



Purpose of the Innovation Fund

SSRIA is helping revolutionize the design, construction, and operations of our buildings to reach a zero-carbon built environment by 2050. The Innovation Fund supports collaborative, innovative projects that reduce energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance understanding of clean technologies for buildings.

Projects funded through the Innovation Fund will accelerate the adoption of innovative low-carbon solutions for buildings. Our collaborative approach and industry-led solutions will demonstrate Canadian leadership and drive economic development.

The Innovation Fund will fund specific, incremental elements of approved building projects that demonstrate innovative technologies, products, or processes that support the reduction of GHG emissions in building construction and operation.

Review Process

Through our structured merit-review process, we ensure that proposals are reviewed in a fair, diligent, transparent, and in-depth manner. This process relies on independent subject matter expert reviewers that make up the Project Review Committee (PRC) to recommend projects for funding that have the greatest impact and potential for success. The PRC applies the criterion and scales provided to evaluate project applications based on the information received in the application, their own technical expertise (where applicable), and market knowledge. The reviewers' time and effort are invaluable to help SSRIA's Board of Directors make responsible and diligent funding decisions that will best support the building industry.

For Innovation Fund competitions, we use a two-stage merit-review process:

1. Review of projects by SSRIA
2. If deemed an innovative eligible project an invite will be given for a full proposal
3. Review of proposals by the PRC
4. Financial due diligence for select full proposal applicants

Rating Scale

- 0 points** - Information not provided in the application and/or I do not have the knowledge to determine if the criteria are met.
- 1 point** - Criteria is insufficiently supported by the application/project.
- 2 points** - Criteria is sufficiently supported by the application/project.
- 3 points** - Criteria is very well supported by the application/project.



INNOVATION, IMPACT, AND SCALE CRITERIA

Integrate and demonstrate innovative solutions for buildings

- The proposed solution is a market ready technology, product, or process but would benefit from "real-world" demonstration (i.e. at minimum a TRL 7 - prototype developed and tested in controlled environment).
- There are limited examples of the low-carbon technology, product, or process in Alberta or it is being applied in a unique way.
- The project addresses any systemic, regulatory, and/or policy barriers to the deployment of low-carbon technology, product, or process.
- The low-carbon product, technology, or process has the potential to be technically replicated in many other buildings without significant barriers to mass adoption.
- The demonstration of the low-carbon technology, product, or process in the project has scalable potential for accelerated or exponential change beyond the project's direct scope through a clear systems change strategy that is designed to address the barriers and drivers for scale and/or the scale pathways, points of leverage and scale-up implementors that will enable such changes. Shifting conditions that are holding a problem in place.

Result in Direct Energy and GHG emission reductions (including embodied carbon)

- The project leads to direct energy savings and GHG emission reductions in buildings beyond what is conventionally achievable, including savings achievable from common high performance building practices.
- The savings and reduction estimates are reasonable (i.e. supported by verified results or based on industry knowledge).
- The project addresses embodied carbon impact by considering the whole life cycle of the project, including the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of building materials.
- The project supports a transition to net-zero emissions in the building sector by 2050 which includes the use of low to zero carbon fuels and aims to minimize the strain on our electricity grid.
- The project has a plan for monitoring, measurement and analysis of actual building performance that will clearly demonstrate the project outcome achieved and be a valuable resource for other members of industry.
- The measurement will occur over a suitable period of time for the proposed project (i.e. 12 months).
- The plan to share project learnings is suitable based on the project type and investment and reaches the right audience(s).



Enable a transition to net zero emissions by 2050 through the demonstration of replicable and scalable projects

- The low-carbon technology, product, or process has the potential to be technically replicated in many other buildings without significant barriers to mass adoption.
- The demonstration of the low-carbon technology, product, or process in the project has scalable potential for accelerated or exponential change beyond the project's direct scope through a clear systems change strategy that is designed to address the barriers and drivers for scale and/or the scale pathways. The project is designed in such a way to shift conditions that are holding a problem in place.
- The project has a plan for monitoring, measurement and analysis of actual building performance that will clearly demonstrate the project outcome achieved and be a valuable resource for other members of industry.
- The measurement will occur over a suitable period of time for the proposed project (i.e. 12 months).
- The plan to share project learnings is suitable based on the project type and investment and reaches the right audience(s).

SUCCESS CRITERIA

Project team (Team Lead, Collaborators, Contractors/Vendors)

- Project team members are Alberta based, actively operating in Alberta, or committed to expanding operations to Alberta.
- The expertise and experience of the project team positions the project for success.
- Project Team includes collaborators with the necessary expertise related to the proposed project who are committed to the application of the innovation in future projects.
- Relevant Project Team members have taken part in or are enrolled in the [SSRIA Business Growth Program](#) to support the success of the project and the future growth of their business.

Project budget and work plan

- Budget is reasonable with an appropriate distribution of funds between soft and hard costs.
- Reasonable contribution from partners (i.e.: in alignment with requested funds, type of companies involved, and work being completed).
- Incremental cost of the project is clearly defined in the narrative and reasonable for the project type.
- The project team has outlined a project plan and milestones that are reasonable and achievable including mandatory completion of monitoring phase by March 2027.



SSRIA

SMART SUSTAINABLE RESILIENT
INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATION

Innovation Fund Criterion Guide

- Additional funding has been secured or a reasonable plan to secure funding for the full project budget is in place.

CO-BENEFITS CRITERIA

Economic development

- Generates investment in SMEs operating in Alberta.
- Supports development of exportable products and knowledge.
- Supports new training and skills development in Alberta.
- Creates long-term jobs in Alberta.
- Support a circular economy.

Social Benefits

- Increases diversity in Alberta's AEC industry.
- Supports housing and energy affordability.
- Improves climate community resiliency.