

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Recycling Fund Applicants

Enterprise Support Programme (ESP) - Projects for New start-up enterprises (“SUP”)

1. Eligibility

1.1 What is the eligibility for applying funding support on the SUP?

Eligible applicants for SUP should satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) Companies that are newly set up or have been established for not more than 5 years (counting from the date of the first business registration to the date that the Secretariat of Recycling Fund (the Secretariat) receives the funding application) for conducting business in Hong Kong.
- 2) At the time of application, major shareholders must not subject to any bankruptcy order or proceeding.

2. Funding Information

2.1. What is the funding amount for SUP?

Funding for each approved SUP project would be set at 50% of approved expenditure items and capped at HK\$2 million.

2.2. What is the funding ceiling for SUP?

The cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise under the ESP is HK\$15 million. During the tenure of the ESP, funding support will be granted to each enterprise for a maximum of ten approved projects. Funding for projects from SUP under ESP will count towards the cumulative funding ceiling and the maximum number of approved projects under the ESP.

2.3. What expenditure items could be funded by SUP?

Eligible expenditure items may include equipment cost related to project in recycling operations and associated expenditures (e.g. manpower cost) of the project. Extra manpower cost that can be incurred for the projects, the manpower cost for founders/major shareholders and existing staff of the company working on the proposed project activities may also be included in the projects. Rental support to project which involves physical handling of recyclables in its major operation may also be included. (Remarks: General business operations equipment, e.g. desktop/laptop computers, office software, etc., will not be funded.)

2.4. Are there any additional assessment requirements in relation to the amount of funding sought?

For applications seeking funding over \$0.5M, additional assessment criteria would be applied as follows:

- 1) Setting a cap of manpower cost at 70% of the approved total project cost. If over 70% is proposed, the applicant is required to provide detailed justifications which will be considered on a case by case basis.
- 2) Applicant to provide supporting information to confirm the proposed project has achieved some recognitions (i.e. award / certification / workable prototype subsidised by other seed funding for further development under SUP scheme) to increase chances of successful commercialisation of the product.
- 3) Applicant to provide a post-project deployment plan or commercialization plan.
- 4) Applicant to assess the environmental implications of the proposed project, such as (a) duration of life cycle and (b) recyclability and/or capability of being reusable at the end of the useful life of the proposed product etc. if applicable.

2.5. What is the project duration for SUP?

Project implementation period for each approved project should be between 6 months to 24 months, and only 1 SUP project could be implemented at a time.

2.6. Can the applicant apply for funding support from the Recycling Fund and other public funding support through other sources for the same project?

The Recycling Fund will not consider any proposed project that has been funded or will be funded by other Government sources, or if there is/will be any duplication in terms of the work carried out by other institutions/applicants of Government funds to guard against duplication in the source of funding and possible abuse. The applicant has to declare the relevant information on the application form.

2.7. What kind of project nature will not be supported by SUP?

Projects that are designed for research & development purposes are not supported. Companies may consider applying for other funding schemes, e.g. the Green Tech Fund.