

# Critical sustainability research

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) is uniquely placed to partner with organisations to develop knowledge for private sector action on sustainability. Working with business, government and financial institutions, we focus on the following four themes:

**Zero  
carbon**

**Circular  
economy**

**Protection  
of nature**

**Inclusive and  
resilient societies**

We address problems in a rigorous and timely fashion, informed by robust analysis and evidence. Our clear problem focus delivers knowledge over a useful decision horizon:

## 1. Prince of Wales Fellowships

Programmes of research and experimentation on sustainability problems, co-designed with and for industry. Alongside advances in fundamental knowledge, Fellows produce new 'transdisciplinary' thinking on sustainability, with practical insights and recommendations for decision-makers to carry into their organisations.

**Duration:** 3-5 years  
**Resourcing:** £120 - £150k per annum

## 3. Thought leadership

Powerful insights into how business and financial institutions can build a sustainable economy, generated for and with partners based on robust evidence and insight. Includes frameworks, tools, models, analyses, evaluation and case studies to inform business practice, influence policy and enrich education programmes.

**Duration:** 1-2 years  
**Resourcing:** £50 - £250k per annum

## 5. Graduate research

Conducted by students on our Master's in Sustainability Leadership programme over a year. The results offer important insights into business- and finance-related problems, and can form the basis of longer-term studies for successive cohorts of students, or contribute to deeper dives conducted by CISL researchers.

**Duration:** 1-2 years  
**Resourcing:** £30 - £40k

## 2. Research sprints

In-depth explorations of specific challenges conducted by well-resourced, multi-skilled teams of technical, scientific, business, finance and policy experts tasked with making substantial, potentially breakthrough, progress over short spaces of time. The start-up phase of a sprint is typically 3-6 months, followed by a 6-12 month delivery period.

**Duration:** 12-18 months  
**Resourcing:** £300k - £1.5m

## 4. Centres, labs and thematic funding

Multi-year partnerships drawing on the full range of intellectual resources offered by the University of Cambridge and CISL's expertise in delivering practical, business-relevant solutions through experimentation, thought leadership and advocacy.

**Duration:** Multi-year  
**Resourcing:** >£1m

## 6. Commissioned research

Bespoke thought leadership for specific clients and needs, commissioned through partnerships, RFPs and open calls.

**Duration:** 6-24 months  
**Resourcing:** £50 - £300k

### Further information

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