right to be informed of the current status and progress of the project at any time.

Once the final milestone has been reached, a report will be produced in the agreed format, the content of which may be used by the Swiss Climate Foundation for its own public relations activities and for evaluating its climate impact. Furthermore, the grant recipient is obliged to provide regular information on the development of the innovation project even after the entire grant has been paid out.

11 Public relations activities

Communication and publication in connection with the project and its grant will be agreed between the two parties. The aim is to raise awareness of the project. The focus should always be on the support being provided, not promoting the company.

Communication and publication by the grant recipient in connection with the project will be coordinated with the Swiss Climate Foundation office, which must approve such activities. If a project is co-financed by third parties, project communication must be coordinated with them in advance.

As part of communications and publications related to the project, the Swiss Climate Foundation is entitled, in particular but not exclusively, to disclose the subject, applicants, parties implementing the project, duration, project information relating to climate protection, amount of expected savings (CO₂, energy), amount of grant awarded by the Swiss Climate Foundation and the applicant's own contribution.

12 Rights to results

Unless otherwise specified in the contract, the grant recipients retain any newly created copyrights and non-exclusive rights of use and exploitation of the project results.

Such project results include, in particular, findings, inventions, developed objects, processes and computing programs that arise during the implementation of the project and are documented or otherwise made available. The results also include their descriptions and the records, experimental procedures, models, designs or prototypes produced during all phases of the project, as well as any CO₂ credits or entitlements that may arise from the project.

13 Confidentiality

Subject to Section 11 paragraph 2, the Swiss Climate Foundation and the grant recipient undertake to treat each other's confidential information as such during the grant period and beyond. All documents, regardless of their type and origin, as well as other business secrets, operating methods and figures, drawings and sketches, images and other documents that come to the attention of one of the parties in connection with the contractual relationship must be kept confidential with due care. To ensure this, confidential information must be specifically marked as such when submitting the application.

14 Our expectations of applicants

Our commitment to promoting climate protection and to sustainable development is integral to our goals. We therefore expect applicants to make a binding commitment to comply with the accepted legal and ethical standards in Switzerland. These standards are an important element of our partnership with the SMEs and partner companies. We expect applicants and their subsidiaries to pursue ethical and sustainable business practices in terms of human rights and employment rights, environmental protection and anti-corruption frameworks. All applicants are encouraged to take a collaborative approach to jointly develop and implement innovative climate protection projects for a sustainable future.

15 Liability of the grant recipient, exclusion of liability

Grant recipients are responsible for complying with relevant legal provisions, official orders and regulations on safety, accident prevention and environmental protection. They undertake to comply with rules and conventions that apply in the respective field of activity or that are regarded as standards of good operational, commercial or scientific practice.

The Swiss Climate Foundation is not liable for any damage incurred by grant recipients as a result of implementing the funded project. In addition, the Swiss Climate Foundation is not liable for any damage incurred by a third party as a result of implementing the funded project. In the event that the Swiss Climate Foundation is held liable by a third party, the grant recipients undertake to indemnify the Swiss Climate Foundation.

16 Entry into force

This rulebook for project grants is applicable from 19 November 2025. It replaces all previous versions.

Zurich, 19 November 2025

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Swiss Climate Foundation

President of the Board of Trustees

CEO

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