

Competition Rules & Process

1. How to Enter

1. Applicants must submit a completed application form and business plan by the published deadline.
2. Business plans must comply with the published Business Plan Guidelines, including word count limits and required format.
3. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered unless exceptional circumstances apply and are agreed by Mitie.
4. Applicants are encouraged to attend workshops, mentoring sessions and briefing events designed to support the development of their submissions.
5. By submitting an application, entrants agree to comply with the competition rules, terms and conditions and judging process.

2. Eligibility Criteria

To enter, applicants must:

1. Be an entrepreneur, start-up, social enterprise, community organisation, charity, or SME operating within the competition's eligible geographic area.
2. Demonstrate a business, project, product or service that aligns with the objectives of Mitie Business Boost 4.0.
3. Show evidence of growth potential, innovation, sustainability, social value creation or community impact.
4. Be willing to engage with mentoring, development support and programme activities.
5. Submit all required documentation by the published deadline.

3. Assessment of Applications

1. All eligible applications will be reviewed by an Assessment Panel comprising representatives from Mitie and programme partners.
2. Applications will be scored against a published assessment matrix.
3. Assessment criteria may include:
 - Innovation and originality
 - Commercial viability
 - Social value and community impact
 - Sustainability
 - Deliverability

- Potential for growth and scalability
- 4. Panel members will declare any conflicts of interest and will not participate in the assessment of affected applications.
- 5. The highest scoring applications will be invited to progress to the finalist stage.

4. Finalist Development Stage

1. Finalists will receive feedback on their initial submission.
2. Finalists may be invited to participate in additional mentoring, coaching and business support sessions.
3. A revised business plan and presentation must be submitted by the specified deadline.
4. Failure to meet submission requirements may result in removal from the competition.

5. Final Pitch Event

1. Finalists will present their proposal to an independent judging panel at the Mitie Business Boost 4.0 Final.
2. Presentations must adhere to the published format and time allocation.
3. Finalists may be asked questions by the judging panel.
4. Attendance at the final event is mandatory unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in advance.

6. Judging & Award of Funding

1. The judging panel will comprise representatives from Mitie, programme partners and independent industry experts.
2. Judges will independently score each finalist before agreeing final outcomes.
3. Funding, investment, sponsorship or support packages will be awarded at the discretion of the judging panel.
4. Awards may be granted to one or more winners.
5. The panel reserves the right not to allocate the full funding amount if suitable proposals are not identified.
6. The judges' decision will be final.

7. Funding Conditions

Successful applicants will:

1. Enter into a funding agreement with Mitie and/or programme partners.
2. Use awarded funding solely for the purposes outlined within their approved business plan.
3. Provide progress updates and evidence of expenditure as requested.
4. Participate in publicity, case studies and promotional activities relating to the programme.
5. Notify Mitie of any significant changes to their organisation or project.
6. Failure to comply with funding conditions may result in funding being withheld or recovered.

8. Code of Conduct

Participants are expected to:

1. Behave professionally and respectfully throughout the programme.
2. Treat programme partners, mentors, judges and fellow participants with courtesy.
3. Maintain a positive and inclusive environment.
4. Refrain from behaviour that could bring the competition or participating organisations into disrepute.
5. Mitie reserves the right to remove participants who fail to meet these standards.

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

1. Mitie is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive competition.
2. Reasonable adjustments will be provided where possible.
3. Applications will be assessed fairly and consistently.
4. No applicant will be disadvantaged on the basis of protected characteristics.

10. Data Protection

1. Personal information will be collected and processed in accordance with UK GDPR and Mitie's data protection policies.
2. Information will only be used for the administration, evaluation and promotion of the programme.
3. Applicants may be asked for permission before any personal information or business information is published.

11. Additional Information

1. Full Terms & Conditions apply.
2. Mitie and programme partners reserve the right to amend timelines, processes and competition requirements where necessary.
3. Any changes will be communicated to all registered applicants.
4. Participation in the competition does not guarantee funding or further support.