

2026 Call for Innovation: Capacity & Energy Solutions

Frequently Asked Questions

Developed by: NorthX Climate Tech, in partnership with BC Hydro





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About the Call

What is the 2026 Call for Innovation: Capacity & Energy Solutions?

The 2026 Call for Innovation: Capacity & Energy Solutions is a partnership between NorthX and BC Hydro to accelerate the development, commercialization, and scaling of innovative capacity and energy solutions in British Columbia. Through the Call for Innovation: Capacity & Energy Solutions, NorthX will award up to \$5M in non-dilutive capital to innovators developing commercially viable solutions that address critical capacity and energy challenges.

Key dates for the Call for Innovation: Capacity & Energy Solutions are available on the website and below in this FAQ. Applicants are encouraged to apply early. [NorthX will invest up to \\$5M in eligible projects, subject to funding availability.](#)

Why are NorthX and BC Hydro launching this Call?

Electricity demand in BC is entering a period of sustained, structural growth, driven by industrial electrification, transportation, and new digital load, with peak demand growing even faster than overall demand. Meeting those peaks efficiently requires dispatchable flexibility. The Call brings together NorthX's expertise in climate tech investment and commercialization with BC Hydro's expertise in BC's electricity system, helping close the gap between research and field deployment while supporting [BC Hydro's Power Smart 2.0](#) and [Powering Growth](#) plans.

Has NorthX run a Call like this before?

Yes. Building on a partnership from 2024, NorthX (then operating as the BC Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy) partnered with BC Hydro to launch the [Call for Energy Storage Innovation](#), accelerating the commercialization and scaling of energy storage, microgrids, and grid solutions across BC. This program builds on that partnership.

What types of technologies and solutions is this Call looking for?

Behind-the-meter resources are the priority for this Call, including electric vehicle and stationary batteries, flexible industrial processes, thermal storage, and managed charging — solutions that first solve a site's own challenges (reducing demand charges, riding through outages, deferring upgrades, enabling electrification, displacing fossil fuels) before becoming a dispatchable system resource. Front-of-meter approaches, including distributed energy resource management systems and non-wires alternatives, will also be considered, though they are not the primary focus.



Eligible project categories include, but are not limited to:

- Demand response, flexible load, and industrial process flexibility that reduce peak and respond to a dispatch signal
- Energy storage solutions, stationary or mobile, at the customer or community scale
- Distributed energy resources, virtual power plants, and hybrid systems
- Managed and bidirectional charging, including vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technologies
- Energy efficiency
- Power electronics, integrated energy systems, and sensing technologies that enable flexibility and dispatch

What stage does my technology need to be at?

Technologies advanced within a project must fall between Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4-9. Proposals where the entire project scope consists solely of studies or reports (including feasibility or FEED studies) will not be considered, though projects may include studies or reports as part of a broader project scope.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

NorthX will fund Canadian companies advancing greenhouse gas reduction and removal innovations, with clear commercialization pathways and economic benefits. NorthX will consider Canadian-based projects and will prioritize those demonstrating the greatest impact in BC while contributing across Canada.

Where does my company need to be based to be eligible?

NorthX funds Canadian companies. To be eligible, projects must be led by a Canadian-incorporated company and demonstrate a clear impact in Canada. NorthX will consider Canadian-based projects broadly, and will prioritize applications that demonstrate the greatest impact in BC while contributing across Canada. Consortium projects must be led by a single Canadian-based applicant, preferably the technology developer.

Does my project need to be in BC?

Not necessarily. However, your project must demonstrate a measurable impact in BC. NorthX will prioritize projects that demonstrate strong BC impact while contributing to broader outcomes across Canada.



One of the Call's strategic alignment criteria also requires that the innovation be validated, developed, and commercialized by a Canadian-based company, or through a project completed in Canada, with a measurable BC-based impact.

What does NorthX mean by “clear commercialization pathway”?

Proponents should be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the market opportunity, and the customers or off takers their solution serves. Evidence of market engagement — such as letters of intent, paid pilots, or off-take agreements — is a strong signal of commercial readiness, though early-stage projects are not expected to have secured commercial agreements. What matters is meaningful customer discovery and a credible path to market entry and scale.

Can a consortium of companies apply together?

Yes. Consortium projects are eligible but must be led by a single Canadian-based applicant, preferably the technology developer.

Does NorthX prioritize Indigenous participation?

