

impact innovation



FORMAS

VINNOVA

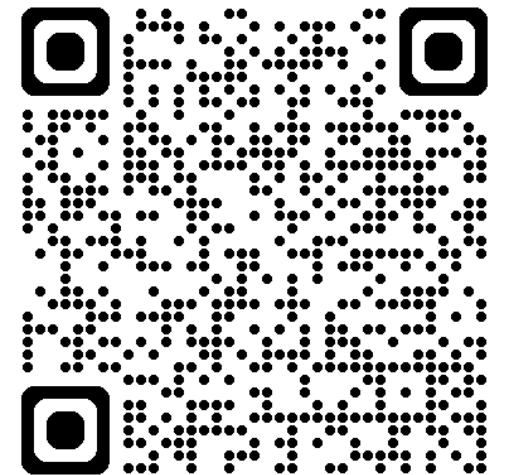
Johanna Gardeström
Research Support and Collaboration Office

Tomorrow:

Panel Talk about Impact Innovation

Speakers:

- Benjamin Dousa, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade
- Joakim Appelquist, Vice President, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Science
- Michail Pagounis, Director of Materials and Industrials, Business Sweden
- Kristina von Sydow, Senior Public Affairs Strategist, Change Leader
- Gina Aspelin Hedbring, Water Wise Societies
- John Hultén, ShiftSweden
- Mariell Juhlin, SustainGov.
- Rachel Pettersson, Swedish Metals and Minerals
- Sofia Wieselfors, Net Zero Industry



Time and place

When: 16th of May at 11.30-12.30 CET

Where: Online

Sign up before 12.55 today!



What is Impact Innovation?

- A Swedish government initiative (2021) to develop the next generation of strategic innovation programs (SIP)
- Aims to address complex societal challenges through long-term, **system transformation**
- Jointly managed by the Swedish Energy Agency, Formas and Vinnova, based on broad input gathered during a 2023 national tour

Why was it launched?



Government Offices of Sweden

- Strengthens Sweden's global competitiveness and innovation capacity
- Response to global and national needs for sustainable transformation

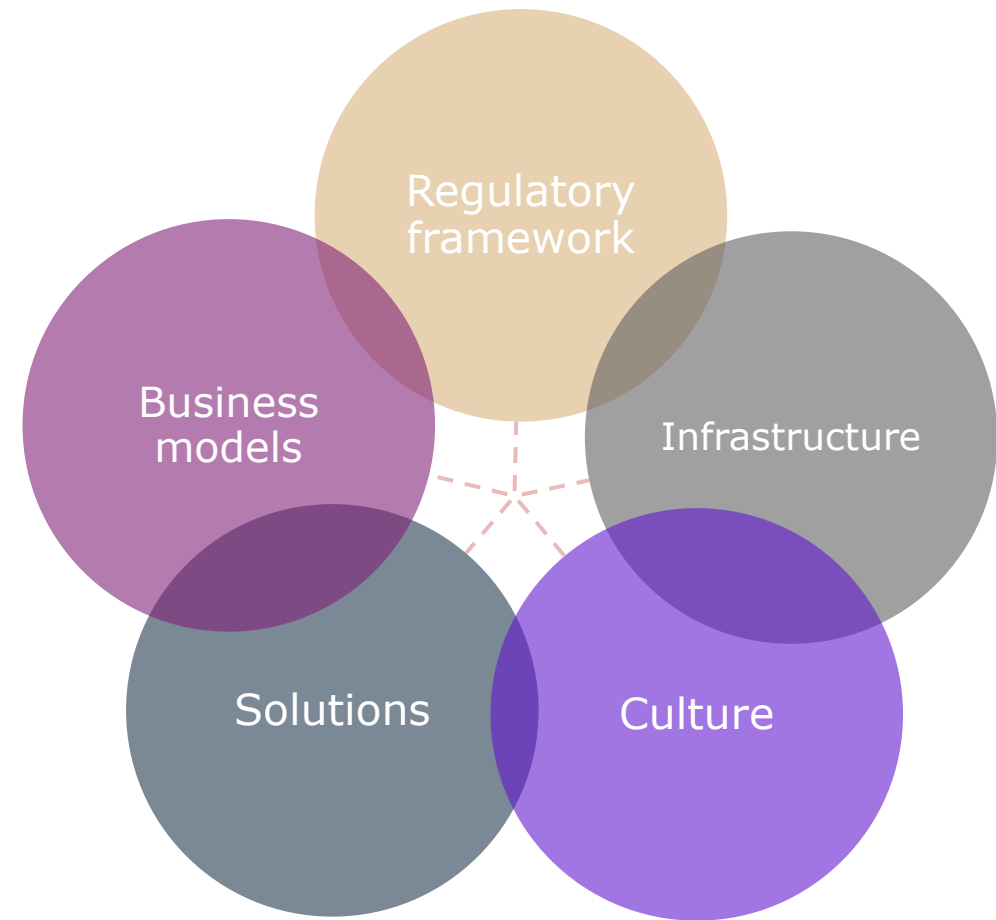
Sweden's innovation initiative for the 2030s

