



# Innovate to Grow: Recycling and Circular Economy

Applications are open for a free 8-week R&D learning program for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on recycling and circular economy innovation.

## Build your R&D idea

SMEs play a key role in growing Australia's innovation capabilities but having the right support is critical for success.

Our free self-paced 8-week program will build your skills and networks so you can learn how to advance your idea with R&D.

## Apply today

Applications close: 16 February 2025

Program starts: 13 March 2025

[csiro.au/I2Grecycle](https://csiro.au/I2Grecycle)

## Key program outcomes

**Personalised support to refine your idea:** We'll step you through the process of turning your idea into a viable research project.

**Confidential feedback:** All submissions through the program portal will receive prompt expert feedback.

**Mentor:** You will be paired with a researcher from CSIRO or a university to help connect you with a relevant specialist.

**Build your network:** You will build key contacts in your sector, including researchers and other SMEs.

### Key program outputs include how to:

- Create a strong research question for your idea
- Assess the value of your innovation
- Work out your collaboration options
- Compose a high impact R&D business case
- Prepare a funding application.

## Commitment and course outline

### Preparing for the program (3–4 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaires.

### Week 1 (Official start date, 13 March 2025)

#### Workshop (4.5 hours)

Guest speakers from CSIRO, sector experts and SMEs who will provide tips and information on topics such as trends and opportunities, innovation experience and funding. You will also meet your fellow participants and mentor.

### Weeks 2–8

#### Self-paced innovation program (2–3 hours per week)

Participants explore opportunities for a collaborative research project by working through a series of online learning materials and four downloadable documents.

Fortnightly virtual webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

A final questionnaire is required at completion.

## Who can attend

Participants based and operating in Australia who are working on recycling and circular economy innovation. This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Organic and inorganic recycling
- Sustainable manufacturing
- Clean energy production and storage
- Supply chain waste reduction
- Waste to energy (bioenergy)
- Fibres and textiles waste
- Sustainable construction materials
- Other

### Selection criteria (essential):

- A business based and operating in Australia that is registered with an ABN
- A business classified as small to medium (<200 employees)
- An R&D idea to work on throughout the program related to recycling and the circular economy

*Please note: We are accepting applications from sole traders and partnerships for this program but not subsidiary companies of foreign entities.*

*Researchers working at universities can apply as a mentor but not a participant.*

### Other considerations:

- Any other information provided to support your application
- Have a clear need to develop your knowledge and skills in R&D

'We made lots of progress and came up with a direction for the steps we need to do and the people we need to speak to in order to get this project kickstarted.'

– Manon Beauchamp-Tardieu, Little Green Panda

CSIRO Innovate to Grow is delivered using [Practera's](#) online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

### For further information

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CSIRO Innovate to Grow is proud to partner with Deakin University's [Recycling and Clean Energy Commercialisation Hub \(REACH\)](#). REACH is facilitating the development of greener supply chains by collaborating with industry partners to pioneer a sustainable circular economy.



**REACH**  
Recycling and Clean Energy  
Commercialisation Hub