

Call for Innovation: Wildfire Tech

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NorthX 2025 Wildfire Tech Call for Innovation ?

Through the **2025 Wildfire Tech Call for Innovation**, NorthX will award up to \$3 million in non-dilutive investments to Canadian-based innovators developing commercial pathways to scale **hard-tech wildfire management and resilience solutions**. This call builds on NorthX's 2024 Wildfire Tech initiative and aims to scale technologies that strengthen wildfire prevention, mitigation, and adaptation across Canada.

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate:

- A measurable contribution to **wildfire prevention, mitigation, and adaptation**, including direct GHG reductions or removal;
- Strong presence and near-term impact in **British Columbia and across Canada**;
- Incorporation in **Canada** (required);
- **Indigenous leadership or partnership**, especially projects advancing economic reconciliation and traditional fire stewardship;
- Alignment with **Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4–9**, with priority for TRL 6–9;
- Clear **pathways to commercialization and field deployment** within two years.

Additional priorities for this Call include:

- Delivering **co-benefits** such as ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and strengthening community resilience

Who can apply for the Wildfire Tech Call for Innovation?

NorthX will fund Canadian companies advancing wildfire resilience, mitigation, or adaptation technologies and business model innovations. While projects may be conducted outside Canada, preference will be given to those that demonstrate **strong BC or Canada-wide impact**.

Consortia of companies working together to complete a project are acceptable and welcomed. In such cases a single lead company must become the applicant.

What types of projects do you fund?



NorthX funds **project-level activities** that demonstrate, pilot, or validate wildfire-related technologies and business models. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Demonstrations and pilot projects;
- Integration and testing of components in laboratory, simulated, or operational environments;
- Deployment or validation of prototypes and system models;
- Innovative implementation or monitoring technologies;
- Business model innovations that accelerate commercialization;
- Development of partnerships to demonstrate or scale solutions.

Projects solely consisting of feasibility or engineering studies will **not** be considered but may be included as part of a broader project scope.

NorthX invites proposals for innovative climate solutions from qualified applicants whose solutions align with our objectives. You can view our [portfolio of projects](#) we've funded to date on our website.

Do you fund software solutions?

NorthX emphasizes a focus on hard-tech solutions and will not consider software solutions without a strong tie-in to hard-tech innovation.

How much funding could I receive?

Historically, NorthX has awarded an average of \$750,000 per project through its innovation calls. Funding for this Call may be distributed between multiple projects at our discretion, depending upon the strength and number of proposals received. NorthX reserves the right not to fund any projects.

NorthX invested \$20.2 million in 33 pioneering climate hard tech projects in 2024.

What are the minimum and maximum total amounts that can be requested?

NorthX will fund up to 50% of the total project cost. NorthX intends to invest in several projects of different sizes.

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What will the funding cover? E.g. prototyping of new equipment, R&D, employee salaries?

Project funds can be used to pay salaries, consultants, and reasonable direct costs related to the project proposed in the application. Funds can also be used to secure demonstration sites (including the operating costs of demonstrations), build prototypes, integrate system components, demonstrate pilot production or scale up manufacturing.

Project funds cannot be used to enhance normal business operational capabilities, purchase capital equipment, perform capital or leasehold improvements or purchase furniture or other equipment to be used in the routine course of business. Project funds cannot be used for advertising or other forms of business promotion. Human resource costs cannot be 'marked up' to include blanket overheads.

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

While NorthX will consider innovative wildfire solutions across the full value chain, priority will be given to projects in the following areas:

Prevention: fire weather prediction, proactive land management, forest fuel reduction, and economic biomass utilization.

Mitigation: early detection, suppression, spread-limiting technologies, and specialized equipment.

Adaptation: solutions that enhance forest and community resilience, reduce emissions, and promote scalable business models.

NorthX will also prioritize:

- **Indigenous leadership and partnerships** in wildfire innovation;
- **Prescribed burning tools and support for First Nations-led practices;**
- Projects demonstrating **regional scalability, economic reconciliation, and ecosystem co-benefits.**

Other factors that will be favorably considered include:

- **Regional impact and scalability:** solutions with clear potential to scale across multiple sites, demonstrating impact in BC and Canada-wide.
- **Business model strength:** clear, near-term business models, and robust commercialization pathways beyond government procurement, including

engagement with private sector buyers, insurance partners, utilities, or other non-governmental customers.