Key Features

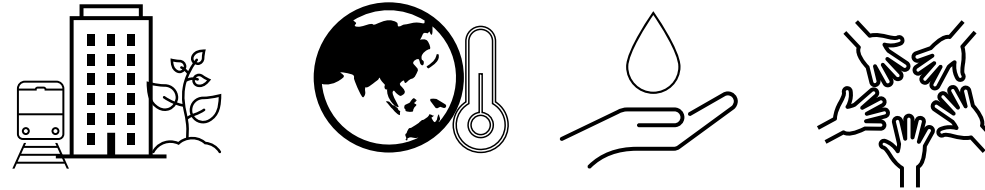
- System transformation
- Mission-driven approach, aiming for transformative change rather than incremental improvements
- Cross sector actor-driven
- Focus on sustainability in strategically important areas

System Transformation

- A deep, structural and fundamental change in how a system functions
- Goes beyond incremental improvements and reshapes the system's core – its structures, goals, and logic
- Involves multiple actors and levels, often across sectors
- The aim is typically to build systems that are more sustainable, resilient, and equitable



Missions



- Measurable, and time-bound objectives that address major societal challenges
- Sets a direction for broad mobilization of perspectives and resources toward a common goal

Each program in Impact Innovation has its own distinct mission.

Difference from the Strategic Innovation Programs (SIPs)

- A stronger **system transformation** focus
- Combines tools like policy labs and demonstrators
- Greater focus on policy, governance, and behavioral change
- Takes a cross-sector, **mission-oriented approach** (SIPs are more about sectoral innovation)
- Promotes an **adaptive process**, where strategies and activities evolve over time based on learning and feedback (SIPs have more linear project funding)

Funding of Impact Innovation

- Five programs shape the calls, based on broad input from stakeholders
- The calls are issued by the Swedish Energy Agency, Formas, and Vinnova, with approximately 500 M SEK announced annually over 10 years
- Co-funding is most often required
- The first calls were launched in early 2024

Key Differences from Traditional Research Funding

- Main applicant is often a stakeholder with mandate over infrastructure or systems
- Calls are shaped by continuous dialogues. You can influence them!
- Projects can evolve and build on each other through iterative learning and testing- which is why early involvement matters
- Emphasis is on system transformation rather than isolated research or tech development
- Co-creation across sectors and disciplines is often required

The Five Programs

**Swedish Metals
& Minerals**

impact innovation

**Water Wise
Societies**

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SustainGov

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**Net Zero
Industry**

impact innovation

ShiftSweden

impact innovation

Collaborations for a safe supply of metals
and minerals within the planetary boundaries.

Swedish Metals & Minerals

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Participants

The program is led by Jernkontoret in collaboration with Luleå University of Technology, LTU Business, Sustainable Steel Region, SveMin, the Swedish Foundry Association, Swedish Aluminum and Örebro University.

Examples of Areas

- **Technology:** Fossil-free mining, hydrogen-based metallurgy, AI and automation, efficient metal recycling
- **Society & Policy:** Fair permitting processes, local community attractiveness, competence supply and education
- **Environment:** Biodiversity protection, water management, reduced emissions, and metal waste recycling



Open Calls

Digital information: 16 May 11.00-12.00

Digital information: 20 May 15.00-16.00

Digital information: 22 May 10.00-11.00
13 June 10.00-11.00



VINNOVA

MAIN CALL - TECHNICAL INNOVATION

Impact Innovation: Research and Development projects in technical action areas in the program

Aims to support the development of innovative solutions and improvements with novelty value within the framework of the technical action areas of the program.