Yes. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate strong Indigenous participation and contribute to advancing economic reconciliation in Canada.

Can existing NorthX portfolio companies apply?

Yes. NorthX will consider follow-on funding to existing portfolio companies through this Call.

What sectors and priorities does NorthX have within this Call?

Behind-the-meter solutions that advance BC Hydro's capacity and demand response priorities are the primary focus, including demand response, flexible load, energy storage, distributed energy resources, managed and bidirectional (V2X) charging, energy efficiency, and power electronics or sensing technologies that enable flexibility and dispatch. NorthX is also interested in flexibility and energy-efficiency solutions for BC's largest industrial loads, with highest priority in mining, oil and gas, and district energy, and continued interest in forestry, pulp and paper, and industrial transportation. Front-of-meter solutions — including utility-scale storage, DERMS, and non-wires alternatives — are eligible but are not the primary focus of this Call.

Does my project need to directly reduce GHG emissions?



NorthX prioritizes projects that accelerate the reduction of global GHG emissions while facilitating the integration of flexible demand innovation. NorthX also favours projects that deliver co-benefits alongside flexibility, such as improving affordability and reliability, strengthening community resilience, displacing diesel in remote and constrained communities, and creating socio-economic benefit in BC.



Funding

How much funding is available?

NorthX's goal through the 2026 Call for Innovation: Capacity & Energy Solutions is to provide up to \$5M CAD in total non-dilutive funding across project proposals aimed at developing commercial clean grid technologies in BC. NorthX will accept Expressions of Interest (EOIs) on a continuous basis throughout the Call. EOIs submitted by October 30, 2026 will be reviewed as part of the first cohort, with funding decisions communicated by the end of January 2027. EOIs submitted after October 30, 2026 will continue to be reviewed and considered as part of the next funding decision window in March 2027.

How much of my project can NorthX fund?

NorthX will fund up to 50% of any eligible project's costs. Your company must provide the balance of funds from internal or external sources. Cash and in-kind funding are considered toward this capital at risk, based on the level of commitment and amount from funders and/or partners, including future commitments.

What is a typical funding amount?

NorthX evaluates each project individually. Our average grant size is \$750,000 CAD, though funding amounts are determined by the stage of development and alignment with NorthX's mandate, and will vary accordingly. Proponents are encouraged to propose a funding amount appropriate to their project's needs and maturity.

Is the funding equity-based?

No. NorthX currently provides non-dilutive funding in the form of a grant. NorthX may consider other financial instruments where appropriate; the final funding instrument is determined in discussion with the company.

Do I need to secure match funding for my project?

No. Match funding is not required by NorthX. NorthX funding can support up to 50% of eligible project costs, with the remaining costs covered by the project proponent or other sources of funding.

Is the funding disbursed up front or through reimbursement?

Funding through this Call is provided on a project-level basis as non-dilutive, milestone-based reimbursement. Each project will have milestones, negotiated between NorthX and



the Proponent during the final stage of the application process, against which committed capital is disbursed.

What types of projects and activities can funding support?

Eligible project activities may include, but are not limited to, demonstrations and pilot projects, field validation and integration testing with utility systems such as BC Hydro's DERMS, and innovative business models that move proven technology toward mass-market deployment.

What can NorthX funding be used for—and what can't it be used for?

Funding is provided on a project level basis, with NorthX reimbursing costs incurred during the project against negotiated milestones. Only project costs are eligible for funding — Proponents should ensure project costs are segmented from general corporate and company-related costs, and should be prepared to provide accurate estimates of project costs to NorthX upon request. General corporate operating costs that fall outside the defined project scope are not eligible.

Are there timeline restrictions on funded projects?

Yes. Projects must start within six months of the signing of a project funding agreement, and must be completed by the earlier of two years from the project start date or June 30, 2029.

Application Process

How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted through NorthX's online application portal at portal.northx.ca.

What does the application process look like?

The process runs in three stages:

- Stage 1 — Expression of Interest (EOI): a short, written expression of interest, a 5-minute video, and a pitch deck.
- Stage 2 — Detailed proposal: shortlisted applicants sign a confidentiality agreement and are required to submit a detailed proposal for competitive evaluation, including third-party assessments.



- Stage 3 — Funding decision: successful projects complete final due diligence and sign a project funding agreement (PFA) to receive non-dilutive, milestone-based reimbursement funding.

