



# Local School STEM Fund

**Recognising that today's students are tomorrow's workforce. Snowy Hydro is committed to fostering the next generation of STEM innovators and problem solvers by providing meaningful learning opportunities.**

Snowy Hydro has invested millions of dollars in not-for-profit organisations, projects and initiatives that align with our company values. We support projects, local festivals/events and initiatives that benefit the local communities of the Snowy Mountains and surrounds.

Local schools from the surrounding regions of the mighty Snowy Scheme and Cessnock 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

Our Local School STEM Fund aligns with our ongoing work with educators to foster learning opportunities designed to inspire the next generation of Australians to study STEM subjects, and choose careers that are critical for our transition to a more sustainable future.

## Key dates

ROUND OPENS	ROUND CLOSSES	NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME
26 FEBRUARY 2024	25 MARCH 2024	29 APRIL 2024

## 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.

Bringing STEM to life in the classroom

# Eligibility requirements

## Eligible

Schools located within the Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys or Cessnock LGAs, or Corryong, Victoria	Those applications submitted online
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## Not eligible

Private individual or private business activities or recurrent expenses (example: rent, utilities, wages for a business or organisation)	Applications not aligned with Snowy Hydro's values or which have direct links to tobacco, illegal drugs, negative impacts on health, or are associated with risk-taking activities
Requests for retrospective activities, or to cover costs associated with making an application	Funding for council-owned assets or infrastructure

## 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 the right team with the knowledge, resources, capacity and capability to deliver the project
7. returns value for investment.

**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.

## Governance & 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.

## Completion of funded projects, events or activities

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 any images 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



snowyhydro.com.au/localstemfund

We are committed to supporting applicants through the application process. Please contact us if you require further assistance.