VINNOVA

MAIN CALL - SOCIAL INNOVATION

Impact Innovation: Impact Innovation: Research and development projects within Social Action Areas in the program

Aims to strengthen Sweden's potential in five of the program's social action areas.



Energimyndigheten

THEMATIC CALL - TECHNICAL INNOVATION

Impact Innovation: Urgent challenges in Swedish Metals & Minerals

Four themes are identified as urgent and/or not sufficiently addressed in Swedish Metals & Minerals first call for technical pre-studies.

Development of a resource-efficient and resilient
industry with international competitiveness.

NetZero Industry

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Participants

The program is led by Technology Industries of Sweden (Teknikföretagen) and RISE

“in close collaboration with the manufacturing industry, the Swedish Production Academy, and the Swedish Product Development Academy”

Key Areas

Manufacturing industry

- **Resource Efficiency:** Radical reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, circular material flows, remanufacturing, and improved electronics production
- **Resilience:** Robust supply chains, preparedness for cyber threats and disruptions, and enhanced SME capacity

Overarching Goals

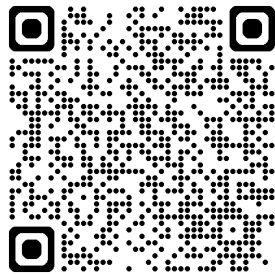
- **REDUCE** primary resource use, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy consumption across the product lifecycle and value chain
- **DEVELOP** circular, efficient, sustainable, and long-term profitable value chains
- **PREPARE** the industrial system to withstand cyber-attacks and digital disruptions
- **INSPIRE** future leaders and employees to create a highly skilled and motivated workforce

Open Calls

Digital information: 10 June 10.00-11.00



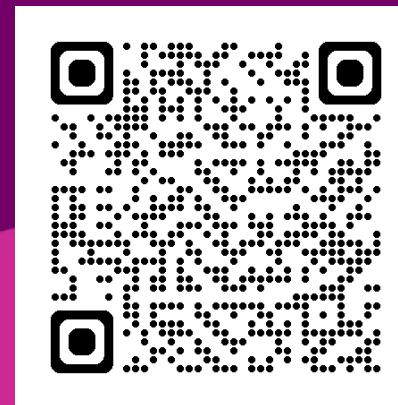
- **Impact Innovation: Net Zero Industry 2025**
 - Includes product design, related services, and circular activities



Community management for a democratic,
powerful and fair sustainable transition, for all.

SustainGov

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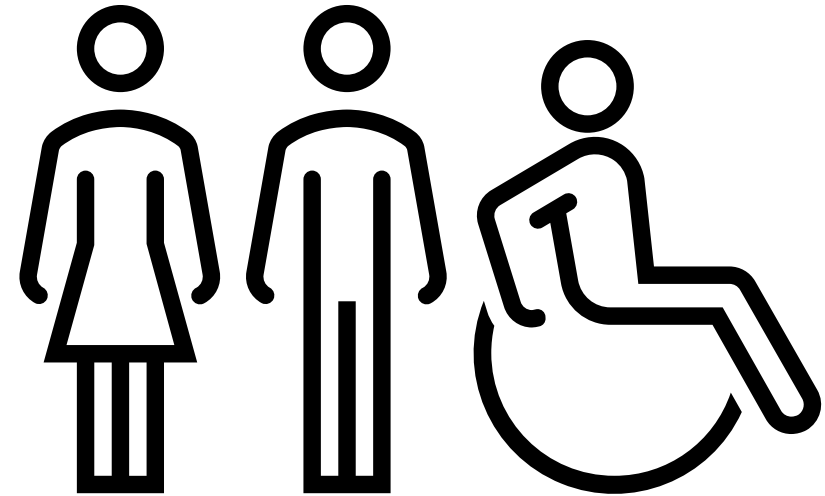


