

FAQ 2026

WEEE FUTURE FUND

Turning Circular Ambitions Into Action

Irish Manufacturing Research & WEEE Ireland



STRATEGIC
CIRCULARITY
**INNOVATION
PARTNERSHIP**



1. About the WEEE Future Fund

The WEEE Future Fund is a competitive funding programme established by WEEE Ireland and administered in partnership with Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR).

The Fund supports industry-led projects that advance practical circular economy solutions relating to electrical and electronic equipment and associated materials, with a focus on measurable environmental impact, implementation, learning and the potential for wider adoption, scaling or replication.

This FAQ provides practical clarification on common questions relating to eligibility, applications, funding, eligible costs, evaluation and project delivery.

Applicants should read this FAQ alongside the Guide for Applicants, Online Application Reference, Terms and Conditions, and the Award Force application portal. This FAQ does not amend the programme rules. Where an inconsistency arises, the order of precedence set out in the Terms and Conditions applies.

No.	Question	Response
A. About the WEEE Future Fund		
1	What is the WEEE Future Fund?	The WEEE Future Fund is a competitive funding programme established by WEEE Ireland and administered in partnership with Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR). It supports practical, business-led circular economy projects that address challenges relevant to electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and associated materials, products or value chains.
2	What types of projects is the Fund seeking?	The Fund supports projects that move beyond ideas or research towards practical implementation, demonstration or scale. Projects should address a clearly defined challenge or opportunity and deliver measurable circular economy or environmental impact. Strong projects will demonstrate a credible need, appropriate innovation, implementation readiness, measurable impact and potential for continuation, replication or wider adoption.
3	What types of projects are outside scope?	Projects focused solely on research, strategy development or awareness raising without a credible implementation pathway are not a strong fit. Routine business activity, ordinary capital replacement, regulatory compliance activity presented as innovation, or projects without a clear and measurable circular economy or environmental outcome are also outside the intended scope.
4	Does a project need to relate directly to WEEE Ireland's activities?	The Project must have a clear connection to the circular economy and the areas relevant to the WEEE Future Fund. Applicants should explain the relevance of the proposed Project and the challenge or opportunity it addresses. Where Project delivery depends on data, access, expertise, infrastructure or other support from WEEE Ireland, this must be clearly identified in the Application. A Funding Award does not itself constitute approval of, or a commitment to provide, those resources.
B. Applicant Eligibility and Funding		
5	Who can apply?	The Lead Applicant must be an eligible WEEE Ireland member organisation and must meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Guide for Applicants.

No.	Question	Response
		The Lead Applicant submits the Application, enters into the Funding Agreement if successful and remains responsible for delivery of the Project.
6	Is the WEEE Future Fund a consortium programme?	No. The WEEE Future Fund operates through a single Lead Applicant. Other organisations may contribute to Project delivery as collaborators, suppliers, subcontractors or external specialists where appropriate. The Lead Applicant remains responsible for the full Project, including work undertaken by other organisations.
7	How much funding is available for an individual Project?	Funding Awards will range from €40,000 to a maximum of €50,000 per Project. Funding is awarded competitively and remains subject to the available programme budget and WEEE Ireland's final funding decision.
8	Can the total Project cost exceed €50,000?	Yes. The total Project cost may exceed €50,000. WEEE Future Fund support is capped at €50,000. Where the total Project cost exceeds the Funding Award, the Lead Applicant is responsible for funding the balance and must clearly identify the Project financing arrangements in the Application.
9	How long can a Project run?	Projects will have an approved duration of either 6 months or 9 months, with projects commencing in February. Applicants should select the duration appropriate to the proposed activities and provide a realistic delivery plan for that period. Final Project start and end dates will be confirmed during contracting.
C. Application and Submission		
10	How do I apply?	Applicants should follow the instructions in the Guide for Applicants, complete all required application fields and upload the completed WEEE Future Fund Budget Workbook through Award Force before the 18 th of November 2026 17.00 (Irish time). Applicants may also upload up to three optional supporting documents.
11	What is the application deadline?	The deadline for applications is 18 th of November 2026 17.00 (Irish time).