What does the written expression of interest need to include?

The written EOI should include a brief company overview, an explanation of the technology or innovation, its climate effect, the business opportunity, and the proposed use of proceeds.

What should the video cover?

Video quality and production elements are not evaluated or prioritized — NorthX cares about the content. The 5-minute video should address:

- Who you are and why this problem: your journey and why you're well-positioned to solve it.
- What you're building: your technology, the market gap it solves, and how it differentiates from existing alternatives, including how it helps customers access BC Hydro's Capacity and Energy Efficiency Programs.
- The current status of your company and technology: commercial readiness and traction such as pilots, customers, partners, or funding secured.
- The project you're proposing: what you're seeking support for and how it will advance your technology toward commercialization, including where and how it will be tested.
- Commercialization potential: your target market and customer, and why they would pay for your solution.
- What NorthX support would unlock: outcomes over the next 12-24 months and the measurable climate, economic, or social impacts you expect.

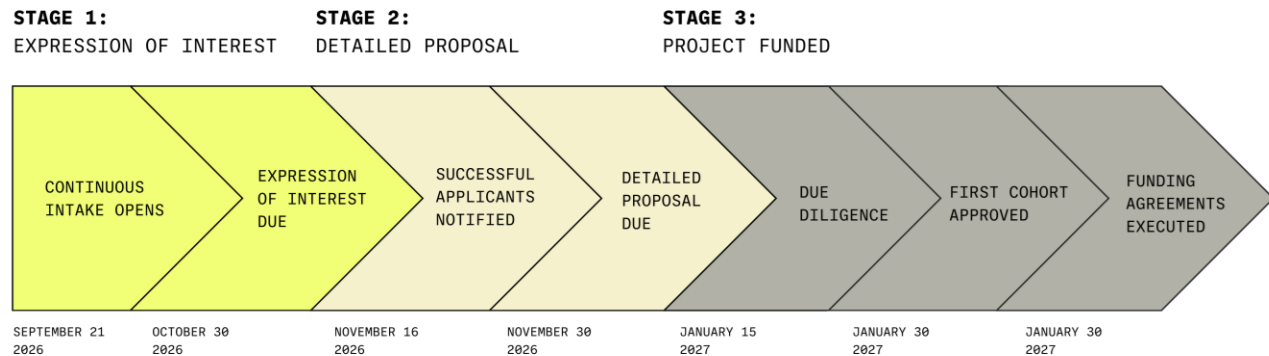
What makes a strong application?

A strong application demonstrates measurable, direct impact toward BC Hydro's Power Smart 2.0 targets, evidence of market engagement such as letters of intent, paid pilots, or off-take agreements, and a team with the depth of knowledge required to scale the solution. It clearly identifies technology development barriers alongside a credible, measurable plan to overcome them, and addresses regulatory, permitting, and IP ownership issues up front. Strong applications also include a project budget and financial projections that demonstrate underlying commercial potential, and a clear articulation of expected climate, economic, and social impact.

When should I apply and what are the key dates?



NorthX will accept EOIs on a continuous basis throughout the Call. Ventures are encouraged to apply as early as possible, as funding is limited. The key dates for the first 2026 cohort are:



October 30 marks the first review cohort, not the end of the opportunity. EOIs submitted after that date will continue to be reviewed and considered as part of the next funding decision window in March 2027.

What criteria will applications be evaluated against?

Projects are evaluated by the NorthX team and external experts against seven major decision criteria:

- Strategic alignment: measurable, direct impact toward BC Hydro's Power Smart 2.0 targets, validated and commercialized by a Canadian-based company with measurable BC-based impact.
- Mandate match: led by a Canadian-incorporated company with clear impact in Canada.
- Team strength: a strong team with the skills required for growth and a clear understanding of what's needed to scale.
- Technology viability and regulatory compliance: a realistic development plan, with barriers identified and regulatory, permitting, and IP issues addressed.
- Commercial viability and market validation: a clear understanding of the market opportunity, addressable market, competitive landscape, and barriers to adoption.
- Financial readiness and organizational capacity: a project budget, financial projections, and the resources and expertise needed to deliver the project.
- Impact measurement: a strong understanding of how the project's climate, economic, and social outcomes will be measured and reported.

What happens after I submit an EOI?



