



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources

Australian Greenhouse Office

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CENTRE

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION SKILLS FOR PROFESSIONALS

(including engineers, architects, planners, and natural resource managers)

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Please note that on 02/11/07 the Funding Guidelines (sections 2.3 & 2.6) and Application Form (5.2) were amended.

Deadline for applications : 3 December 2007 (first round)

More information

Go to: www.greenhouse.gov.au/impacts

email: adaptation_projects@environment.gov.au

Tel.: (02) 6275-9035

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Overview of this document	3
1.2 Context.....	3
2. APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS	5
2.1 Purpose of the Programme	5
2.2 Available funding.....	5
2.3 Eligibility criteria	5
2.4 Who can submit a proposal	6
2.5 What can the funding be used for.....	6
2.6 Preparing a proposal	7
2.7 Timing and submission	7
2.8 Role of Minister	7
2.9 Assessing applications	8
2.10 Communication of offers.....	8
2.11 Confidentiality	8
2.12 Budget, reporting and acquittals.....	8
2.13 Intellectual property.....	8

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of this document

This document outlines the requirements and application process for organisations to apply for funding under the Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals Programme (the Programme), as part of the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation. The document has two sections:

- This first section provides background and contextual information;
- The **second section** provides details on the process for submitting applications;

1.2 Context

Recent climate change reports have highlighted the scientific and economic basis for urgent action to prepare for climate change through adaptation responses. The complex and uncertain nature of climate change will require increased foresight and the application of a range of practical skills across many sectors and professions. In the built environment sector, there is a need to reflect on the adequacy of current knowledge, skills and practices that will be required to effectively prepare and respond to climate change and build resilience in communities, resources and industries.

The Climate Change Adaptation Centre (the Centre) was announced by the Prime Minister on 13 April 2007 and funded in the 2007 Australian Government Budget. The long term goal of the \$126 million Centre is to help position Australia to manage the risks of climate change impacts. The Centre will play a key role in implementing parts of the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) at their meeting in April 2007.¹ The Centre will be administered by the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources (the Department).

A key objective of the Centre is to build adaptive capacity to deal with climate change impacts and reduce vulnerability in vulnerable sectors and regions through partnerships between government and key stakeholders. As part of this objective the Centre will provide tools and information, raise awareness of adaptation options, educate key professionals about adaptation. Action 1.4(c) of the Framework is to 'Integrate climate change into education and training for key professions, including engineering, architecture, planners, reserve managers and local government.'

The Department commissioned the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) to investigate the professional training and development needs of architects, landscape architects, planners and engineers. A key finding of the report was that there is need for rapid adoption of education about and for climate change adaptation in accredited course programs and ongoing professional development initiatives. In order to assist education institutions to meet this challenge, the report included a number of recommendations:

- that accrediting professional bodies amend their education policies to reflect climate change adaptation requirements in the short term
- that accrediting bodies identify core competencies in climate change adaptation and integrate climate change adaptation as a core area within policies and procedures of accrediting bodies and

¹ The Framework can be downloaded from www.coag.gov.au

- that education about and for climate change adaptation in accredited courses be addressed in an integrated way with education about and for climate change mitigation.

The Programme will assist education institutions and professional bodies to implement these recommended actions.

2. APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Purpose of the Programme

The purpose of the Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals Programme (the Programme) is to integrate understanding of the implications of climate change into education and training for professionals who are likely to be involved in developing planned adaptive responses to the impacts of climate change. Relevant professionals would include engineers, architects, planners, and natural resource managers.

2.2 Available funding

The Programme will provide grants up to a total of \$2 million over a period of four years (2007/08 to 2011/12).

Professional associations, training organisations and tertiary education institutions or consortiums of such bodies can apply for grants of up to \$150,000 (GST exclusive).

Proponents are encouraged to explore the possibility of co-investment (either levered cash or in-kind contribution) as a means of maximising the resources. Proponents are also encouraged to explore the development of partnerships with universities and other professional institutions, as appropriate.

2.3 Eligibility criteria

Project

For a project to be eligible for funding it is required to:

- demonstrate the ability to influence significant institutions/ associations/ programmes, or systems;
- be administered in Australia;
- be completed by 30 March 2012;
- be national in focus or have national application;
- contribute to integrating climate change into education and training for professionals who are likely to be involved in developing planned adaptive responses to the impacts of climate change;
- demonstrate that there is a need for the training of the target group of professionals to be changed in order to equip them to plan for the impacts of climate change. Preference will be given to projects that will build adaptation capacity in settlements and infrastructure, natural ecosystems or water resources; and
- provide evidence that the proposal does not duplicate existing projects and resources.

[Note: National refers to projects which are national in focus OR which provide models or solutions that have national application. This should be reflected as an integral part of the project proposal and design - for example through partnerships and collaboration with broader and/or national networks, a dissemination or communication plan that shares information beyond the local community.]

