



GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS



Call for Ambassadors by the AURORA Citizen Science project

Open Call

We are seeking volunteers to act as Ambassadors for the AURORA project from:

- Academics (Including staff and students);
- Citizens (Including young people under the age of 18);
- Policy makers and institutional representatives (including NGOs).



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We have used the documents produced by the EU-Citizen Science project, who in turn drew on documents prepared by ACTION, and IMPETUS projects (grant agreement nr.824603, 824580 and 101058677 respectively) for their open calls as a basis to develop this guide for applicants and thank them for making these useful documents available.



What is the Call for AURORA citizen science (CS) Ambassadors about?

We want to create a network of AURORA Citizen Science Ambassadors (EU-27 + the UK) to support the activities of the AURORA Citizen Science project, to replicate our successful approach to tackling climate change in Universities and Municipalities in Europe and beyond. This is an open call for Ambassadors prepared to champion the AURORA approach to tackling climate change in your university, your municipality or your community group.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for three groups of people with different profiles and expertise to become part of a network of AURORA Ambassadors, including:

- Academics (Including staff and students)
- Citizens (Including young people under the age of 18)
- Policy makers and institutional representatives (including NGOs)

What are you expected to do as an AURORA Ambassador?

As an AURORA Ambassador, you will be expected to:

- Promote the AURORA approaches, tools and techniques within your networks and communities, including the AURORA Energy Tracker app.
- Engage with the programme on social media and attend events on behalf of the programme.
- Engage with key policy makers and decision makers to support the creation of an enabling environment for energy communities.

What do you get from being an AURORA Citizen Science Ambassador?

- You will be part of a growing network of citizen scientists promoting a bottom-up approach to tackling climate change.
- You will be given training on the energy community business models and tools developed in the AURORA programme.
- Opportunity to meet and learn from like-minded academics, and professionals and citizens across Europe.
- New skills, professional and career development opportunities.
- The chance to join the AURORA programme at major international events.

How to apply?

Read this Guide for Applicants and submit your application via the online form and we will be in touch.

For too long we have watched governments struggle to meet their commitments to their climate change targets. This is your chance to join a bottom-up movement and create a network of citizen scientist leaders and communities working together to make a difference.



1. Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to support applicants of the Call for Citizen Science Ambassadors issued by the [AURORA Project – Tackling Climate Change](#). All relevant information about the call including how to apply is contained in this guide, intended to be the main source of information regarding the call. In case of conflicting information being provided by other sources, the content of this guide should be deemed authoritative.

In case you have any questions after reading this document, you can contact us at contact@aurora-h2020.eu

2. The AURORA Project: Taking Action on Climate Change

The AURORA project is an EU-funded project with the overall objective to champion the development of energy communities, transforming existing social groups associated with schools, community centres, Universities and Municipalities into vibrant energy communities able to effect substantial change in the way energy is generated and used.

We have developed business models that will allow participants to become citizen scientists able to take part in work to reduce their own climate change emissions, lower energy costs and divert profits away from fossil fuels companies into their own communities. Too good to be true – well we will share with you, business models that show you how you can invest in your own community's solar energy schemes and:

- Gain a rate of return on investments greater than you will receive from your bank;
- Lower energy costs to community buildings in your University or Municipality;
- Divert profits that would have gone to the fossil fuel industry back into your communities; and
- Lower your climate change emissions.

What is citizen science?

Citizen science is a term that englobes activities that involve citizens in scientific endeavour that generates new knowledge or understanding. In citizen science activities and projects citizens may act as contributors, collaborators, or as project leader and have a meaningful role in the project. Through citizen science, all people can participate in many stages of the scientific process, from the design of the research question to data collection and volunteer mapping, data interpretation and analysis, and to publication and dissemination of results.

Citizen science is also an approach of scientific work that may be used as a part of a broader scientific activity.

Learn more about citizen science by referring to the [10 Principles of Citizen Science](#) and to the [ECSA Characteristics of Citizen Science](#).

With over 140,000 Municipalities in the European Union and the United Kingdom and over 5000 Universities, the opportunity to develop renewable energy programmes in this way and divert funding back into local communities is vast. In addition, by engaging citizens through citizen science in the reduction of their own personal climate change emissions we can make a material change to the 30% of all climate change emissions that we the citizens are responsible for. With over 500 million citizens living and working in the EU and the UK, we the citizens can drive this change and do not need to wait for Governments to act, we can drive this change.