Participants

The program is led by Mid Sweden University in collaboration with County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, SLU, Karlstad University, National Veterinary Institute (SVA), Bron Innovation, Stockholm School of Economics (HHS), Agency for Digital Government (DIGG), Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKR), Södertörn University, Norrbottens kommuner, the Municipalities of Sundsvall and Tomelilla, Regions Jämtland Härjedalen, and Västernorrland, Skellefteå Science City, Centre for Public Benefit

Priority Areas 2025–2028

- Cross-system collaboration for complex care needs
- An inclusive society for all
- Future-proof food supply for health and well-being
- The social contract of the future—a renewed relationship between citizens and the public sector

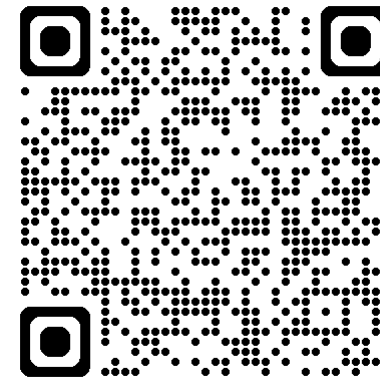


Open Calls



1. Impact Innovation: Research school for the public sector of the future (52 M SEK, 100%, Deadline 17 June)
2. Impact Innovation: Preparatory project for a reformed public sector (0.5 M SEK, 80%, 10 June)
3. Impact Innovation: Implementation project for a reformed public sector (4 M SEK, 70%, 10 September)
4. Impact Innovation: Change alliances for a reformed public sector (10 M, 50%, 10 September)

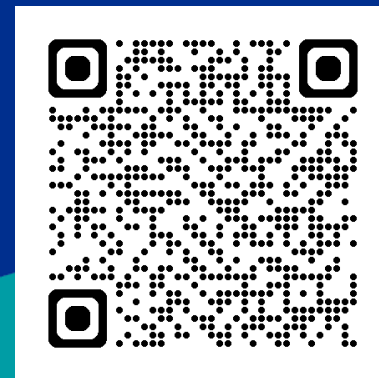
Digital matchmaking meetings within
SustainGov's calls (2, 3 and 4) on 22 May
and 9 June



Transition to a sustainable water management —
for people, society, businesses and the environment.

Water Wise Societies

impact innovation

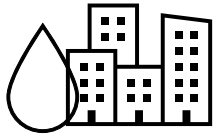


Participants

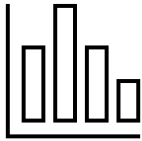
The program is led by RISE in collaboration with Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL), Linköping Science Park, Lund University, Stockholm Environment Institute, and Svenskt Vatten.

(VAKIN and Ecolime are two of 70 members)

Focus Areas



Resilient water supply and management in society



Wise water use



Thriving lakes, streams, and groundwater

Open Calls

“We fund initiatives in research, innovation, policy development, capacity building, and internationalization.”

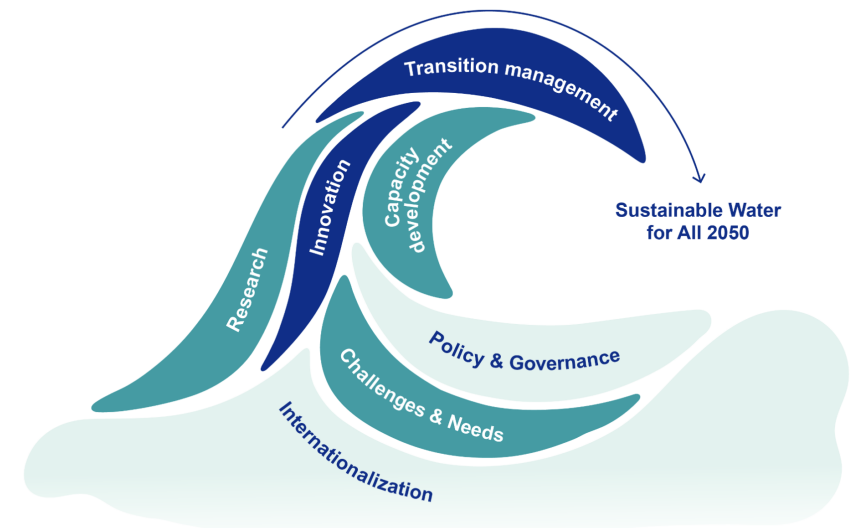


1. Impact Innovation: Transition labs within Water Wise Societies 2025 for Sustainable Water for All (13.5 MSEK, 75% funding, Deadline 3 September)