No.	Question	Response
		Applicants are encouraged to submit early and allow sufficient time for final checks, uploads and authorisation.
12	What documents must I submit?	Applicants must complete all required information in Award Force and upload the completed WEEE Future Fund Budget Workbook using the template provided. The Budget Workbook must be uploaded in Excel format. Applicants may also upload up to three optional supporting documents where these are directly relevant to understanding or assessing the proposed Project. The mandatory Budget Workbook does not count towards this limit.
13	Can I provide supporting evidence?	Yes. Applicants may provide relevant evidence where it supports material claims made in the Application. This might include technical evidence, quotations, supplier information, previous results, permissions, approvals, letters of support, customer or user evidence or other relevant documentation. Supporting evidence should strengthen the Application rather than replace required responses in the Application Form.
14	Can I correct an Application after submission?	Following the submission deadline, IMR will undertake an administrative completeness and eligibility review. For five working days following the deadline, IMR may contact an Applicant where a minor administrative omission or error is identified. Where clarification is requested, the Applicant must respond within 48 hours. This process is limited to minor administrative matters. It cannot be used to amend, improve or add substantive Application content. IMR is not required to seek clarification in every case.
15	What happens if my Application is incomplete or I experience a technical issue?	Applicants remain responsible for submitting a complete and accurate Application by the deadline.

No.	Question	Response
		Where an omission falls within the administrative clarification process, IMR may request clarification. An Application that fails a mandatory requirement and is not appropriate for clarification, or is not corrected within the permitted timeframe, may be excluded from further consideration. Technical issues with Award Force should be reported by sending an email to: weeefuturefund@imr.ie before the submission deadline. Applicants should retain evidence of any reported technical issue.
D. Budget and Eligible Costs		
16	What makes a Project cost eligible?	Project expenditure must be necessary, reasonable and attributable to delivery of the approved Project. Costs must relate to the approved Project Period, fall within an eligible cost category, be identifiable in the Awardee's records and must not be funded or claimed through another funding source. Details about Eligible project costs can be found in Section 5 of the Guide for Applicants.
17	What types of costs are eligible?	Eligible costs include staff costs, materials and consumables, equipment depreciation, external expertise and subcontracting, travel and subsistence, communication and dissemination, other direct Project costs, indirect costs and overheads, and genuinely and definitively non-recoverable VAT.
18	How are staff costs, equipment and overheads treated?	Staff costs are eligible where personnel work directly on the Project. Eligible salary costs are based on gross salary plus employer PRSI and are subject to a maximum annual salary of €150,000 per person. The full purchase cost of equipment is not eligible. Only depreciation attributable to the approved Project Period and proportion of Project use is eligible. Indirect costs and overheads are eligible at a flat rate of 10% of eligible direct costs excluding subcontracting.
19	Are subcontracting, travel and VAT eligible?	External expertise and subcontracting are eligible where necessary and directly attributable to Project delivery. The Lead Applicant remains responsible for the activities undertaken. Necessary Project travel and subsistence are eligible where directly related to Project delivery and managed in accordance with the Applicant's normal policy.

No.	Question	Response
		VAT is eligible only where it is genuinely and definitively non-recoverable by the Awardee. Recoverable VAT is not eligible.
20	What financial evidence must be retained?	The Awardee must maintain appropriate records supporting Project expenditure and retain the underlying financial evidence. Invoices, receipts and other transaction-level evidence are not routinely submitted with expenditure statements. IMR or WEEE Ireland may request reasonable supporting evidence or verify expenditure where a material concern, inconsistency or other risk arises. The same Project cost must not be funded or claimed through another funding source.
E. Evaluation and Funding Decision		
21	How will Applications be assessed?	Applications that pass the eligibility and administrative review will proceed to competitive evaluation against the published WEEE Future Fund evaluation criteria and scoring framework. Evaluators will assess the Application on the information and evidence submitted. Applicants should ensure that material information required to assess the Project is included clearly within the Application.
22	What are evaluators looking for?	Evaluators will consider the strength of the identified challenge or opportunity, the quality and practicality of the proposed solution and implementation approach, implementation readiness, delivery capability, measurable impact, additionality, value for money and potential for continuation, scaling or replication.
23	Does achieving a high evaluation score guarantee funding?	No. Applications are assessed and scored against the published evaluation criteria. Evaluation results inform the funding decision, but meeting a minimum threshold or achieving a particular score does not create an entitlement to funding. Funding remains competitive and subject to the available programme budget.

