

LOCAL SCHOOL STEM FUND 2025



snowyhydro

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About

Local School STEM Fund

Snowy Hydro is committed to fostering the next generation of STEM innovators and problem solvers by bridging the gap between education and industry. Through its successful Snowy STEM Academy, Snowy Hydro is focused on creating meaningful learning experiences, offering students endless opportunities and access to real-world STEM applications.

Our Local School STEM Fund aligns with our mission to foster educational growth and career pathways for local youth, inspiring them to study STEM subjects, and choose careers that are critical for our transition to a more sustainable future.

Local schools from the surrounding regions of the mighty Snowy Scheme and our Hunter Power Project are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$10,000. These include the local government areas of;

- Snowy Monaro, New South Wales
- Snowy Valleys, New South Wales
- Towong, Victoria
- Cessnock, New South Wales



Key DATES

Applications Open

1 March 2025

Applications Close

2 April 2025

Notification of Outcome

15 May 2025

Online Consultation SUPPORT

Online consultation sessions aim to provide schools with the opportunity to discuss their proposed STEM initiatives with Snowy Hydro.

During these sessions, schools receive feedback on how to enhance their ideas, along with examples of successful past applications to guide them in preparing stronger submissions.

These consultation sessions will allow applicants to drop-in between the available time of 12pm-4pm on each of the allocated dates.

Available sessions:

- 11 February 2025
- 18 February 2025
- 25 February 2025

Eligibility REQUIREMENTS

Eligible

- Schools located within the Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys or Cessnock LGAs, or Towong LGA.
- Those applications submitted online

Not eligible

- Private individual or private business activities or recurrent expenses (example: rent, utilities, wages for a business or organisation)
- Requests for retrospective activities, or to cover costs associated with making an application

Assessment CRITERIA

To maintain a consistent and transparent assessment process, all eligible applications will be assessed and rated against Snowy Hydro's selection criteria.

The school-based project, event or initiative:

1. responds to a need or aspiration and provides tangible and measurable benefits to local schools/students, both now and in the future
2. is valued and visible within the school community, and helps students and schools thrive
3. strengthens the school community by providing opportunities for students in the areas of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)
4. demonstrates strong governance via an appropriate budget by providing relevant quotes or documents that provide evidence of the viability of the application
5. fosters strong and sustainable partnerships within the local community
6. has a project team with the knowledge, resources, capacity and capability to deliver the project
7. demonstrates a clear plan for sustaining the initiative beyond the initial funding period to ensure its impact without reliance on ongoing external support

Note: not every application that meets the assessment criteria will receive funding

All decisions are at the discretion of Snowy Hydro; funding decisions will be final and no negotiations with applicants will be entered into.



Assessment

Process

1. Local schools submit an application via Snowy Hydro's website with appropriate supporting documents by the due date. Note: Each funding round is open for approximately four (4) weeks.
2. Snowy Hydro acknowledges receipt of the application via email.
3. Snowy Hydro screens applications against eligibility requirements and assessment criteria outlined in this document.
4. Eligible applications are thoughtfully reviewed by Snowy Hydro's Community Review Panel to determine the final list of successful applicants.
5. Successful and unsuccessful applicants are notified in writing (via email) within six (6) weeks of the closing date.

Governance and Funding

Process

All applicants will be advised by email of the outcome of their application.

If successful, applicants;

- will receive a formal agreement to be signed prior to the release of funding.
- must ensure their invoice is submitted before the end of the financial year when the funding was granted. Please ensure all invoices include the correct information.
- will need to be added to Snowy Hydro's supplier list and information on your organisation will be required.
- need to ensure the key contact person listed on the application form is contactable throughout the funding process, and that their contact details are correct and up-to-date.

Snowy Hydro may withhold payment of any funding if Snowy Hydro reasonably believes that the recipient has not complied or is unlikely to comply with this Agreement, or that the Recipient's actions will damage Snowy Hydro's reputation.





Acquittal of Funding

Funding recipients who receive \$2,500 or more will be required to submit an acquittal form within six (6) weeks of completion of the project, event or initiative.

As part of the acquittal form, the recipient will be required to provide:

- A short description of the project, event or activity
- A summary of the outcomes of the project, event or activity including its beneficiaries
- Evidence of use of the funds (e.g. invoices/receipts)
- Copies of photos or promotional materials including testimonials/feedback from beneficiaries.

It is a condition of the funding agreement that image and testimonials provided can be used by Snowy Hydro Limited in marketing collateral and advertising.

Funding recipients failing to submit their acquittal form may not be eligible to participate in future funding through the Snowy Hydro Local School STEM Fund.

If the project, event or activity does not proceed, Snowy Hydro must be advised immediately to discuss next steps.

Snowy Hydro retains the right to publicly promote funded projects, events and initiatives in publications, including Snowy Hydro's website, social media and other communication materials.

Contact us

- ✉ community@snowyhydro.com.au
- 🌐 www.snowyhydro.com.au/local-school-stem-fund/

We are committed to supporting applicants through the application process.

Please contact us if you require further assistance.

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