AURORA will support a Network of Ambassadors for the project across the EU, the UK and beyond. If you step up and join us, we'll be:

- your dedicated partners, sharing our wealth of knowledge gained in creating energy communities in our pilot Universities and Municipalities;
- offering you a clear roadmap to implement our business models in your own country;
- standing by your side, offering unwavering guidance and support at every turn;
- offer you access to the growing Regional and International Citizen Science movement;
- open the door for you to be able to attend, experience and influence International United Nations events; and
- encourage you to be part of a growing international community of citizen scientists who want to tackle climate change and make a difference.

You will be able to use, modify and develop all the tools and techniques we have developed in project AURORA including:

- Our Energy Community Business Models from Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, Denmark and the UK;
- Our AURORA Energy Tracker App;
- Our communication and promotional materials available in 5 languages;
- Our Quarterly AURORA Newsletter;
- Introductions to a range of organisations now starting to work with us;
- Introductions to a range of other EU Green Deal Citizen Science Projects; and
- Training and networking opportunities with like-minded individuals who are on this journey with you.

The AURORA project lasts for four years. It started on 1st December 2022 and will end on 31st May 2025. By that date you will be linked to the Citizen Science Global Partnership who are pioneering the development of global citizen science programmes and championing them through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Environment Situation Room – Citizen Science Portal.

The AURORA Consortium consists of 9 partners and a growing number of affiliated and partner entities from 7 countries across the EU (see Annex 2).

3. Scope of the Call Role of AURORA Ambassadors

The Call for Citizen Science Ambassadors is aimed at creating a network of AURORA Citizen Science Ambassadors able to influence the thinking and action of Universities, Municipalities and Community Groups across the EU and the UK in the way they tackle climate change, develop Energy Communities and lower citizen climate change emissions.

We envisage three groups of Ambassadors:

- Academics (Including staff and students);
- Citizens (Including young people under the age of 18); and
- Policy makers and institutional representatives (including NGOs).



Supported by the AURORA project, we look for AURORA Citizen Science Ambassadors to champion and promote:

- The idea of, transforming existing social hubs like schools, community centres, community groups, and universities into vibrant energy communities;
- The idea of community solar energy programmes on public buildings using the business models developed in project AURORA that will allow a diversion of profits from energy generation away from the fossil fuel industry and into local communities;
- The adoption of the AURORA Energy App and other tools developed by the project to support citizen scientists on their journey to reduce their own climate change emissions;
- The collection of citizen science data that can be added to the AURORA data systems on progress being made to reduce citizen climate change emissions;
- The use and further development of the AURORA communication and training materials;
- AURORA webinars and international events, to influence the uptake of the AURORA citizen science techniques to reduce climate change emission and facilitate a move away from fossil fuels;
- Opportunities to network and support the growth of a network of citizen scientists working to tackle climate change; and
- The AURORA Newsletter, social media channels and LinkedIn discussion group communicating the progress and issues being tackled

Details on the collaboration between project AURORA and it's Ambassadors

- All the tasks and activities mentioned above are linked to tasks and activities carried out in the AURORA project. The AURORA Consortium will provide CS Ambassadors with material, information and training (see section 4) to facilitate the implementation of the tasks.
- Strong support from the AURORA project will be provided in the areas of communication and dissemination to guarantee the strength of the actions and messages shared.
- The AURORA Consortium will also closely collaborate with CS Ambassadors and offer to involve them in AURORA activities where relevant so CS Ambassadors can gain a better insight and learn lessons from work within the project.
- Links between CS Ambassadors and AURORA partners and affiliated Universities, Municipalities and other supporting groups entities will be sought to increase the capacity of both sides, especially in the countries where AURORA partners and affiliated entities are located.
- AURORA will encourage Twinning arrangements between Universities and Municipalities as a way of strengthening working relationships with the AURORA pilot programmes.

Important notice

Depending on the state of Energy Communities and Citizen Science activities in each country where AURORA Ambassadors join the programme, AURORA Ambassadors will be able to take and develop the materials produced by project AURORA that are most appropriate to their local circumstance. All we ask is that in doing so the UNESCO Open Science principles are applied and that what is produced is shared with others at the same stage in their development, either through the AURORA website, the UNEP WESR Citizen Science Portal or the relevant regional citizen science platforms such as EU Citizen Science.



