

DRIVING THE NATION PROGRAM 2023 FOCUS AREAS

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Australian Government
Australian Renewable
Energy Agency

ARENA

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The Focus Areas are aligned with the Objectives of the Program and should be read in conjunction with the [Guidelines](#).

The Focus Areas align with Australia's National Electric Vehicle Strategy and aim to support innovation in technology and business case development in charging, as well as inform regulatory change. They directly address a number of levers for accelerating uptake of BEVs:

- › **unlocking network coverage and scale** - by reducing barriers to the deployment and operation of charging infrastructure
 - › **easy customer access and use** – by addressing pain points and improving access and usability of charging infrastructure
 - › **grid integration and capacity** – by addressing potential issues exacerbated by BEV adoption and seeking to capture greater value from this opportunity
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FOCUS AREA 1: SUPPORTING UPTAKE OF BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLES (BEVS) THROUGH INNOVATION IN PUBLIC CHARGING

- › We are seeking to help Australian businesses and other organisations remove barriers to the uptake and integration of BEVs, by demonstrating novel approaches to the deployment and use of public charging infrastructure.
- › We are looking to support the following:
 - Demonstration of innovative business models, technologies and solutions that address a barrier to the deployment or use of BEV charging infrastructure.
 - Trials and pilots that reduce the cost of deployment or address technical, regulatory or commercial barriers to deployment.
 - Trials and pilots that facilitate integration of BEV charging with the grid.
 - Where chargers are to be deployed, these should be available to the public
- › Funding support for the purchase of vehicles is not included in this Focus Area.
- › Projects must include:
 - A novel technical, regulatory or commercial aspect to be tested via a demonstration.
 - Identification of a barrier(s) to be addressed.
 - Evidence of access to supply chains required to deliver the Project.
 - Evidence that assets will be reliably maintained over their lifetime.
 - Where chargers are to be deployed, demonstration that the charging capacity is sufficient for the use case.
 - Commitment to either:
 - source on-site renewable energy to charge BEVs, and surrender any renewable energy certificates;
 - procure a renewable electricity product to charge BEVs; or
 - procure and surrender Renewable Energy Certificates equivalent to the energy consumption required to charge the BEVs.
- › ARENA expects to fund grants between \$0.5 million and \$15 million. Applicants are expected to at least match the funding being sought from ARENA.

FOCUS AREA 2: SUPPORTING UPTAKE OF BEVS THROUGH INNOVATION IN MANAGEMENT OF CHARGING

- › We are seeking to help Australian businesses and other organisations remove barriers to the uptake and integration of BEVs, by supporting innovation in the deployment and use of charging infrastructure that accelerates the adoption of managed charging.
- › We are looking to support the following:
 - Demonstration of innovative business models, technologies and solutions that facilitate BEV integration through smart or controlled charging (including at work, home or depot).
 - Integration of managed charging to optimise the integration of BEVs into the electricity system.
 - Small scale demonstrations of smart charger application and control.
 - Innovative retail products or software trials that seek to orchestrate charging to align with network requirements, and periods of low wholesale costs and high renewable energy generation.
 - Demonstration of increased revenue streams or reduced costs from orchestration of BEV charging.
- › Funding support for the purchase of vehicles is not included in this Focus Area.
- › Projects must include:
 - Demonstration of a technically and commercially viable pathway for future projects to be able to deploy similar charging infrastructure.
 - Novel technical, regulatory, or commercial aspects to be tested via a demonstration.
 - Identification of barriers to be addressed.
 - Evidence of access to supply chains required to deliver the Project.
 - Commitment to either:
 - source on-site renewable energy to charge BEVs, and surrender any renewable energy certificates;
 - procure a renewable electricity retail product to charge BEVs; or
 - procure and surrender Renewable Energy Certificates equivalent to the energy consumption required to charge the BEVs.
- › ARENA expects to fund grants between \$0.5 million and \$15 million. Applicants are expected to at least match the funding being sought from ARENA.

NOT CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION

ARENA will not consider support for projects that:

- › Have limited replicability, without a pathway for commercial deployment beyond the Project.
- › Are using biofuel, hydrogen fuel cell or hybrid internal combustion engine vehicles.
- › Predominately scale up or deploy established business models already tested in Australia.

Separate Focus Areas will be released at a later date to allocate funding to additional topics, as guided by the National Electric Vehicle Strategy and stakeholder consultation. ARENA will provide details for these future Focus Areas on our website.

Note: Projects that align with the Program Focus Areas may not be considered under ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program unless otherwise agreed by ARENA.

Further information is available at
arena.gov.au

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