

EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Discover – January 2027

Clean Energy Focused

Monday 25th January to Monday 22nd March 2027

KEY DATES AND EXPECTATIONS**

• Monday 9 th November 2026	Applications open
EPSRC Clean Energy Webinar recording	Passcode: Zyh7w6%N
• Monday 14 th December 2026, 23:59	Applications close
• By close of Friday 8 th January 2027	Notification of results sent to applicants
Programme Outline	
• Session 1: Monday 25th January 2027 • Session 2: Monday 1st February 2027 • Session 3: Monday 8th February 2027 • Session 4: Monday 15th February 2027 • Session 5: Monday 22nd February 2027 • Session 6: Monday 1st March 2027 • Session 7: Monday 8th March 2027 • Session 8: Monday 15th March 2027 • Session 9 (Options Roundabout): Monday 22nd March 2027 All sessions are scheduled for 14.00 to 17.00 (all online via Zoom), except for the Options Roundabout which will be all day.	
• The research student/technician will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled above and should hold these dates in their diary when applying. • Technology Transfer Representatives are also welcome to attend all sessions, but it is not obligatory.	

** Timetable subject to change.

Please note that this opportunity forms part of a pilot programme with select UK Research Councils to gauge interest and test the market, EPSRC is involved. Beyond this pilot, a range of ICURE programmes operate throughout the year, offering additional routes for participation and there is no guarantee that EPSRC will be directly involved in future programme iterations.

UKRI Pathway

Through 2026/27, Innovate UK ICURE is working closely with UKRI councils to bring the programme directly into the research communities they support. The UKRI council pathways initiative is delivered via the same ICURE Engage, Discover, Explore and Exploit stages, but the cohorts, examples, networks and onward routes are shaped around the research priorities of the partner council. The aim is that researchers attached to a UKRI-funded environment experience ICURE as part of their own sector, with the programme shaped around the work they are already doing.

The practical implication is that ICURE is being actively built into the research environment around you, as a researcher or technician. There are low-commitment entry points you can take without stepping away from your current work.

EPSRC Clean Energy is leading research on the discovery, development and deployment of clean energy technologies through a whole systems approach. It aims to:

- deliver affordable, sustainable, and secure energy solutions that enable the UK to achieve net zero by 2050
- drive green growth by ensuring economic prosperity and climate resilience

The clean energy theme aims to position the UK to meet its energy and environmental targets and policy goals through investing in world-class research.

What is EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Discover?

This sector-specific Innovate UK EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Discover is an 8-week, part-time online market discovery programme designed to support researchers and technicians in exploring their potential market. The programme aims to enhance market awareness and deepen the understanding of potential technology applications. It is focused on innovations in the fields of *clean energy*.

This EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Discover is focused on innovations in the sectors described. If you are unsure whether your technology or research fits these sectors, please get in touch icure@setsquared.co.uk.

How does it work?

Our 8-week, part-time online market discovery programme is developed using the lean startup methodology, which applies the scientific method (hypothesise, test, evaluate) to business ideas. Participants will learn how to use this approach to gauge their potential customers' opinions about their idea, product, or service. This programme is suitable for participants looking to explore the potential of their early-stage projects or those who require a part-time commitment for market exploration.

What does it include?

- Support to carry out market and customer discovery on a part-time basis over an 8-week period.
- 8 half-day workshops, following a pre-course briefing with our team of experts.
- Flexible online delivery
- Hearing from guest speakers, who will share their learning and experiences from their ICURE journeys.
- Introduction to Strategyzer Business Model Canvas (BMC)
- Trainer, mentor, and peer feedback with next steps guidance following your ICURE Discover journey.
- Up to £2,500 support for market discovery activities

ICURE Discover provides a route towards other ICURE Programmes

Please note the ICURE Explore programme will require its own application, there is no automatic entry if ICURE Discover is completed.

Why Attend?

ICURE Discover is now a compulsory route into the ICURE Explore Programme. Past participants say that having dedicated time to spend understanding what commercialisation of research means has dramatically changed their perspective on their research, ideas, and innovations. The programme introduces ICURE and provides the space and opportunity to think differently about impact, commercialisation and entrepreneurship.

Who is eligible?

EPSRC Clean Energy ICURE Discover is open to all UK universities and approved public sector research establishments (PSREs) who are working specifically within the fields of clean energy. These areas include, but are not restricted, to carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS) and greenhouse gas removal (GGR), heat pumps, Hydrogen, nuclear fission, nuclear fusion and wind (onshore, offshore and floating offshore). We accept innovations from any discipline or background within these areas.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals in:

- Universities who have not previously participated in the ICURE programme.
- Universities who do not receive HEIF funding.
- Under-represented groups including women, people of color, those living with disabilities, and those from the LGBTQ+ communities.
- Approved public sector research establishments (PSREs) conducting research within the specified domains.

How do I apply?

- The online application form will ask a series of questions about you and your research project.
- There is a limited number of spaces on each Cohort, but we try to provide support to as many applications as possible.
- The application form may be accessed from the links on this website.
- **You will need to have engaged with your University Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and your Principal Investigator prior to applying. Please contact us if your university does not have a TTO or IP Manager and we will endeavor to help.**

If you have any further questions, please direct them to icure@setsquared.co.uk or use the contact form via this website.