

Energy and mobility - Your 2026 funding roadmap

Do not miss out on these grants and incentives!

January 2026



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Energy and mobility - Relevant trends

- Net congestion and infrastructure bottlenecks

- Grid capacity is under pressure, with thousands of companies and households waiting for new or upgraded connections. Expanding and modernizing the electricity network is a top priority to enable the energy transition and support new projects

- Grid bottlenecks, slow EV charging rollout

- The transition to electric mobility is challenged by grid congestion, which is causing delays in the rollout of public charging infrastructure and making the switch to electric vehicles less accessible for some groups

- Ports & maritime industry pivot

- The European Commission is preparing EU Ports and Industrial Maritime Strategies to boost competitiveness, security, and drive the green and digital transition: critical for energy logistics and military mobility

Funding roadmap 2026 - Opportunity selection



Relevant grants and incentives in 2026

| Programs - Energy and mobility* | Description | SME only? | Estimated grant range | Funding rate | Deadline |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Innovation Fund | European program with a strong focus on decarbonizing the European industry. Since 2023, innovative low-carbon technology projects from the maritime sector are invited to apply | No | €7.5m - €100m+ | Max. 60% | 23 April 2026 |
| Innovation Fund Heat Auction | European program focused on accelerating industrial decarbonization through large-scale heat electrification and renewable heat projects | No | €100m - €250m | n/a | 19 February 2026 |
| Innovation Fund Hydrogen Auction | European program providing support to scale renewable and low-carbon hydrogen production across multiple end-use sectors | No | €300m - €600m | n/a | 19 February 2026 |
| CEF Transport: AFIF | European program supporting large-scale infrastructure investments in alternative fuels such as electricity, hydrogen, and methanol | No | €10m | 30%-70% | TBD |
| CEF Energy | European program supporting cross-border energy infrastructure projects that enhance security of supply and enable the energy transition | No | Max. €600m | Max. 50% | September 2026 |
| NIKI | Dutch program promoting climate innovations by funding projects that develop and implement breakthrough technologies for CO ₂ reduction | No | Min. €30m | n/a | September 2026 |
| LIFE | European program for environment and climate action which includes mobility projects that aim to reduce air pollutants and/or reduce CO ₂ emissions | No | €1m - €10m | 60%-95% | September 2026 |
| DEI+ | Dutch program for sustainable energy investments, including renewable generation, energy efficiency, and innovative decarbonization technologies | No | Max. €30m | Max. 80% | August 2026 |
| EIC Accelerator (incl. challenges) | European program providing funding and equity support for high-risk, high-impact innovations developed by start-ups and SMEs to scale breakthrough technologies | Yes | €2.5m + equity | Max. 70% | Multiple deadline dates |
| Horizon Europe | Supports innovative projects, including the development and uptake of zero-emission waterborne transport technologies | No | €1m - €20m | Max. 70%-100% | Call specific |
| SDE++ | Dutch program incentivizing large-scale deployment of renewable energy and CO ₂ -reducing technologies through financial support | No | Non-profitable component | n/a | November 2026 |
| WBSO | Dutch fiscal scheme offering tax benefits for companies conducting R&D activities in innovative technologies and processes | No | Project specific | Max. 50% of eligible costs | Year-round |

Relevant grants and incentives in 2026

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|----------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| EIA and MIA/Vamil | Dutch fiscal advantage opportunities for investments in innovative decarbonizing techniques and environment friendly techniques | No | 10%-12% net benefit | Max. 45% eligible costs | Year-round |
| MOOI | Dutch program supporting collaborative research and development of innovative solutions for the following call topics: Nuclear Energy, Electricity, Industry, Built Environment, Carbon Removal, System Integration, Biobased Circular | No | Max. €4m | n/a | Call specific (first deadline: 16 April 2026) |
| EFRO Oost | European program supporting regional projects through local grant programs, driving innovation, sustainability, and economic growth | Yes | €100k-€500k | Around 50% | Call specific |
| VEKI | Dutch subsidy for investments in advanced climate technologies that significantly reduce industrial CO ₂ emissions | No | Max. €30m | Max. 60% | 2 February 2026 |
| STIHWI | Dutch subsidy aimed at stimulating the use of renewable hydrogen in industry by creating demand certainty, contributing to EU obligations for renewable hydrogen carriers and accelerating investment decisions for hydrogen production and import facilities. Expected opening in 2027 | No | Max. €200m | Max. €75 per GJ | 30 January 2026 (consultation) |
| TSE Industrie Studies | Dutch program funding feasibility studies for innovative industrial technologies aimed at energy efficiency and emission reduction | Yes | Max. €4m | Max. 70% | 31 March 2026 |
| Maritime Innovation Projects | Dutch program supporting R&D and pilot projects that advance sustainable and innovative solutions in the maritime sector | Yes | Max. €2m | 40%-100% | 3 February 2026 |
| Subsidy Sustainable Shipbuilding | Dutch program promoting environmentally friendly shipbuilding practices and technologies to reduce emissions and improve efficiency | Yes | Max. €750k | 25%-45% | November 2026 |
| EKO: Electricity | Dutch program promoting R&D in the renewable energy area to improve energy efficient and climate neutral innovations. | No | Max. €500k | 40%-80% | 28 May 2026 |

Credential highlight: Innovation Fund - hydrogen

EY Grants & Incentives team assisted an electricity company in a successful Innovation Fund application for hydrogen.

Project details

The client planned to generate large amounts of green hydrogen in one of the dominant industrial areas in the Netherlands.

- The electrolyzers, primarily powered by wind, will be fitted in an existing power facility, to retrofit utility infrastructures such as demineralized water supply and grid connections
- The produced hydrogen will be purposed for uptake by end-users, particularly for e.g., the derivation of synthetic bio-fuel
- The plant will be equipped to handle grid-ancillary services through streamlined and efficient dispatch, helping alleviate grid congestion problems



How EY provided support

- The EY Grants & Incentives team was called in last minute for a comprehensive application review
- EY found that the application package required substantial modifications to maximize the chances of success
- EY instantly scaled up its project team and flexibly expanded the scope of the assignment to provide full hands-on support
- The EY and client teams worked collaboratively under intense time pressure and delivered a successful proposal



Outcome and benefit to client

The project was awarded a grant of €27m by the European Commission.

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