

► ILO Just Energy Transition Innovation Challenge

Fostering innovation for high-impact climate and
decent work solutions

1. Context

The energy sector powers economies and sustains jobs. It also generates about two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions. If the Paris Agreement goals are to be met, the energy transition needs to accelerate and reach a tremendous scale. There will be substantive employment and social impacts that need to be anticipated and planned for. Overall, it is estimated that the energy transition will deliver a net job gains. At the same time deliberate policy efforts will be required to ensure potential negative implications are minimised and addressed from the onset.

The emergence from the COVID 19 crisis presents an unprecedented moment to restart economies and fuel growth with sources of energy that are clean and sustainable. Recovery packages provide the opportunity to maximise positive dividends in terms of employment and social outcomes and the decoupling of growth from greenhouse gas emissions.

According to IRENA, a green recovery in line with the IRENA Transforming Energy Scenario, would generate 5.5 million more jobs in renewable energy, energy efficiency and system flexibility by 2023 than under the business-as-usual Planned Energy Scenario. A Green Energy scenario modelled by PAGE and Cambridge Econometrics, adds over 20.5 million jobs across economies globally by 2030, compared to around 3 million additional jobs in a scenario stimulated by a business-as-usual recovery.

Yet such positive employment impacts need to be facilitated, and negative impacts, particularly those related to fossil fuel retirement, need to be identified and addressed. The energy transition must be just. Drawing upon the ILO's Guidelines for a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All, recovery packages need to include effective measures to ensure structural changes maximise decent work opportunities, and leave no enterprises, workers or communities stranded. Complementary policy measures for a just energy transition are grounded in specific contexts and realities, and include investment strategies, industrial policies, skill training and retraining, and social protection measures. .

In 2021, energy and jobs have emerged as prominent issues within most national and international agendas, underscoring the effects of the COVID 19 crisis and debates on recovery models and mounting awareness of the need for ambitious climate action. In this context, and as part of the milestones to COP26 in Glasgow, the ILO is launching their first ever just transition innovation challenge, specifically addressing energy transitions.

► The **objective** of the ILO Just Energy Transition Innovation Challenge is to identify, enhance, test and disseminate high-potential policy ideas and solutions that promote a just transition for all, breaking from business-as-usual.

2. What are we looking for?

The ILO is looking for innovative solutions and approaches that will:

- Accelerate a just transition in the context of energy changes.
- Benefit from ILO's technical support and can be showcased.

Such solutions and approaches must be grounded in the ILO just transition guidelines and support climate action and decent work. We accept ideas and solutions in the phase beyond early ideation and scale-up. They applicant must be able to document the initial work and efforts made in advancing the idea, and how the assistance from the ILO will benefit the scale up of the solution.

The solutions should contribute to one or more of the following objectives:

- Create **jobs** through energy actions and initiatives (e.g. promoting energy-related businesses or social enterprises or that generate employment)
- Provide **skills** required in the energy transition (e.g. skills and reskilling programmes)
- **Protect and support** workers and people otherwise negatively impacted by changes in the energy system (e.g. adapted social protection schemes or improved programmes to reach workers of the informal sectors impacted by the transition)
- Promote better **working conditions** and ensure workers' in renewable energy sectors (e.g. through occupational health and safety measures and initiatives)
- Enhance mechanisms of **social dialogue** and participation in just transition policy processes (e.g. enhanced platforms to engage social partners or their members on just transition)
- Provide **finance and investments** to support a just energy transition (e.g. investment framework attracting investments in regions in transitions)

- Promote access to technology and business development services for micro and small, enterprises in the renewable energy sector (e.g. enhanced **business development services**)
- Enhance **equity** in the renewable energy sector, including along gender lines and participation by vulnerable groups, and/or contributing to poverty reduction (e.g. energy-related initiatives that contribute to greater gender equality)
- **Other** for solutions that contribute to just transition –energy but do not fit any of the above categories

The Challenge contributes towards the UN 2030 agenda and specifically the Sustainable Development Goals: No Poverty (SDG 1), Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), and Climate Action (SDG 13).

3. What is a solution or an approach?

We accept all types of innovations, i.e. innovative approaches, projects, tools, technologies.

In this challenge we are not looking for abstract ideas. The applicant must be able to show initial work and efforts made in developing the solution and preferably early stage application. Similarly, the applicant must show how the beneficiaries and solution will benefit from ILO assistance for example in further strengthening, lean testing or scaling up strategy for the solution. The solution can also be about modifying a solution that is already being implemented or deploying in a different context. If there are multiple organisation involved, a lead applicant should be identified to coordinate the activities and to report to the ILO.

