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INFORMATION NOTE

Introduction

The Government of Rwanda has an ambitious climate action agenda to enhance the country's resilience and promote sustainable growth. Rwanda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement commit to a 38% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to business as usual, requiring investments totaling USD 11 billion for mitigation and adaptation measures.

In response to this need, the Rwanda Green Fund and the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) established Ireme Invest - Rwanda's Green Investment Facility. Ireme Invest offers a range of tailored financial instruments to support Rwanda's private sector, providing green finance to advance the sector's contribution to the country's climate action goals.

To assist in this endeavour, Ireme Invest, through its Project Preparation Facility, is inviting entrepreneurs and businesses in the waste and circular economy sector to apply for support and funding. Support and funding is available for entrepreneurs and businesses with business models focused on circular economy solutions as well as waste reduction and improved waste management, spanning early-stage, growth-stage, or mature-stage solutions.

Known as the **Ireme Invest Circular Economy Programme**, this opportunity has been made possible by the Rwanda Green Fund in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) as part of the Rwandan-German Climate and Development Partnership, and will be facilitated by Impact Hub Kigali.

The Ireme Invest Circular Economy Programme welcomes solutions from various sectors and sub-sectors within the waste and circular economy domain, as waste reduction, reutilisation, and elimination can be addressed from diverse perspectives and at various stages of business development. Some examples include:

- Alternatives to plastic use
- Reinforced earth
- Agricultural waste reduction and reutilisation
- Payment systems for waste services
- Household waste separation and collection systems
- Circular product design
- Reuse and refill systems

Applications for the programme close at 5:00 PM on Monday, 23 October 2023.

Programme Elements & Duration

The Ireme Invest Circular Economy Programme is structured in two phases:

Phase One: Business and Idea Development

In phase one, 30 entrepreneurs will be selected to join a four month incubation programme. Benefits of the programme include expert mentoring, workshops, and coaching and the opportunity to submit a proposal and be among 10 programme participants to receive funding.

Phase Two: Funding and Demo Day

In phase two, ten entrepreneurs and businesses with the most compelling proposals will receive up to Rwf 60 million each in grant funding depending on the maturity or nature of the business or idea. These entrepreneurs and businesses will also receive additional and tailored business support, and the opportunity to connect with investors in the sector at the Ireme Invest Circular Economy Programme Demo Day.

How to Apply

Interested entrepreneurs and businesses are encouraged to visit iremeinvest.rw/apply/circular-economy to learn more and apply.

To apply to join the programme, an application must be submitted through the Ireme Invest online portal accessible [here](#). Applicants are required to create an account on the portal. Webinar and info-session opportunities will be provided to interested applicants.

Applicants can contact application@greenfund.rw with any questions.

Applications for the programme close at 5:00 PM on Monday, 23 October 2023.

Who can apply?

The Ireme Invest Circular Economy Programme is open to entrepreneurs and businesses operating in the waste and circular economy sector.

To be eligible, active participation in the programme is required, including mandatory attendance at workshops and coaching sessions. Only those participants who have been actively engaged in the programme and present a compelling proposal will be considered for grant funding.

The programme spans four months, from December 2023 to April 2024. Programme participants will be invited to submit business proposals for funding in April 2024.

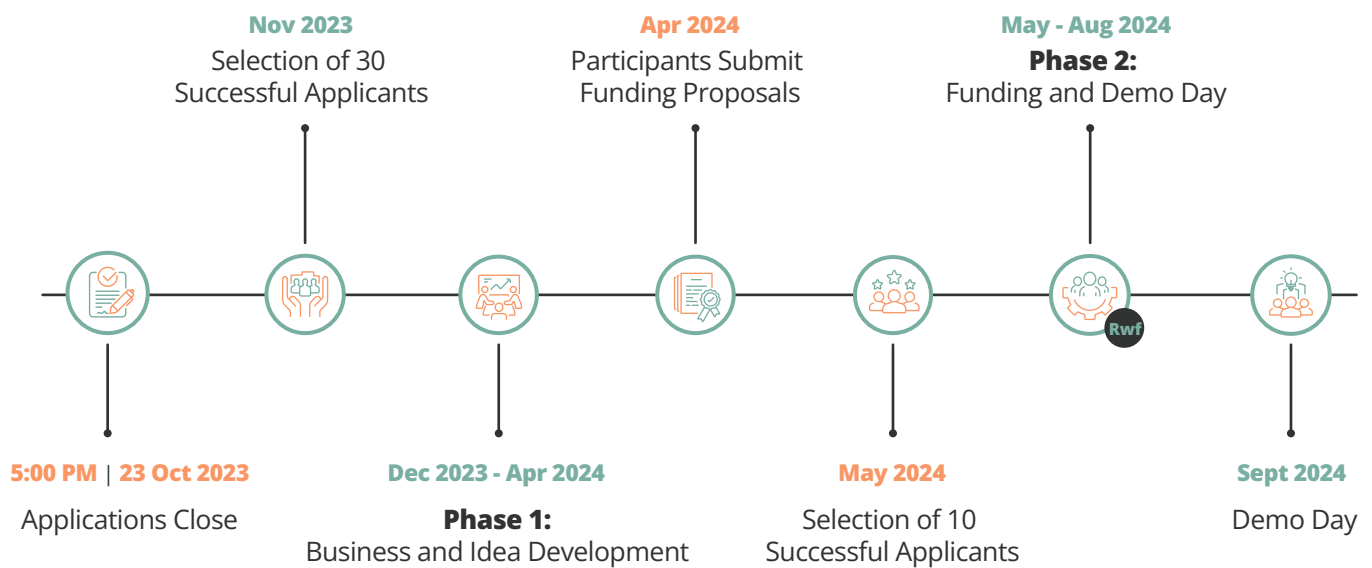
The announcement of the 10 grant recipients will be made in May 2024. Subsequently, these recipients will receive tailored business support over three months to effectively utilise the funds.

Eligibility Criteria

The entrepreneur or business must fulfil the following criteria:

- Operating in the waste and circular economy sectors
- Currently operating in Rwanda
- Available to participate fully in the programme

Programme Timeline



Application Process

Step 1: Apply through Ireme Invest Portal

Applications can be submitted once the call for applications is open. The application submission is the first step in the process of joining the programme and accessing funding from Ireme Invest.

Application Steps

To apply to join the programme, an application must be submitted through the Ireme Invest online portal accessible [here](#).

Applicants are required to create an account on the portal. Webinar and info-session opportunities will be provided to interested applicants.

Note: Hard copies submitted physically or soft copies submitted through email will not be accepted.

Step 2: Application appraisal (Eligibility review)

- Solutions should be aimed at waste reduction and improved waste management
- Currently operating in Rwanda
- The solution should clearly articulate their business model
- The solution should meet environmental impact criteria
- The solution should promote or aligned to strategic national and international environment and climate objectives
- The business personnel should demonstrate the capacity to implement the project.

Step 3: Selection of 30 businesses

Step 4: Submission of funding proposals

Step 5: Selection of 10 businesses

Step 6: Grant funding and Demo Day

Up to 10 selected businesses or entrepreneurs will secure grant funding up to Rwf 60,000,000, determined by the maturity and nature of their business or idea.

At the programme's conclusion, the 10 selected businesses will have the chance to present their products during an event known as Demo Day. This event will serve as an opportunity to attract potential investors and secure the ongoing success of their projects beyond the conclusion of the programme's funding.

More Information

For additional information, please visit iremeinvest.rw/apply/circular-economy or contact application@greenfund.rw.