4. Benefits, training and capacity building opportunities for AURORA Ambassadors

Being part of the network of AURORA Ambassadors will provide several benefits, such as:

- Being part of the AURORA citizen science community with access to networking opportunities with regional citizen science associations, visibility at international events where AURORA takes part, and access to other citizen science projects/initiatives that are part of the EU Green Deal Citizen Science Programme;
- Unique opportunities to contribute to the development of global citizen science programmes on climate change through links to the Citizen Science Global Partnership and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- Peer-learning and networking, facilitated through AURORA internal channels;
- Training and capacity building opportunities as described below;
- Promotion via social media channels operated by project AURORA including a unique global LinkedIn discussions group that has been started on citizen science and climate change;
- Presentation opportunities at AURORA public (online and in person) events;
- Access to meaningful insights generated within the context of the AURORA project and an ability to influence the further development of AURORA tools and techniques; and
- Access to and involvement in AURORA project activities including formal twinning arrangements with the AURORA pilot Universities and Municipalities.

Training and capacity building opportunities for CS Ambassadors

Part of the efforts in project AURORA are dedicated to increasing the participation of citizens in social communities that develop into Energy Communities able to influence the speed of transition from fossil fuels to renewable solar energy. AURORA Ambassadors will be invited to a series of national participatory capacity building sessions in the pilot countries on a range of topics to promote energy communities and the AURORA Energy App. The sessions will share lessons learnt.

The AURORA project aims to create strong links with the regional citizen science associations, and particularly the European Citizen Science Association, so that lessons learnt can be shared with the growing European Citizen Science community. Links are also being developed with the Citizen Science Global Partnership and UNEP so that a strong international network of citizen scientists tackling climate change can be developed. Through these networks all the tools and infrastructure developed by project AURORA will be shared and training sessions developed so that project AURORA can apply and develop the principles of the UNESCO Open Science Principles. To assist AURORA Ambassadors open-source code on the AURORA Energy App will be available so that they can build on and further develop our ideas, subject to sharing the results with the global citizen science community. In this framework, online training sessions will be offered to developers seeking to use and modify the AURORA Energy app.

The AURORA project will also share all its training and communication materials with Ambassadors in order that they can modify and use them for their own citizen science energy community projects subject to reciprocal arrangements being put in place.



As the formal project draws to a close all the AURORA materials will remain available through the AURORA website and regional and international platforms, and we will be seeking ways to continue to promote the ideas we have developed. You can be part of that journey with us.

5. Duration, eligibility and formalities

Duration of the activity

It is expected that AURORA Ambassadors will contribute till project completion (currently 31st May 2025). Support will be provided till that date and thereafter project AURORA will be working closely with the Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP) and Regional Citizen Science Associations to create a European and global scale citizen science climate change programme based on outputs from project AURORA.

Ambassadors will be invited to join these forming groups.

Eligibility criteria – Who is eligible to become a CS Ambassador?

As outlined earlier project AURORA is seeking three groups of Ambassadors:

- Academics (Including staff and students);
- Citizens (Including young people under the age of 18); and
- Policy makers and institutional representatives (including NGOs).

We are particularly looking for Ambassadors from our pilot countries:

- Portugal
- Spain
- Slovenia
- Denmark
- United Kingdom

In such cases we will seek to build strong links with the pilot projects taking part in the Universities and Municipalities in those countries. We are open to establishing formal twinning arrangements in such circumstance where institutions are interested in building close collaborative partnerships.

Secondly, we are looking for Ambassadors with the ability to influence Universities, Municipalities and Communities across the EU and the United Kingdom to apply the AURORA business plans, tools and techniques to accelerate the switch away from fossil fuels to renewable solar energy. We are also looking for citizen Ambassadors able to promote the further development and uptake of the AURORA Energy App and associated tools into the European Citizen Science Community and to encourage its uptake in the wider community.

Thirdly we are prepared to support Ambassadors from outside the EU and in particular in Africa in partnership with CitSci Africa.



Project AURORA recognises that both experience of citizen science and the concept of energy communities differs across countries within the EU and is very different in the international perspective. It will be for Ambassadors to decide which of the business models, tools and techniques is right for their individual circumstances. Project AURORA will, however, facilitate discussions between Ambassadors about how we accelerate the transition from fossil fuels and how the different business models developed for that purpose in our pilot countries can be developed and amended. Each of our pilots operates in a different culture and legal framework and we are exploring with a variety of partners how to modify and develop our ideas so that they may be useful to our Ambassadors. In that respect we have developing partnership with both the Red Cross and the NetZero Cities EU that should be of interest to Ambassadors not only in the EU but across Africa.