4. Who can apply?

Any entity or legally recognized organization with contractual and registered capacity that has been in existence for at least two calendar years prior to the call deadline.

By entity or organization, we mean government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, cooperatives, education, training, and research institutions (including schools, training providers, and universities), NGOs and civil society organizations.

5. What will the winners receive?

The ILO Just Energy Transition will announce **3 winners** amongst the proposals and solutions submitted. All 3 winners will benefit from:

- **Technical Support;** The winning entries will be awarded technical assistance equivalent to the value up to 150.000 USD. The scope (i.e. monetary equivalent) will depend on the extent of the proposal and the perceived added value from ILO technical assistance for the project, yet an estimated winning prize per proposal is 50.000 USD.
- **A network of experts;** The winning idea and shortlisted applications will be invited to join the ILO Just Transition Innovation Network. Through the network, members will have the opportunity to exchange with other innovators and to share their solutions with ILO partners.
- **Global visibility;** The winning proposal will receive visibility for its ideas and solutions, including invitations to global events to present the innovative idea to potential partners, press articles in the media, videos, among others.

6. How will the proposals be assess and what are the evaluation criteria?

All proposals will be assessed by an independent panel, composed of ILO specialists in the areas relevant to a just transition. All proposals will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1) Contribution towards a Just Transition, as per the ILO's guidelines, and to sustainable energy

- The proposed solution contributes to decent work and social justice in the context of a just transition
- The proposed solution contributes to changes towards sustainable energy systems

2) Fit with the ILO's experience

- The applicant identifies ways in which the solution can benefit from ILO's expertise;

3) Innovation

- The solution tackles an issue that is little known or has not been explored before

And/Or

- It is substantially different from existing approaches (i.e. through new approaches, tools, or methodologies) and/or adds value to existing solutions

4) Potential impact

- The proposed solution is well suited to address needs of the identified beneficiaries and pays attention to the needs of women or people living in poverty or disadvantage;
- The solution is appealing to potential partners and has the potential to build synergies with other initiatives in the country or globally;
- The solution the potential to produce positive and sustainable change on a large scale;

5) Sustainability and scalability

- There is a strong likelihood for the benefits (and/or activities) of the solution to continue beyond ILO support;
- It has potential for scalability or replication

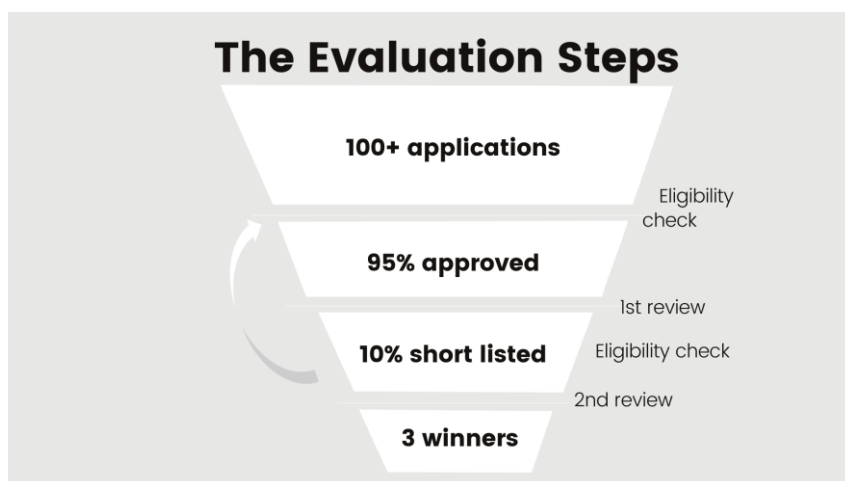


Figure 1 This is for illustrative purposes only

7. How to apply?

The application process has two phases. The first application step is a short project pitch, if the application is amongst the top 10%, the applicants will be asked to submit their extended proposals for the second phase. The full application process is described below:

1st application step – instruction to the applicant

- Familiarise yourself with the challenge call description (this document), eligibility criteria (section 6 of this document) and conditions for participation in the call.
- Develop your short written proposal pitch of maximum 5.000 characters addressing; 1) Challenge description and target group 2) Solution and project pitch 3) The capacity by partners 4) How the project/solution is linked to a Just Energy Transition 5) Why the solution is innovative.
- We highly encourage you to make a simple multimedia pitch (e.g. video or voice message) of maximum 4 minutes. The pitch could follow this structure of; 1) Why 2) Who and 3) What aspects of your project/solution.
- Submit your proposal on the [application form](#) by 31 January 2022 (midnight Geneva time).
- Applications can be submitted in English, French or Spanish. Participants will receive an email confirmation that their application has been received.