No.	Question	Response
24	Who makes the final funding decision?	WEEE Ireland retains final authority for funding decisions. IMR administers the application and evaluation process and provides the evaluation results and funding recommendation to WEEE Ireland. Successful Applicants remain subject to completion of the applicable award and contracting requirements before funding becomes effective.
F. Award, Payment and Project Delivery		
25	What happens if my Application is selected for funding?	Successful Applicants will proceed to contracting. The approved Application and budget will form the basis of the funded Project and will be incorporated into or referenced by the Funding Agreement. The Funding Award becomes effective only when the Funding Agreement has been executed by WEEE Ireland and the successful Applicant.
26	How will funding be paid?	Payments are linked to agreed stages of project delivery. A commencement payment of 25% of the approved award is payable following execution of the Funding Agreement and completion of the applicable commencement requirements. For 9-month projects, up to 50% of the approved award is available following satisfactory completion of the agreed midpoint milestone and review, taking account of the project's expenditure position and forecast funding requirement. Any amount not released at midpoint remains available for later payment, subject to satisfactory project delivery, eligible expenditure and the maximum approved award. For 6-month projects, up to the remaining 75% is available following satisfactory completion and final reporting. For 9-month projects, the final payment comprises the remaining approved balance following the commencement and midpoint payments, including any approved amount not released at midpoint. All payments to the Awardee, including commencement, midpoint and completion payments, are contingent upon successful processing of the corresponding funding claim and receipt by IMR of the relevant funds from WEEE Ireland. IMR is not required to pre-finance any payment to the Awardee pending receipt of the relevant funds from WEEE Ireland.

No.	Question	Response
27	What reporting and monitoring will be required?	All funded Projects will complete a concise final impact report and final review. Projects with a 9-month duration will also participate in one structured midpoint review with IMR and WEEE Ireland. No routine written midpoint technical report is required. Financial reporting will use simple expenditure statements. The programme applies a proportionate, risk-based assurance approach rather than routine transaction-level verification.
28	What happens if the Project changes after funding is awarded?	Material changes affecting Project scope, key milestones or outputs, approved budget, impact targets, Project Period or key delivery arrangements must be notified to IMR promptly and approved before implementation where required. Approval is not automatic. The proposed change must remain consistent with the purpose of the Funding Award and must not materially undermine the basis on which the Project was selected. Funding may be withheld, adjusted, suspended, terminated or recovered where applicable programme requirements are not met.
G. Confidentiality, Intellectual Property and Communications		
29	Who owns Project intellectual property and how is confidential information handled?	Intellectual property remains with the Awardee or relevant Project participant, subject to arrangements agreed between Project participants. Applicants should clearly identify information they consider confidential or commercially sensitive. WEEE Ireland and IMR will treat such information appropriately. Nothing in the programme requirements requires an Awardee to disclose intellectual property, trade secrets or commercially sensitive information publicly.
30	Will successful Projects be publicised?	Funded Projects may be featured in Project summaries, case studies, webinars, conferences, annual reporting and other WEEE Future Fund communications. Awardees are expected to participate reasonably in agreed programme communications and

No.	Question	Response
		showcasing activities. Publication and dissemination activities will respect confidential and commercially sensitive information. Questions not answered in the published programme documentation should be submitted through the official WEEE Future Fund contact route.

This FAQ provides explanatory guidance for the WEEE Future Fund. It should be read alongside the Guide for Applicants, Terms and Conditions, Online Application Reference, Award Force instructions and other applicable programme documentation.

This FAQ does not create an entitlement to funding or amend the programme rules. WEEE Ireland and IMR may update the FAQ where clarification is required.

Where an inconsistency arises between programme documents, the order of precedence set out in the Terms and Conditions applies.