



# Navigating energy funding opportunities for Q2-Q4 2025

A White Paper by 1st Mile

# Some grants awarded in December '24 to applications written by 1<sup>st</sup> Mile



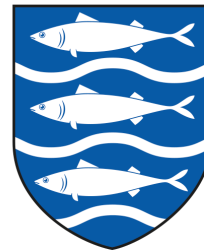
**DKK 10m**

**KiteX**

Program: EUDP

[More information](#)

Partners: DTU Wind



**DKK 35m**

**Aabenraa Kommune**

Program: Fonden for Retfærdig Omstilling

[More information](#)

Partners: DTU Wind, DTU Sustain, ARWOS, EUC Syd, Port of Aabenraa, European Energy, Aabenraa Fjernvarme



**DKK 16m**

**DTU/Bollfilter**

Program: Innovation Fund Grand Solutions

[More information](#)

Partners: DTU Sustain, Plug Power, Biofuel Technology, Green2x

With hundreds of opportunities, finding the way through the jungle of funding for energy projects is difficult and time-consuming.

1st Mile has simplified the process by doing the heavy lifting – filtering and analyzing the opportunities for the next half year – and collected the curated information in this white paper.

This is a living document. Refer to [www.1stmile.dk](http://www.1stmile.dk) for the latest version.

This version: April 8<sup>th</sup> 2025

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## About this document

The green transition is on the top of both Danish and European political agendas. Research, development and demonstration are prerequisites to bring new, green technologies to the market at competitive costs.

Thus, **there is an abundance of government grants available** for research and for bringing down technological and financial risks for companies that aim to bring new innovations to the market.

However, **it is very complicated to navigate** between the different options, and not least **to evaluate how your project fits to the different programs** and estimate your chances for getting a grant.

The first half year of 2025 has **exceptionally many calls and deadlines for green energy**. 1<sup>st</sup> Mile has read through them all, and in this white paper we have collected an **overview** to guide potential applications towards the right program or programs.

We have selected the most relevant calls and present an overview of them, but before you decide on applying, reach out for an evaluation of your particular project to a given program at [soren@1stmile.dk](mailto:soren@1stmile.dk) or +45 40446714

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# Overview of funding programs

Summary of available programs, criteria, and deadlines, divided by funding category

# What are you searching for?

Funding opportunities are grouped into 3 categories to help identify the best match for your project. Each category serves specific purposes.



## 1. Project grants

These grants support work hours plus expenses for equipment and materials, typically for pilot or demonstration plants.

Examples include EUDP, MUDP, Horizon Europe, and the Danish Innovation Fund Grand Solutions.



## 2. Equity grants

These “grants” provides equity in exchange for ownership shares and are thus comparable to capital from investors.

Examples include EIC Accelerator, which has a mix of significant project grant and an attractive equity as its hallmark, and STEP.



## 3. CAPEX grants

This type of grant helps bring down the financial exposure for first-of-a-kind plants and processes by financing a percentage of the CAPEX.

Examples include EU Innovation Fund and the Danish “Investeringsordningen til Grøn Industriproduktion”.

# Funding category 1: Project grants

*For research, development, and demonstration projects*



These grants support **work hours** plus **expenses for equipment and materials**, typically for pilot or demonstration plants.

Project grants are the most common form for support for **research, development, and demonstration** and proposals are almost always **collaborations between partners**. We recommend enough partners to ensure a solid skills and competence base, but no more than can be efficiently managed in both the proposal and execution phases. Most of our projects have 2 to 6 partners.

Watch out for a good match with your maturity level and the program and study the Technological Readiness Level ([link](#)) a funding program targets. Also make sure that you apply for grant sizes that fit with the program – and be aware that the ambitions of the project must match the requested grant size.

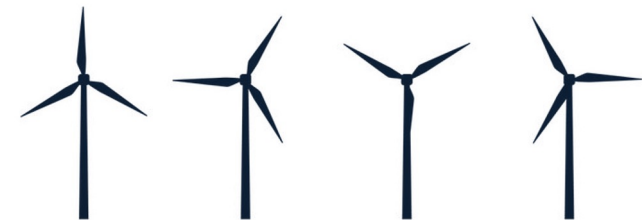
Read the manual. Make sure you are inside the scope before committing to the work involved in submitting the application.



