

NetDRIVE: First funding call

Announcement and guidance

The UKRI Net-Zero Digital Research Infrastructure Vision and Expertise (NetDRIVE) project will fund community activities through three calls. This call, the first, will fund four activities identified as priorities in workshops held in 2024. The 2nd call, later this year, will be open to ideas from the community.

The four topics activities to be funded in this call address the 3 aims of NetDRIVE:

1. Deliver immediate and tangible progress to Net Zero DRI through actionable advice to UKRI and the UKRI DRI community.
2. Provide national and international thought leadership on the transition to sustainable DRI.
3. Build trust and confidence in our transition to a sustainable DRI by 2040 or sooner.

Schedule (draft, to be finalised at AO)

4. January 28th: Pre-announcement (this document).
5. February 19th: Full announcement of opportunity.
6. Week of March 15th: Drop-in sessions for questions to project and team building.
7. April 24th: Submissions Close.
8. May 20-22nd: Panel Review Meeting.
9. June 1st: Panel Decision.
10. Sept 1st: Projects Start.

Submission

Fill out the proposal template and email to: martin.juckes@physics.ox.ac.uk and sarah.sparrow@oerc.ox.ac.uk .

Four NetDRIVE Community Projects

CP1.1 Training/summer school for DRI users to address a skills gap identified in stage 1 community meetings. This project directly supports NetDRIVE Aim 3, additionally creating a lasting resource of training material for use beyond NetDRIVE and will likely reduce the number of failed simulations going forwards. Up to £120k.

CP1.2 Energy savings through tuning hardware configuration to reduce power consumption without affecting throughput on a range of platforms. This project directly supports NetDRIVE Aim 1. Up to £100k.

February 19th, 2025

CP1.3 Guide to best practice and existing tools to provide the community with clear and practical advice, empowering individuals by providing them with the necessary information to take action through effective knowledge engagement strategies. Links to the summer school, CP1.1 will be strongly encouraged. This directly supports NetDRIVE Aims 1, 2 and 3 and will support the development of community standards. Up to £60k.

CP1.4 Status survey on community readiness providing a baseline measure of community usage, readiness, and confidence, from which to measure progress. This should include profiling how users from across the full breadth of UKRI typically interact with DRI, their awareness of need to change and how they can act along with what motivates them. This project directly supports NetDRIVE Aims 1 and 3. It should engage with the Working Group on Ethics and Sustainable Progress to Net Zero (WGESP) and Working Group on Monitoring and Reporting (WGMAR) to align ideas on objective measures of status and progress. Up to £60k

The projects will be funded at 80% FEC. Total funds available in the first call are £340,000 (100% FEC value).

Assessment of Community Project Proposals

Proposals will be assessed against three criteria by a review panel:

11. Excellence: is the proposed work breaking new ground and changing the way in which we view sustainability within the DRI.
12. Fit to objectives: will the proposed work produce substantial impact in the selected domain? Do they clearly address the UKRI Sustainability Strategy, the NetDRIVE aims listed above, and the selected topic?
13. Ability to deliver: is there a clear plan of work? Have the proposal team thought through the process well enough to deliver the project? Is there a clear approach to knowledge translation planning?

All proposals should include clear knowledge translation plans.

Working Groups

Each working group should produce an Advice/Recommendations document which has been through community review. Additional supporting documents may be published. The procedure for advice and recommendations should be based around existing frameworks such as the Research Data Alliance and Health Data Research UK (further guidance will be provided in the full Announcement of Opportunity).

February 19th, 2025

Working Groups will receive funds for meetings, including travel, accommodation, and reservation of meeting rooms. Costs in the range £10k to £15k are expected.

Proposals may include a convening stage of up to 3-months to recruit initial membership before starting substantive work.

Working Group on Ethics and Sustainable Progress to Net Zero (WGESP)

“we need to measure the human impact and use this to evaluate how we manage change” (CIPD, 2024)

WGESP will develop an ethical framework for transformational change by reviewing existing frameworks for ethics and exploiting survey results to analyse the human impact of changes impacting on the DRI.

The WGESP will consist of approximately 10 people who between them will represent the diversity of perspectives and experiences to advise on the full breadth of NetDRIVE activities.

Working Group on Monitoring and Reporting (WGMAR)

WGMAR will develop a framework for monitoring and reporting on community progress towards net zero implementation, working with the community project funded to run an annual survey. This will provide essential information on the practical success of actions introduced by NetDRIVE in terms of measurable or inferred impact on emissions.

WGMAR will also investigate options for monitoring and reporting on the impact of net zero activities on research excellence and throughput.

Assessment of Working Group Proposals

Proposals will be assessed by the project management team and decisions reviewed by the project board. Across the three criteria listed for Community Projects particular attention will be given to the plans for ensuring inclusivity and diversity in the Working Group membership.