

WWSC Lighthouse projects

***Lighthouse projects** have been defined as integrated initiatives designed to support impact-oriented research and innovation for sustainable development ([Marcel Tanner President, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences](#)). Their core purpose is to serve as **beacons** that guide society through complex sustainability challenges – often referred to as "wicked problems" – by producing actionable knowledge and fostering **societal transformation**. These projects aim to build closer alliances between science, policy, and society, typically through the **co-production of knowledge** where researchers and non-academic stakeholders work together to ensure results are societally pertinent and practically useful.*

The Wallenberg Wood Science Center now invites proposals for Lighthouse projects.

We invite proposals for **Lighthouse projects** that promote sustainability through bold, visible, and curiosity-driven research collaborations using innovative wood-based materials. A Lighthouse project should act as a beacon: attracting interest from outside the immediate research community, being easy to communicate to a wider audience, and showing how research can help address difficult sustainability challenges. Projects may explore new ideas, methods, partnerships, or demonstrators that make complex sustainability questions tangible and engaging.

Each proposal should include at least two **principal investigators from WWSC from at least two universities** and have a **maximum budget of 1 MSEK**. We particularly welcome projects that combine scientific quality with societal relevance, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and strong potential for outreach, visibility, and future impact. WWSC's management group will assess the proposals and prepare a funding proposal to the board of WWSC who will take the decision.

Proposals should briefly describe the sustainability challenge addressed (explain how the proposal interprets sustainable development in its specific context), the collaborative team, the planned activities, expected outcomes, and how the project will serve as a lighthouse for broader engagement and possibly also for continued work. The proposal should not exceed four A4-pages (Arial 11 pt, single line distance and 2,54 cm margins).

Proposals should be uploaded following [this link](#) and at the same time a notifying email should be sent to lindafo@kth.se and mavem@kth.se no later than **August 31, 2026**.