# EUDP

*Energy Technology Development and Demonstration Program*

- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the EUDP program if you:
  - Are aiming to develop and demonstrate **energy technology**
  - Have or seek a great partnership with 2-6 partners
  - Look for a grant of **5-50 million DKK**
  - **TRL: 3-8**
- Application process
  - Application (deadline in **September**)
  - Addressing the evaluators' feedback (usually 6 weeks after the deadline)



# MUDP

*Environmental Technology Development and Demonstration Program*



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider MUDP if you:
  - Are developing innovative technologies addressing environmental, climate, or nature challenges
    - Focus areas on water management, circular economy, biodiversity, or reducing hazardous substances
  - **TRL: 3-8**
- Grant amounts usually **DKK 5-10 million**
- Deadlines depend on project type:
  - Pre-projects & ETV projects → **9 April 2025**;
  - Development, testing & demo projects → **14 May 2025**;
  - Full-scale demonstrations → **27 August 2025**.

# Fonden for Retfærdig Omstilling (FRO)

*The Just Transition Fund*

- [Link to website](#)
- Consider applying for FRO if you have a green technologies project near commercialization (TRL 5-9)
- Financial support is typically 50-80% of costs.
- Application is relatively short but demanding.
- Focus: Danish goals of carbon neutrality + development of Northern and Southern Jutland.
- Deadlines and grant amounts depend on the call. Relevant call:
  - **“Better Conditions for Green Transition in SMEs”** ([link](#)).
  - Deadline: **May 20, 2025**.
  - Focus: direct financing to SMEs to reduce barriers to investment and improve conditions for the green transition in Northern and Southern Jutland. Areas of improvement: CO<sub>2</sub> capture, storage, and utilization, Power-to-X technologies, Pyrolysis, Circular economy solutions.
  - Grants: DKK 1-5 million. Total allocated funding: DKK 50.5 million.

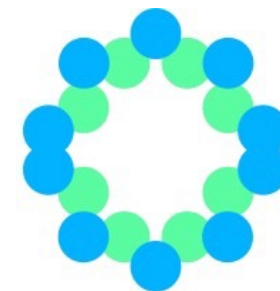
# Danmarks Erhvervsfremmebestyrelse

*Danish Board of Business Development*

- Grant for CO<sub>2</sub>-to-protein and precision fermentation facilities ([link](#))
  - Deadline: May 6, 2025.
  - Focus: establish/upgrading large-scale test, demonstration and development facilities for CO<sub>2</sub>-to-protein (TRL 4–6) or precision fermentation (TRL 7-8) facilities.
  - Grant amount: range DKK 25M-59.4M. Grant can cover up to 50% of eligible costs. At least 10% private co-funding required.
- “Circular Value Chain Collaborations for SMEs” ([link](#))
  - Deadline: June 12, 2025.
  - Focus: green transition in SMEs.
  - Specific grant amount not stated. Total allocated funding: DKK 290 million

# INNO-CCUS

*Mission-driven partnership advancing CCUS in Denmark*



- Projects must include cross-sector collaboration and address challenges within one or more of the INNO-CCUS workstreams:
  - Chemical CO<sub>2</sub> Capture, Biological CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage, Geological CO<sub>2</sub> Storage, CO<sub>2</sub> Utilisation, Society and Systems Analysis.
- Details depend on specific call ([Link to calls](#)):
  - “Pool 3: Pioneering research and innovative solutions for carbon capture, utilisation, and storage” ([link](#))
    - Deadline: May 28, 2025.
    - TRL: 3-8.
    - Grant amount: not specified. Total budget for call: approx. DKK 50 million with exp. 3-10 projects funded.
  - “Pool 4: Achieving Climate Goals through targeted CCUS Innovation” ([link](#))
    - Deadline: May 28, 2025.
    - TRL: 3-7.
    - Grant amount: min. DKK 3 million. Total budget for call: approx. DKK 70 million with exp. 5-15 projects funded.

# EU LIFE Programme 2025



- [Link](#)
- EU funding for innovative projects in environment, climate, nature, and clean energy.
- Typically TRL 5–8 (pilot to demonstration stages).
- Grant amount and rules vary by project type:
  - Standard Action Projects (SAPs): ~€1–5 million.
  - Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)/Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs): €10+ million.
- Funding rate is up to 60–95% of eligible costs, depending on sub-programme.
- Deadline: 23 September 2025.
- Specific calls expected to be published on 24 April 2025.

