

snowyhydro

SNOWYSTEMACADEMY

**Snowy STEM  
Academy School  
Fund**



# About

Snowy Hydro is committed to building energy literacy and fostering the next generation of STEM leaders through showing young people what STEM looks like beyond the textbook.

The Snowy STEM Academy focuses on empowering students and educators. Building skills and energy literacy for Australia's energy future. Our goal is to expand STEM access to equip students and teachers with the knowledge and skills they need to take on the energy challenges of tomorrow.

Snowy Hydro has invested more than \$600,000 in local schools to partner with teachers to expose students to STEM in action. Building hands-on experiences that become embedded in the curriculum.

Local schools in the regions surrounding the mighty Snowy Scheme and the Kurri Kurri Power Station 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

Saturday, 28 February 2026, 9:00am AEST

## Applications Close

Sunday, 29 March 2026, 11:55pm AEST

## Notification of Outcome

All applicants will be notified in writing within 8 weeks of the closing date.



# Eligibility requirements

Schools located within the Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys LGA, Towong LGA Victoria, or Cessnock LGA.

Those applications that are submitted online.

## Not eligible

- Political groups or those primarily engaged in political activities.
- Religious initiatives that primarily focus on promoting religious activities or beliefs.
- Private individuals or activities.
- Requests for recurrent expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, wages) for a business or organisation. *Note: While operational costs may not be eligible, applicants can include and justify project-related costs in their budget if they are directly linked to the project. For example, wages for employees are not eligible; however, contractor fees (e.g., a mental health facilitator, guest speaker) may be considered if essential to project delivery. Where possible, we encourage funds to be spent locally.*
- Requests for retrospective activities or to cover costs associated with making an application.
- Initiatives that have direct links to tobacco, illegal drugs, or are associated with inappropriate activities.
- Requests for funding where the direct community spend is not clear.
- Requests for funding where ongoing maintenance or ownership of assets, infrastructure or land is not clearly defined (e.g., sporting equipment, storage trailers). *Note: To address this, please provide supporting information in your application that clearly outlines the plan for ownership and maintenance.*
- Requests for funding where ownership of land or infrastructure is not supported with an owners letter of permission or support (e.g., council owned land or infrastructure). *Note: To address this, please provide a clearly titled letter of support from the owner.*

# Assessment criteria

To maintain a consistent and transparent assessment process, all eligible applications will be assessed and rated against the following criteria:

The school project, event, or initiative:

- Responds to a need or aspiration by providing tangible and measurable benefits to students, with a specific focus on building energy literacy and understanding of future energy landscapes.
  - Is valued and visible within the school community, helping students thrive
  - Strengthens the school community by providing opportunities for students in STEM and by embedding an exploration of Snowy Hydro's operations, engineering, or renewable energy technology into the curriculum.
  - Demonstrates strong governance via an appropriate budget, including relevant quotes or documents that prove the viability of the technical or educational resources requested.
  - Fosters strong, sustainable partnerships within the local community, specifically by encouraging links among schools, energy experts, and regional industry.
- Has the right team with the knowledge, resources, and capacity to deliver the project and ensure the energy-focused learning outcomes are sustained in future school years.
  - Returns value for investment by creating long-term educational assets or programs that promote career pathways in the energy sector.

Not every application that meets the assessment criteria will receive funding. All decisions are at the discretion of Snowy Hydro; decisions will be final and no negotiations with applicants will be entered into.

# Application process

1. Submit your application: Use our secure grants platform, Enquire, accessible via the Snowy Hydro website.
2. Confirmation: Snowy Hydro will send an email acknowledging receipt of your application.
3. Review: Applications will be screened for eligibility and reviewed by Snowy Hydro's Community Review Panel.
4. Notification: All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email within (8) weeks of the closing date.

## Submission requirements

Each application must include a budget and supporting quotes in PDF format. Please clearly name and attach these documents to your application.



# Assessment Process

1. Schools submit an application via the online application form with appropriate supporting documents.
2. Snowy Hydro acknowledges receipt of the application.
3. Snowy Hydro screens the application against the eligibility criteria.
4. Eligible applications are provided to a review panel for review and final selection of successful applicants.
5. Successful and unsuccessful applicants are notified in writing within six (8) weeks of the closing date.
6. Agreements are signed with successful applications and funds are distributed (funds will not be distributed until all steps are complete)
7. An acquittal submitted by the funding recipient to Snowy Hydro within six (6) weeks after the event or completion of the project.

## Funding process

- All applicants will be advised of the outcome of the funding round.
- Successful applicants will receive a letter from Snowy Hydro Formally advising them of the success of their application, together with a formal agreement to be signed by the applicant prior to the receipt of funding.
- Snowy Hydro will make public announcements of funding round outcomes on the Snowy Hydro website and other channels on a case-by-case basis.

# Acquittal process

Successful recipients have 12 months to deliver their project/initiative. On completion, an Acquittal form must be submitted within six weeks. An acquittal template will be provided.

The acquittal form requires:

- A short description of the project and a summary of its outcomes.
- Proof of fund usage (e.g., invoices, receipts).
- Copies of photos, promotional materials, and community testimonials. By submitting these, the recipient agrees to allow Snowy Hydro to use them for promotional purposes.
- Recipients who fail to submit their acquittal may be ineligible for future funding. If the initiative does not proceed, Snowy Hydro must be advised immediately so that next steps can be discussed.



## Contact us

We are committed to supporting applicants throughout the process. Please contact our community team at [education@snowyhydro.com.au](mailto:education@snowyhydro.com.au) if you require assistance.

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