▶ Please find a full list of application questions in annex 1.

▶ **Disqualifiers:** Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applications exceeding the word limit, or multimedia pitches exceeding the minute length will not be accepted. Applications will only be accepted through the form as indicated above, therefore no applications sent via email will be accepted.

2nd application step – instruction to the applicants

- If your proposal is among the top 10% of the applications submitted, the lead applicant will be requested to submit an extended project proposal.
- The lead applicant will have approximately 4 weeks to prepare the extended proposal
- The application form for the second round will be sent directly to the lead applicant, including additional information further process.
- The proposal and the organization (lead and potential co-applicants) will be subject to an extensive eligibility check in line with the ILO Grant Agreement Guidelines (will be shared with applicants).

The dates and deadlines for the call are (may be subject to change):

- December 13, 2021 2021 Launch of the call (at the Just Energy Transition Forum)
- January 31, 2022 Deadline for the first round of submission of ideas
- March 11, 2021 Review of first round of submissions. The top 10% of applicants will be asked to submit the second round of appraisal
- April 8, 2021 Deadline for the second round of submissions of idea
- May 10, 2021 The final winners of the Just Energy Transition Innovation Challenge are announced

▶ Please refer to the [Innovation Challenge Website](#) for the up-to-date challenge deadlines.

If you have any questions regarding the innovation call in general or the application process, please contact us at: JT-innovation@ilo.org

▶ Annex 1: Full list of questions for written proposal (phase 1)

▶ Please note, applications must be sent via [this form](#). No applications are approved via email.

- 1. Name of lead applicant organization (legal name of the lead applicant)**
- 2. Type of organization of lead applicant. Please specify how your organization may be characterize (chose one):**
National government (e.g. Ministry), Local government (e.g. Municipality), Labour Union, Employers Business Member Organization (EBMOs), NGO and civil society organizations, UN Agency
- 3. Contact person (Who should we get in touch with from your organization regarding the application) (indicate):**
First name surname, Country, Email, Address, Phone Number (incl. country code)
- 4. Please describe the organization's prior experience in topics relevant to just transition**

(maximum 600 characters)
- 5. Please upload a proof of the lead Organization national registration year and place (PDF or similar)**
Who can apply? Any legally recognised organization/company that is able to contract and in existence for at least two calendar years prior to the deadline. By organizations we mean social partners, agencies, cooperatives, education and training institutions (including schools, public and private training providers and universities),
- 6. Project and solution pitch text**
In maximum 5.000 characters, please cover the following points: 1) Challenge description and target group 2) Solution and project pitch 3) The capacity by partners 4) How the project/solution is linked to a Just Energy Transition 5) Why the solution is innovative.
- 7. Please specify how the project/solution is involving or engaging with governments, workers, and employers' organizations**
Maximum 400 characters
- 8. Please specify how the project/solution may benefit from the support and expertise of the ILO**
Maximum 400 characters
- 9. Please indicate which just transition sub-themes your project/solutions is addressing**
Please tick all that apply;
 - a.** Create jobs through energy actions and initiatives (e.g. fostering enterprises and cooperative models that generate employment)
 - b.** Provide skills required in the energy transition (e.g. skills and reskilling initiatives)
 - c.** Protect and support workers and people otherwise negatively impacted by changes in the energy system (e.g. social protection schemes or policies)

- d. Promote better working conditions and ensure workers' rights in renewable energy sectors (e.g. through OHS initiatives)
- e. Enhance mechanisms of social dialogue and participation in just transition policy processes
- f. Provide finance and investments to support a just energy transition
- g. Promote access to technology and business development services for micro and small, enterprises in the renewable energy sector
- h. Enhance equity in the renewable energy sector, including along gender lines and participation by vulnerable groups, and/or contributing to poverty reduction
- i. Develop and strengthen legal instruments relevant to a just transition
- j. Other for solutions that contribute to a just energy transition, but do not fit any of the above sub-themes

10. Please put the link to the video project/solution pitch below(either YouTube or Vimeo).

We strongly encourage you to upload a maximum 4-minute project/solution pitch. The video could cover the 1) Why 2) Who and 3) What aspects of your pitch. Alternatively, upload a voice memo to the application (maximum 4 minutes long).

Here is a guide on [how to upload a video to Youtube](#) that is unlisted, meaning no-one without the link can see the video. Alternatively, here is a video on [how to upload to Vimeo](#). Then copy the link, which you must post in the form.