# SparEnergi

*Danish Investment Support for CO<sub>2</sub>-Intensive Companies: investing in green transition*



- [Link](#)
- **TRL 7–9** (commercially available technologies or late-stage pilots that reduce fossil fuel use)
- Grant amount:
  - 500 DKK per ton CO<sub>2</sub> saved
  - Up to 60% of eligible project costs
  - Grant range: 10,000–112 million DKK
- **First-come, first-served until funds are exhausted (no deadline)**
- Purpose: support projects in CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive industries to reduce fossil fuel consumption and prepare for the upcoming CO<sub>2</sub> tax (2025–2030), e.g.:
  - Gas boiler replacements with heat pumps or district heating
  - Process optimization
  - Internal heat recovery

# CEF Energy 2025

*Call for energy infrastructure projects*



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the CEF Energy PCI/PMI call if you:
  - have projects in the fields of **electricity, smart electricity grids, CO<sub>2</sub> networks, hydrogen and electrolysers, and offshore,**
  - are included in the latest [Union list of Projects of Common Interest \(PCIs\) and Projects of Mutual Interest \(PMIs\)](#)
- Funding details:
  - Grant size: up to 50% of eligible costs
  - Budget available: €600 million
  - Type: co-financing for studies and works
- **Deadline: 16 September 2025**



# Funding category 2: Equity grants

*Equity-based funding for scaling up*



These grants are designed to contribute to the equity of a company. In contrast to project grants **they fund the company (not a project) and are giving in exchange for ownership in the company.** Thus, they are comparable to any other type of equity investment in a company, but with the significant difference that the funding program is never the lead investor.

An equity grant therefore adds further capital to a funding round that is driven and lead by other investors, typically with specific domain knowledge.

As equity grants provides capital to the business, a full **growth plan and business strategy** for the company are required, exactly as when a venture fund or other investors are approached.

There are no Danish equity grants available, but the EIC Accelerator and the EIC STEP programs provide up to €10m and €10-30m respectively in equity. They can only cover a maximum of 50% of a funding round, so significant funds can be raised using these programs.

In many ways these programs have smoother processes and are more predictable than when working with traditional VCs, so they are worth pursuing for particularly scale-ups.

# EIC Accelerator



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the EIC Accelerator program if you:
  - Are a start-up or SME with a game-changing product, service, or business model
  - **TRL: 5+**
  - Have the ambition and commitment to **scale up**
  - Are seeking substantial funding, with **grants up to €2.5 million and equity investments up to €10 million**
- Can be Open or one of the Challenges
  - Energy-related challenge 2025: "Waste-to-value devices: Circular production of renewable fuels, chemicals and materials"
- Application in 3 phases: short proposal (**should be written as soon as possible**) → full proposal (deadline: October 1<sup>st</sup>) → interview

# EIC STEP Scale Up



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the EIC Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Scale Up Scheme if you:
  - Own a single startups, SMEs, small mid-caps, or are an investors on behalf of eligible companies
  - Are seeking major Investments, up to **EUR 10-30 million**
  - Work with digital and deep tech, green technologies, or biotechnologies
  - Can benefit from access to business acceleration services
- Process:
  - Applications are reviewed on a **continuous** basis, 4-6 weeks
  - EIC Jury Interview for selected candidates
  - Results communicated 2 weeks after the interview

# Funding category 3: CAPEX grants

*Funding for first-of-a-kind plants and new technologies*



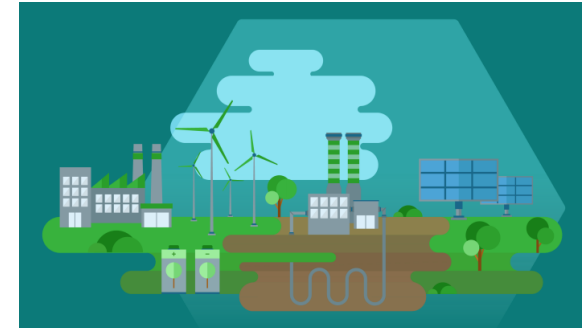
When building **FOAKs (First of a kind) plants and systems based on a new technology**, the investment is typically very high compared to mature and well-proven technologies. The purpose of CAPEX grants is to bring down the investment, so that the business case becomes attractive to those investing the capital in the FOAK. The hypothesis behind this is that the next plants will be cheaper and less risky, and thus attractive to investors – but to get to there investors need a hand with the FOAK.