- **Multiplier effect:** solutions with strong potential for dual-use or multi-use applications such as agriculture, utilities, insurance, or other relevant industries in addition to wildfire.
- **Testing and validation:** applications with clear pathways identify potential partners for field testing and operational integration, or projects leading to pilot programs, validation, and demonstration with end users.
- **Co-benefits and ecosystem restoration:** technologies that deliver additional benefits—such as ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and community resilience.
- **Regulatory and implementation feasibility:** realistic plans for regulatory approvals, necessary permits, certifications and timely project start.
- **Economic and social benefits:** solutions that strengthen socio-economic outcomes for communities, including capacity-building and local employment.

How should applicants estimate and report the impact of their projects, particularly in terms of GHG emissions reductions?

The application should include a lifecycle analysis of the innovation, along with estimates of GHG emissions reductions, both at the project level and at scale. Assumptions and calculations should follow industry-standard methodologies, and supporting references or studies must be available upon request. In cases where it is more appropriate, such as in load-displacement applications, proposals may use proxies for GHG emissions (e.g., energy consumption metrics) for the calculations.

Are projects/technologies currently in development eligible?

Yes, project activities may include, but are not limited to, demonstrations and pilot projects, innovative implementation solutions, novel linkage of system components, mitigation or monitoring technologies, and business model innovations. See application guideline for more details.

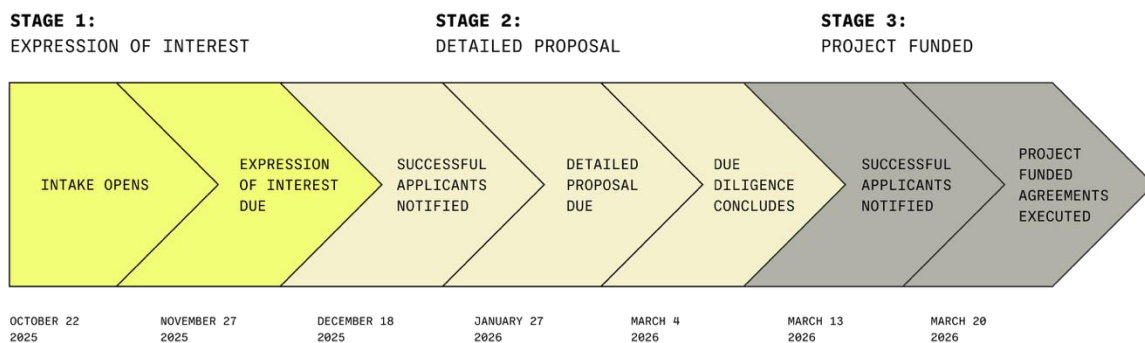
My company is based outside of BC but we have a project in the province. Are we eligible?

For this call, **Canadian-incorporated companies** conducting projects in **British Columbia** or demonstrating clear benefits to the province are eligible to apply.

My company is based in BC, but our project is outside of the province. Are we eligible?

BC-based companies may apply even if their project occurs outside the province, provided the innovation demonstrates meaningful benefits for BC or Canada.

What is the expected timeline for the Industrial Decarbonization Call for Innovation?



***Depending on the quality of applications moved to Stage 2 – NorthX may exercise its option to hold a 2nd EOI intake process starting January 22nd, 2026.

What is the expected timeline for investment dispersal?

Once the successful projects are notified, we will collaborate with the companies to develop a milestone plan. As each project milestone is achieved, the corresponding portion of the investment will be dispersed. On average, it is a two-year cycle to receive the funding.

Can partnerships or consortia of companies apply? Can larger enterprises support and partner with start-ups for this funding opportunity?

Consortia of companies working together to complete a project are acceptable and welcomed. In such cases, it is recommended that a single lead company should become the applicant.

I've received funding from previous NorthX calls for innovation. Can I still apply?

Yes! We'd be happy to hear about your new projects or follow-on funding opportunities.

What types of projects and/or companies have you funded through previous calls for innovation?

We fund companies with innovative clean energy and climate solutions that focus on decarbonization and commercialization. Visit our website to learn more about NorthX's funded projects: <https://northx.ca/portfolio>

I don't fit the criteria for this Call for Innovation, but we meet the criteria for other funding calls. Can I speak to someone about other funding opportunities?

Sign up for email updates and follow NorthX on social media to stay up to date on what calls are being offered! NorthX launches a variety of directed calls, as well as open calls to see what innovation is in the market, with a focus on our four focus areas: battery and energy storage, carbon management, low carbon fuels, and low carbon hydrogen. Check out the current funding opportunities here.

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact us with any questions at wildfiretech@northx.ca.