

Context

The Réseau québécois sur l'énergie intelligente (RQEI) is launching a call for projects to make the energy transition accessible to the general public through interactive, creative and educational activities. University and college members of RQEI, as well as the students they supervise, are invited to propose hands-on activities that explain smart energy concepts through experience.

Objectives

- Introduce the principles of the energy transition in an engaging way.
- Stimulate interest in renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.
- Encourage constructive dialogue about tomorrow's energy solutions.
- Translate complex concepts into content that can be understood by different audiences.
- Promote collective awareness and responsible energy engagement.
- Show how interdisciplinary approaches contribute to understanding energy challenges.

Expected proposals

Proposals must relate to at least one RQEI scientific research area and take the form of an interactive activity, such as a simple and safe hands-on demonstration, a visual demonstration, an educational game or an immersive experience.

- A model or scale demonstration of a smart energy system.
- A demonstration of an energy carrier production, storage and use chain.
- An interactive activity on energy storage, conversion or management.
- A board game, digital game or immersive activity focused on the energy transition.

Selection criteria

- Safety: the activity must not present unreasonable risks to the public or facilitators.
- Mobility: the activity must be easy to transport, ideally in a standard car.
- Exhibition: it must be suitable for operation on a table or in a limited exhibition space.
- Flexibility: it should be deliverable in approximately 15 minutes and adaptable to the time available.
- Interactivity: it must require active public participation.
- Educational value: the content must be accessible to audiences of different ages and knowledge levels.
- Originality: innovation, creativity and playfulness will be valued.
- Disciplinary convergence: the project should draw on complementary knowledge or methods.
- Holistic approach: the project may connect technological, social, economic or cultural dimensions of the energy transition.

Schedule

- Program launch: September 2026
- Application deadline: 13/11/2026
- Announcement of selected projects: December 2026
- Project period: January to December 2027, for a maximum duration of 12 months
- Final deliverable and report: no later than 15 days after the end of the project

Available funding

The total program envelope is \$20,000. Up to two projects may receive a maximum of \$10,000 per project, subject to the availability of funds and until the envelope is exhausted. An initial payment equal to 80% of the award may be made after the funding agreement is signed. The remaining 20% will be paid after approval of the final deliverable, activity report and financial summary.<

Support and visibility

Depending on needs and availability, selected projects may receive support in science communication, planning, public engagement or technical development. Activities may also be showcased at RQEI events and through RQEI communications.

Required documents

- ☐ This completed application form.
- ☐ A detailed budget and realistic timeline.
- ☐ Prototype diagrams, photographs, mock-ups or other supporting materials, combined in a separate PDF appendix.
- ☐ Any document needed to assess the project's safety, feasibility or educational value.

Submission procedure

Documents must be sent to rqi@uqtr.ca. The email subject line must read: RQEI2026-PROG_GRAND_PUBLIC LASTNAME.

In the event of any discrepancy or uncertainty regarding the English translation, the French version shall prevail. Please refer to the French version or contact the RQEI team.

RQEI reserves the right to modify the program without prior notice. Applicants must always ensure that they are consulting the most recent version of the documents.

INCORRECT OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Funding application form

For RQEI use - application number

1. Proposal title

2. Project duration

Start date (jj/mm/aaaa)	End date (jj/mm/aaaa)

3. Applicant identification

Institution

Last name and first name (program level, if applicable)

Phone

Email

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4. RQEI supervisor or responsible member

Institution

Last name and first name

Phone

Email

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5. Primary RQEI scientific research area

☐ AXE 1

☐ AXE 2

☐ AXE 3

6. Project description

6.1 Project summary

Present the concept, objectives, intended audience, expected results and connection to the energy transition. Approximately 500 words.

6.2 Proposed public interaction and adaptation to different audiences

Describe how the activity will work, the public's role, presentation duration and planned adaptations for different ages, knowledge levels, settings or time constraints.

6.3 Feasibility, safety, mobility and operation

Specify dimensions, weight, power or installation requirements, materials used, safety measures, transportation needs and the activity's level of autonomy. Explain how another person could facilitate it using documented instructions.

6.4 Interdisciplinary approach and educational value

Explain the disciplines involved and how the activity connects technological, social, economic, environmental or cultural dimensions of the energy transition.

6.5 Prototype, diagrams or visual materials

Briefly describe the available visual materials and provide relevant file names or links. Images, diagrams and mock-ups must be attached in a separate PDF appendix, as PDF form fields do not support reliable image insertion.

6.6 Project timeline

Present the main steps in a logical sequence, including expected dates, responsibilities and interim deliverables. The timeline must be realistic and cover no more than 12 months.

6.7 Requested budget and justification

Present the main expense categories, expected amounts, cash or in-kind contributions and any other funding sources. The amount requested from RQEI may not exceed \$10,000.

6.8 Deliverables, future use and RQEI visibility

Describe the final deliverable, user or safety documentation, opportunities for future use by RQEI and how RQEI support will be acknowledged.

7. Applicant commitments

1. I certify that the information provided in this form and supporting documents is true and accurate.
2. I certify that the application and, where applicable, the funding award do not create any real, potential or apparent conflict of interest.
3. I undertake to inform RQEI promptly and in writing of any conflict of interest that may arise during the review or implementation of the project.
4. I undertake to carry out the project as approved and to obtain RQEI authorization before making any substantial change.
5. I undertake to ensure the activity is safe, to comply with applicable institutional requirements and to provide the instructions needed for its use.
6. I undertake to acknowledge RQEI support and comply with requirements governing the use of its name and logo.
7. I authorize RQEI to present and reuse the activity in its public engagement initiatives, subject to the terms of the funding agreement.
8. I authorize RQEI to share a non-confidential summary, approved photographs and related project content on its platforms.
9. I undertake to submit the final deliverable, an activity report, one distributable photograph and a financial summary no later than 15 days after the project ends.

Digital signatures

Project lead - Last name and first name	Date (jj/mm/aaaa)	Digital signature

Academic supervisor, if applicable - Last name and first name	Date (jj/mm/aaaa)	Digital signature

THIS PAGE MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE PROJECT.

8. Project feedback and final report

Describe project implementation, key results, audiences reached, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities for future use. Attach at least one distributable photograph as a separate file.

8.1 Financial summary and submitted deliverables

Summarize the use of funds, state the total amount spent and list the documents, files, prototypes or guides submitted to RQEI.