Whereas the project grants support R&D projects and the equity grants support the company, the CAPEX grants support the investment in the first commercial plant of its kind.

Often these grants are given on the basis of **very comprehensive applications**, so we recommend them to **mature companies** with a full set of the skills and capabilities needed, particularly within finance and business development.

Of particular interest is the EU Innovation Fund where small scale projects refer to CAPEX investment of less than €25m, medium scale projects to €25-100m and large scale above €100m.

# Innovation Fund EU



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider Innovation Fund EU if you:
  - Have solutions ready for market commercialization in energy-intensive industries.
    - Highly innovative technologies and big flagship projects within renewable energy, energy-intensive industries, energy storage, or CCUS
  - Are seeking substantial funding (grants depend on scale, **from below €25m CAPEX to €100m+ CAPEX**)
  - Can comply with the detailed application and selection procedures
  - TRL 7-9
- **Deadline: 24 April 2025, 17:00 (CET)** but consider 2026 as you need to start 1 year in advance

# EIFO's Investment Scheme for Green Industrial Production

*Investeringsordningen til Grøn Industriproduktion*

- Consider EIFO's investment scheme if you:
  - Produce wind technology or electrolyzers in Denmark, manufacture key components for wind technology and Power-to-X, or extract/produce critical raw materials related to these technologies
  - Can prove that your project could also receive funding in another country.
  - Are targeting establishment or expansion of production facilities (not installations like wind farms)
  - Need **direct grants of up to 15% of eligible costs**
- Application deadlines and further details will be announced by the Ministry of Industry, Business, and Financial Affairs



# Green Investment Scheme

Erhvervsministeriet DK

- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the Green Investment Scheme if you:
  - Want to build or expand production facilities for wind or electrolysis technology in Denmark
  - Are seeking **CAPEX funding for industrial-scale green tech**
  - Are planning a project where **minimum investment is ~DKK 40 million**
  - Can comply with EU state aid rules and permit processes
  - Need support of up to **15% CAPEX** of total establishment costs
  - Are producing selected key components (incl. new in 2025: wafers)
- Process:
  - Call opens **Spring 2025**, with funding pool of DKK 657 million
  - Projects must be investment-ready (site, permits, etc.)
  - Requires application for EU state aid clearance
  - Projects expected to leverage DKK 4+ billion in total private/public investment

# Overview

	Project grants						
Grant name	EUDP	MUDP	FRO	DK Erh.	INNO-CCUS	EU LIFE	SparEnergi
Scope	Develop and demonstrate energy technology	Develop innovative environmental technologies	Green tech projects near commercialization	Green transition in SMEs	CCUS innovation projects	Environment, climate, nature, clean energy	Support CO <sub>2</sub> -intensive industries to reduce fossil fuel use
Max grant	DKK 5-50m	DKK 5-10m	Depends on call	N.A.	Depends on call	EUR 1-10+ m	Grant range: 10,000–112 million DKK
TRL	3-8	3-8	Depends on call	N.A.	Depends on call	5-8	7-9
Deadline	09/25	09/04/25; 14/05/25; 27/08/25	Depends on call	Depends on call	Depends on call	23/09/2025	First come, first serve



# Overview

	Equity grants		CAPEX grants		
Grant name	EIC Acc.	EIC STEP	EU Innovation Fund	EIFO	Grøn Inv.
Scope	Scale up game-changing product, service, model	Digital and deep tech, green technologies, biotechnologies	Energy solutions ready for market commercialization.	Establishment/ expansion of wind tech, electrolyzer, PtX	CAPEX support for building or expanding production of green technologies (e.g., wind, electrolysis) in Denmark
Max grant	Grants: €2.5m Equity: €10m	€10-30m	<€25m -€100m+ CAPEX	15% of eligible costs	15% of eligible costs
TRL	5+	Depends on call	7+	Not stated	Not stated but high (probably 8+)
Deadline	Ongoing (short) 01/10/2025 (full)	Rolling basis	24/04/2025 (realistic April 2026)	Not stated	Not stated

# Key takeaways



## Start early

Begin preparations at least three months before the deadline.



## Leverage partnerships

Collaborate with research institutions and industry partners to strengthen your proposal.



## Engage experts

Work with experienced grant writers to refine your application.