6. How to apply

- All relevant information to apply to the call is contained in this guide, intended to be the main source of information regarding the call. Please, read it carefully.
- Applications must be submitted through the initial application form available [here](#). Details can also be found on the [AURORA website](#).
- Applications through means other than the online form will not be accepted.
- As part of the online application form, you will be asked to outline how you envisage promoting the AURORA approach in your community and in particular how you intend to use the AURORA Business Models, the AURORA Energy App and the associated tools. Please indicate which Municipality, University or Community Group you are active in or intend to target. Please be as concrete as possible in your answers.
- Fill in the form in English and submit it online.
- Please, submit the form only once. In case you do multiple submissions, we will consider only the last one received.

Project AURORA is inviting applicants from the three main groups identified in this document to apply to be project Ambassadors.

All applicants will be reviewed to ensure compatibility with the aims and objectives of the AURORA project to accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable solar energy and to reduce citizen climate change emissions. Project AURORA will be investing project resources into building a strong relationship with our project Ambassadors and sharing the developing tools and techniques from the project. Therefore, and in exceptional circumstance project AURORA reserves the right to decline applicants who will be informed as to the reasons such action is taken. This decision will be final and will be made within 1 month of receiving an application.

Annex 1 in this guide provides all the questions in the application form in case you would like to work on them offline first. Please note we plan to have a section of the AURORA website about our Ambassadors. Please confirm in the application form that you are content we list who you are, add your photograph and your biography. Please indicate what contact details we can add to the website.

If you are under 18, please ensure you have parental consent to allow details to be included on the AURORA Website. Contact details for under 18s will not be displayed on the AURORA website.

Annex 1 – List of questions in the application form

a) Initial application form

An initial application form is available to register your interest in becoming an Ambassador.

QUESTION	ANSWER OPTIONS	MANDATORY
Please, select your Country	Dropdown menu	Yes
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, I hereby give my informed consent to use of my data. • No, I do not agree with the above and do not wish to participate. 	Yes
Name and surname	Short Text	Yes
Organisation	Short Text	Yes
Your position in the organisation	Short Text	Yes
Your E Mail address	Short Text	Yes
Your phone number	Short Text	Yes

b) Follow-up application form

Upon receipt of the initial application form we will contact you to complete and agree the full list of questions shown below.

QUESTION	ANSWER OPTIONS	MANDATORY
What Ambassador Group are you part of	Confirm which group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academics (Including staff and students); • Citizens (Including young people under the age of 18); • Policy makers and institutional representatives (including NGOs). 	Yes
Gender Identification	List of possible answers: male, female, prefer not to disclose, other gender identity if you wish to specify	No
Applicant website, LinkedIn or work-related social media accounts.	Long text (max. 1.000 characters)	No
Please confirm we can use your personal information on the AURORA Website.	Short text - please confirm which items we cannot use	Yes



Please confirm what contact information we can use on the AURORA website	Short Text Please note contact details for under 18-year-old Ambassadors will not be displayed on the AURORA website.	Yes
Please, explain why you want to become an AURORA Ambassador.	Long text (max. 1.000 characters)	Yes
Please, add a biography of yourself that we can use on the AURORA website.	Long text (max. 2.000 characters)	Yes
Confirm your University, Municipality or Community Group	Short Text	Yes
Do you have basic communication skills in English to be able to communicate with the AURORA Consortium?	Yes / No Question	Yes
Please confirm your native language and confirm if you have communication skills in other languages.	Languages. This will help the project to understand how we might use your skills at National events.	Yes
Please upload a Passport style photograph for use on the AURORA Website	Image File Upload (jpg, png, etc.)	Yes
Other Information. Please tell us any other information you think might be useful	Long Text 100 words maximum	No

Annex 2 – Participants in the ECS Consortium

Participant	Country
Universidad Politécnica De Madrid	Spain
Aarhus Universitet	Denmark
Centre for Sustainable Energy	United Kingdom
Forest of Dean District Council	United Kingdom
INSCICO	Germany
KempleyGreen Consultants	United Kingdom
Qualifying PhotoVoltaics	Spain
University of Evora	Portugal
Univerza v Ljubljana	Slovenia
Affiliate	Country



University College Dublin

Ireland

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