



Navigating energy funding opportunities for Q3-Q4 2026

A White Paper by 1st Mile

Some grants awarded in December '24 to applications written by 1st 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

Some grants awarded in June '25 to applications written by 1st Mile

LED iBOND



DKK 6m

LED iBond

Program: EUDP

[More information](#)

Partners: HortiAdvice, Aarhus University, Legro Gartneri, Hjortebjerg Plant Licence

DKK 22m

Kvasir Technologies

Program: Fonden for Retfærdig Omstilling

[More information](#)

Partners: DTU, Fredericia Maskinmesterskole

DKK 11m

DTU Wind and Energy Systems

Program: EUDP

[More information](#)

Partners: Watts, Enfor Energinet Systemansvar, Green Power Denmark, Neogrid, PowerLabDK

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 for the latest version.

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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 second half year of 2026 has **exceptionally many calls and deadlines for green energy**.

1st 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 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: 4-8**
- Application process
 - Application (deadline **September 2nd 2026**)
 - 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 → **9th April 2026**;
 - Development, testing & demo projects → **19th May 2026**;
 - Full-scale demonstrations → **25th August 2025**.

GUDP

Environmental Technology Development and Demonstration Program



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the GUDP program if you:
 - Work within the **food, agriculture, fisheries, or aquaculture sectors**
 - Have a market-oriented project promoting green and economic sustainability
 - Seek funding from **DKK 250,000 to DKK 15 million**
 - At least one green + one economic impact
- Project types
 - Development/Demo projects: Up to 5 years, DKK 250,000–15M
 - Network projects: 1–2 years, 50% of costs, DKK 250,000–2M
- Deadline: To be released soon (old: August 28, 2025, 12:00 noon)

Fonden for Retfærdig Omstilling (FRO)

The Just Transition Fund

- [Link to open calls](#)
- 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.

EU LIFE Programme 2026



- [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.
- Deadlines
 - SAPs: 22nd of September 2026.
 - SIPs/SNAPs: concept notes 3 September 2026, full proposals 4 March 2027.
- Specific calls can be found [here](#).



- [Link](#)
- **TRL 7–9** (commercially available technologies or late-stage pilots that reduce fossil fuel use)
- Grant amount:
 - 1,000 DKK per ton CO₂ saved
 - Up to 60% of eligible project costs
 - Grant range: 50,000–224 million DKK
 - Total budget 2026: 49.1 million dkk
- **First-come, first-served until funds are exhausted or 30 September 2026 — whichever comes first**
- Purpose: support projects in CO₂-intensive industries to reduce fossil fuel consumption and prepare for the upcoming CO₂ tax (2025–2030), e.g.:
 - Gas boiler replacements with heat pumps or district heating
 - Process optimization
 - Internal heat recovery

CEF Energy 2026

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, CO₂ networks, hydrogen and electrolyzers**, 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: **30 September 2026**

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: 6-8**
 - 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 challenges 2026: "Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy & Energy Storage; Fusion Power Plant Technologies; Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation"
 - Application in 3 phases: short proposal (**should be written as soon as possible, accepted any time**)
→ full proposal (deadline: September 2nd & November 4th 2026) → 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**
 - Must have a qualified co-investor already committed, covering at least 20% of the total funding round
 - 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: **April 2027**, knowing it usually takes 1 year to prepare this kind of applications

Overview

	Project grants			
Grant name	EUDP	MUDP	FRO	EU LIFE
Scope	Develop and demonstrate energy technology	Develop innovative environmental technologies	Green tech projects near commerciali-zation	Environment, climate, nature, clean energy
Max grant	DKK 5-50m	DKK 5-10m	DKK 250,000–1 5m	EUR 1-10+ m
TRL	4-8	3-8	Depends on call	5-8
Deadline	02/09/26	25/08/26	TBD	09/2026

Overview

	Project grants		
Grant name	GUDP	SparEnergi	CEF Energy
Scope	Food, agriculture, fisheries & aquaculture — green + economic impact projects	CO2-intensive companies cutting fossil fuel use (heat pumps, process optimisation)	Cross-border PCI/PMI infrastructure: electricity, smart grids, hydrogen & CO2 networks
Max grant	DKK 15 milli	DKK 224 million	€600 million (pool, up to 50% of costs)
TRL	4-8	7-9	8+
Deadline	TBD	30/09/2026	30/09/2026

Overview

	Equity grants		CAPEX grants
Grant name	EIC Acc.	EIC STEP	EU Innovation Fund
Scope	Scale up game-changing product, service, model	Digital and deep tech, green technologies, biotechnologies	Energy solutions ready for market commercialization.
Max grant	Grants: €2.5m Equity: €10m	€10-30m	<€25m -€100m+ CAPEX
TRL	5+	Depends on call	7+
Deadline	Ongoing (short) September 2 nd & November 4 th (full)	Rolling basis	04/2027

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

About us

- At 1st Mile, we specialise 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 commercialisation 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

1st 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 +€1 m)
annually



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

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

*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.



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