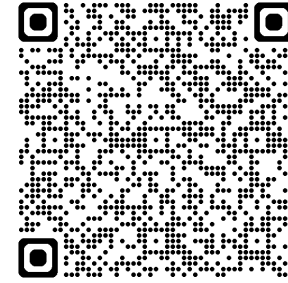
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2. Impact Innovation: Acceptance and behavioural change (1 M SEK, 80% funding, 17 June)



Pitch Your Idea



"Two tricky water challenges. Ten-minute pitches. And a chance to make a real difference. [...] Welcome to the Innovation Workshop – where real-world problems meet unexpected solutions." (4 June)

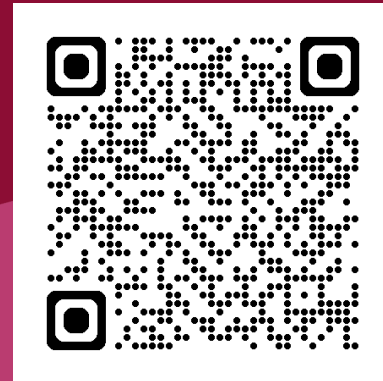
1. Removal of molybdenum from process water
2. Nitrate treatment in subarctic mining environments

"These challenges demand solid research. They are technically complex and backed by companies that are genuinely committed to finding solutions."

Transformation to fossil-free and resource-conscious societies, attractive and accessible to all.

ShiftSweden

impact innovation



Participants

The program is led by IQ Samhällsbyggnad together with Swedish Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI) in collaboration with the partners RISE, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning), Swedish Transport Administration, the Regions Skåne, Stockholm, Västra Götaland, Västtrafik, Institute for Water and Air Quality Research (IVL), and Volvo Research Foundation.

Focus Aras: Three Major Shifts

- From resource-intensive linear community building processes to sustainable and value-creating circular business models
- From unsustainable transportation to a new freedom reform with competitive alternatives to individual car travel
- From planning in silos to an integrated ecosystem for the built environment and mobility

Open Calls



- Impact Innovation: Coordination project for shift labs within ShiftSweden (3.5 M, 100% funding, Deadline 21 May)



Recently Closed Calls

- Impact Innovation: Geographical Transition Labs – Developing the Attractive and Accessible Living Environments of the Future (8-9 M SEK).
- Impact innovation: Participate in transition labs for the attractive and accessible living environments of the future (3-6 M SEK)- Explore, test and scale up.
 - Site type: Future-proof large-scale apartment building areas
 - Site type: Transformation of traffic environments in smaller cities and towns
 - System challenge: Developed market and logistics for recycling
 - System challenge: A broadened role for public transport

To Sum Up

- Impact Innovation is about system change i.e., real-world transformation
- Five mission-driven programs tackle major societal challenges
- Actors co-create across sectors to achieve impact
- The government allocates SEK 500 million annually via open calls through the programs
- Research is integrated within the projects to support learning and systemic progress
- Projects can build on each other through iteration and lead to follow up calls
- You can influence the agenda through early engagement and dialogue



A Few Last Tips

- Get involved early by joining networks, and participating in activities
- Stay informed through newsletters and program websites
- Build relationships with stakeholders and relevant partners
- Think broadly: policy, governance, technology, and behavior- all matter
- Join small projects to increase your chances of entering larger initiatives
- Communicate how your research, together with others', can support societal transformation
- Plan long term – the programs rely on continuous learning and development

Join Local Discussions Around the Programs

Please sign up if you are interested in learning more about any of the five programs in Impact Innovation.

We will begin with information meetings about each program.



Newsletter from the Research support and Collaboration Office



Here you can get tips about

- Events
- Courses
- Seminars
- Calls for Proposals
- Workshops

Svenska: [https:// NyhetsbrevForskningsstöd](https://NyhetsbrevForskningsstod)

English: <https://bit.ly/NewsRSO>





Thank you!