Applicant

In addition, the applicant must:

- have the capacity, knowledge and skills to deliver the project activities;
- have demonstrated knowledge of the needs of the project area;
- be in a sound position to influence the sector to which the project relates;
- be able to enter into a contract and meet the requirements stated in the funding agreement; and
- not be in breach of any other arrangement (whether contractual or statutory) with the Commonwealth under which the applicant receives Commonwealth funding.

2.4 Who can submit a proposal

Applications will be accepted from **tertiary education institutions** that provide accredited tertiary courses for professionals likely to be involved in adaptation planning (including but not restricted to engineers, planners, architects, landscape architects and natural resource managers) and from **professional associations** and other **training organisations** who provide development programmes and accredit relevant professionals.

2.5 What can the funding be used for

Funding under the Programme can be used for a number of activities that will contribute to meeting the purpose of the Programme in Section 2.1, such as:

- Revising or developing education policies, competencies, tertiary course curricula or supporting materials and/or mainstreaming climate change adaptation into degree courses
- Revising or developing professional development programmes including short courses
- Research into the education and development needs of key professions in relation to climate change adaptation
- Delivering professional development including through workshops, written materials or on-line materials (these activities will only be funded if there is a significant co-contribution from the applicant, which may be raised by charging fees for professional development)

The activities may be carried out by the organisation applying for funding or a consultant sub-contracted to them for that particular purpose.

Funding under the Programme can **not** be used to:

- undertake academic research in fields other than those related to the purpose of the Programme;
- support continuing administration/operational costs of an organisation;
- support part of a devolved grant, that is, a grant requested by one party with the purpose of distributing funds to other parties;
- purchase, lease or acquisition of buildings, equipment, land or vehicles;
- develop primary or secondary education courses or course material;

- ongoing maintenance of projects to which organisations have committed to as part of a previous grant; and
- the administration costs incurred when applying for funding.

2.6 Preparing a proposal

An application form and draft funding agreement can be found on the Department's web-site, at www.greenhouse.gov.au/impacts.

Proponents are required to submit the relevant completed application form (plus any supplementary information relevant to the proposal) and ensure they address the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 2.3. Completed application forms should be no longer than 10 pages. Supplementary information may be provided but may not be taken into account by the assessment panel.

Potential applicants are encouraged to critically assess their prospects of meeting the eligibility criteria before committing significant resources to developing a proposal. Questions about the application process or these guidelines can be forwarded to adaptation_projects@environment.gov.au.

2.7 Timing and submission

The funding will be provided through a number of rounds. The deadline for the first round of funding is 3 December 2007. Further funding rounds may be advertised in subsequent years.

Applications must be submitted to:

Director, Science & Adaptation Capacity
 RE: Climate Change Adaptation for Professionals
 Australian Greenhouse Office
 Department of the Environment & Water Resources

by post, hand delivery or email:

GPO Box 787
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Administration Place
 John Gorton Building
 King Edward Terrace
 PARKES ACT 2600

adaptation_projects@environment.gov.au

[Note: only emails less than 2 Mb in size will be accepted by the system]

For inquiries call:

Tel.: (02) 6275-9035

2.8 Role of Minister

The Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources has sole responsibility for the final funding decision. In making a decision, the Minister can draw upon any source of advice, including that of the Department.

2.9 Assessing applications

Applications (including the completed application form and any supplementary information) will be assessed by a panel made up of members of the Department. The panel may request further information during the short-listing stage.

In assessing applications the panel will consider:

- responses to the relevant eligibility criteria in Section 2.3;
- any additional information provided by the applicant such as proposed collaborative arrangements; and
- risk and value for money.

The final decision of successful applications will be made by the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

2.10 Communication of offers

Successful organisation will be advised in writing by the Department of the Minister's approval for the funding. Any conditions associated with the approval will be communicated in this correspondence.

The Department will then contact the successful organisation to negotiate a funding agreement, including incorporating any additional conditions required by the Minister as part of his approval.

Unsuccessful organisations will be informed in writing by the Department.

2.11 Confidentiality

The information provided by organisations in support of their applications will be treated as confidential by the Department unless that information is already known to be in the public domain. Organisations should note, however, that information they provide may be provided to the Minister and that the Department may also be required or authorised by law to disclose certain information provided by organisations.

2.12 Budget, reporting and acquittals

The successful organisation will be required to sign a funding agreement with the Department before funding commences. This agreement will cover the project budget, financial and performance reporting and acquittal, intellectual property, assets and data requirements. Additional information may be required from the organisation during the preparation of the final funding agreement.

2.13 Intellectual property

Prior to signing the funding agreement, the successful organisation will be required to describe any existing material for which intellectual property rights are either owned by the organisation or owned by a third party but which the organisation has a licence to use.

It is expected that intellectual property generated by this programme will be freely accessible and available to the government, end-users and the general public. The successful organisation will also be required to grant to the Commonwealth, and every person, a permanent, irrevocable, free, world-wide, non-exclusive licence to use, reproduce, adapt and exploit the intellectual property derived from the grant.