Stage 1 evaluation consists of a preliminary review to confirm eligibility against program requirements. A limited number of proposals are invited to execute a confidentiality agreement and proceed to Stage 2, where NorthX provides a document template for a detailed proposal submission, followed by due diligence, third-party assessments, and multiple engagements with the NorthX project review team. Successful proposals move to Stage 3, where Proponents work with NorthX to finalize a project funding agreement setting out obligations, milestones for fund release, and reporting requirements.

NorthX Support

What is NorthX's track record?

Since its inception in 2021, NorthX has become one of the largest Canadian early-stage funders of technologies focused on decarbonizing a majority of BC's largest emitting sectors. NorthX has funded 80 companies with \$62M in capital, catalyzing over \$716M in follow-on investment. These investments are fuelling the creation of over 975 jobs and more than 75 patents and trade secrets, and are advancing technologies with the potential to abate 56 megatonnes of emissions per year at scale in 2035.

Does NorthX support underrepresented founders and Indigenous participation?

Yes. Over 60% of NorthX's portfolio companies are led and managed by underrepresented groups, and 28% include Indigenous participation at the core of their company leadership and/or business model. NorthX has also directed 38% of its funding to university spin-outs, helping bridge the gap from research to market.

Who can I contact with questions before applying?

Contact NorthX directly, or submit a short Expression of Interest through the application portal. The NorthX team can walk you through eligibility, the funding on offer, and whether your technology fits the Call's flexibility focus before you invest time in a full application. If you're weighing whether your solution qualifies, reach out early — a short conversation now saves effort later. For inquiries, contact info@northx.ca.



About BC Hydro & Program Alignment

What is BC Hydro's role in this Call?

BC Hydro is a provincial Crown corporation, owned by the government and people of British Columbia, that generates and delivers reliable, affordable, and renewable electricity to more than five million people — 95% of the province's population. As one of the largest clean electricity producers in North America, BC Hydro plays a critical role in powering BC's communities and economy. Through this partnership, BC Hydro gains access to emerging solutions that could help address evolving capacity and energy needs, while NorthX gives innovators access to a credible market partner with expertise, opportunities for testing and validation, and potential pathways to deployment.

What are BC Hydro's priorities for this Call?

NorthX will prioritize innovations that can contribute to BC Hydro's targets of 2,200 GWh in energy savings and 800 MW in capacity savings by fiscal 2030 under its Power Smart 2.0 and Powering Growth plans, while meeting the relevant program capabilities and eligibility requirements of BC Hydro's Demand Response for Business Program, Energy Storage Incentive, Peak Saver Program, and other Power Smart Business Programs.

Does my technology need to work directly with BC Hydro?

Not necessarily, but strong alignment with BC Hydro's programs strengthens an application. Projects are prioritized where they demonstrate measurable direct impact toward [Power Smart 2.0](#) targets and enable eligible customers to participate in BC Hydro's Capacity Programs — including [Demand Response](#), [Energy Storage](#), [Peak Saver](#), [Vehicle-to-Grid](#), and [Energy Efficiency](#) programs. For V2X and bidirectional charging technologies specifically, NorthX will prioritize pilot projects that test direct integration with BC Hydro's Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS).

My technology involves vehicle-to-everything (V2X) or bidirectional charging — is it a fit?

NorthX will prioritize pilot projects that test integration with BC Hydro's Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS). Areas of interest include residential, multi-unit, and fleet bidirectional charging that triggers response events and tests net injection to the grid; solutions that manage EVs as flexible energy resources for emergency power and energy management; and solutions that integrate V2X with other capacity-program assets, including renewable energy and storage.

Are front-of-meter solutions eligible?



Yes. Front-of-meter solutions — including utility-scale storage, DERMS, and non-wires alternatives — are eligible but are not the primary focus of this Call. NorthX will consider strong front-of-meter proposals, with priority given to customer-sited and demand-side flexibility that helps British Columbians participate in BC Hydro's capacity programs.

Does this Call consider industrial energy efficiency projects?

Yes. This Call will consider flexibility and energy-efficiency solutions for BC's largest industrial loads, with highest priority in mining, oil and gas, and district energy, and continued interest in forestry, pulp and paper, and industrial transportation. Areas of interest include solutions that reduce peak load and enable demand response, advanced controls driven by AI and machine learning, efficient electrification and high-temperature heat pumps for process heating, and proven technologies not yet deployed in Canada that can be piloted to overcome barriers to adoption.