# Contact us for more information

Our team can provide you with further guidance. Book an informal meeting with us by reaching out to [soren@1stmile.dk](mailto:soren@1stmile.dk)

# About us

- At 1st Mile, we specialize in **securing grant funding**. Since our founding in 2007, we've helped clients raise over **€500 million** in grants from both **Danish and EU funding programs**. With a highly experienced team, we offer support in **managing and writing research, development, and commercialization documentation**, for projects to move from concept to market.
- We focus on **energy-related funding programs**, ensuring our clients are well-positioned for success in this competitive sector. Our expertise spans across programs like **EUDP, EU Innovation Fund, MUDP, Innovation Fund Denmark, Horizon Europe**, and more.
- With a **success rate of over 80%** in key programs like **EUDP**, we provide tailored, high-impact services that deliver results. We collaborate with clients at every stage, from initial scoping to application writing and post-grant project management.



# Why 1st Mile

*We have the competences and capacity to ensure a high hit rate for applications*

1<sup>st</sup> Mile has been writing applications since 2007

Raised +€500m in grants from Danish and EU programs

Specialises in energy funding programs; 75-80% of all our work

Highly trained and experienced 10-person team

This is all we do

Extensive network of partners

90% of all customers are companies

Very high hit rate (EU +50%, EUDP +80%)

Annually submits +25 large applications (grant +€1m) annually



# With 17 years in business, 1st Mile has secured funding for numerous projects for companies in Denmark and Europe\*

 <p><b>AST</b> Advanced Substrate Technologies</p> <p>DKK 10 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>Dynelectro</b></p> <p>DKK 8.6 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>COBOD</b></p> <p>DKK 30.5 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>LED LBOND</b></p> <p>DKK 9.6 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>KITEMILL</b></p> <p>DKK 18 million Horizon 2020 SME</p>	 <p><b>TOPSOE</b></p> <p>DKK 75 million EUDP</p>
 <p><b>ROPE ROBOTICS</b></p> <p>DKK 16.9 + 18 + 12 million Grand Solutions + Horizon 2020 SME + Grand Solutions</p>	 <p><b>RELI BOND</b></p> <p>DKK 10 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>FORSYNING Danmark</b></p> <p>DKK 30 million EU Innovation Fund</p>	 <p><b>MAERSK SUPPLY SERVICE</b></p> <p>DKK 47 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>asc</b> amager ressource center</p> <p>DKK 30 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>KVASIR</b></p> <p>DKK 10 million EUDP</p>
 <p><b>Dall Energy</b> NEW BIOMASS TECHNOLOGIES</p> <p>DKK 18 million Horizon 2020 SME</p>	 <p><b>THEYEYETRIBE</b></p> <p>DKK 13 million Grand Solutions</p>	 <p><b>WEPTOS®</b></p> <p>DKK 12 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>Nordetect</b></p> <p>DKK 0.5 InnoBooster</p>	 <p><b>aarhusvand</b></p> <p>DKK 20 million EUDP</p>	 <p><b>Welltec®</b></p> <p>DKK 19 million EUDP</p>

\*Non-exhaustive list of grant amounts for successful applications

# Your 1st Mile Team

*Covering all aspects of proposal development and writing*



**Søren  
Houmøller**

Founder, owner, CEO,  
M.Sc., E\*MBA

An entrepreneur in spirit, Søren Houmøller left his job managing the corporate venture arm of Ørsted in 2007 to found 1st Mile. Since then, he has written hundreds of successful funding proposals.

Graduating from DTU in 1995 with a master thesis in pyrolysis and gasification of biomass, he has spent three decades working on innovation within green technologies.

As a former VC and current business angel, he quickly sees the opportunities in new technologies, understands the potential value in them, and how to capture it to secure funding.



**Maria Battistel**  
Scientific Lead, ph.d.



**Mads Klinge**  
Commercial & Finance Lead, M.Sc.



**Marta Neves**  
Innovation and Funding Consultant, ph.d.



**Tao Bindslev**  
Advisor, E\*MBA



**Bianca Moretti**  
Strategy Consultant, M.Sc.



**Manon Schuegraf**  
Strategy Consultant, economist



**Beate Warberg**  
PA & Office Manager, M.Sc.



**Janne Sylvest**  
Senior Business Developer, M.Sc.



**Olaf Broby**  
Senior Project Manager, E\*MBA