

February 2026

Request for Information (RFI)

by: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA)

for: AI Solutions to support demand side energy efficiency

RFI released:

Wednesday 11 February 2026

Deadline for Responses:

Thursday 30 April 2026

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA)

eeca.govt.nz

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New Zealand

SECTION 1: Purpose and information sought

1.1 Purpose of this RFI

This RFI is issued by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), referred to below as “EECA” or “we” or “us”.

EECA is seeking information from suppliers of solutions that incorporate artificial intelligence (Solutions) which may help New Zealand achieve its energy efficiency, energy affordability, energy resilience and distributed flexibility goals.

The information provided will help EECA build a clear, consistent, and accessible view of any Solutions, and their potential to help support New Zealand businesses.

In this RFI the term **Solutions** refers to products, services or tools to improve energy efficiency or energy productivity that are enhanced or made possible by utilising artificial intelligence techniques.

1.2 Background

The energy sector is transforming rapidly, driven by technological advancements and increasing deployment of renewable energy. EECA is specifically interested in how Solutions incorporating AI (Solutions) can optimise electricity demand and consumption by revolutionising consumer-side energy efficiency and demand management.

Consequently, EECA is seeking current information on Solutions that support improving the energy efficiency and energy productivity of commercial and industrial electricity consumers (including consumers that may have on-site electricity generation, such as solar PV, and, or, energy storage). EECA is seeking information that will help it assess the available Solutions that are relevant to energy efficiency and demand management, and to potentially accelerate the use of such innovative solutions by New Zealand businesses.

We are looking for Solutions that are more advanced than older rules-based AI tools (i.e. symbolic or notional AI). Specifically, we are seeking information on Solutions which encompass advanced machine learning, deep learning or other advanced AI techniques. These could include utilising models for Predictive AI, Generative AI, Computer vision, physical or embodied AI or Agentic AI. Our focus is on learning about Solutions that can revolutionise efficiency and demand management to deliver increased energy productivity, increased energy affordability and enhance reliability of supply.

The information collected through this RFI will support EECA to deliver up to date information on AI products and tools for energy efficiency to New Zealand businesses and potentially design any market intervention programmes to accelerate the uptake of such innovative solutions.

1.3 What we want

We want to understand the range of Solutions currently available, their key features, target sectors, efficiency opportunities enabled, system value created and use cases. This information will inform EECA’s decisions on the scope, design, and approach necessary to inform New Zealand businesses and potentially support demonstration deployments.

We are seeking information from suppliers about their available Solutions for to support energy efficiency and demand management in the following areas:

- a) Large scale orchestration of DER (distributed energy resources), VPP (virtual power plants) and managing DR (demand response)
- b) Optimising building energy use
- c) Digital twins with AI for optimising and improving energy use, process efficiency, and enabling predictive maintenance.

EECA wants to understand the:

- availability of Solutions, in New Zealand and Internationally.
- maturity of current Solutions.
- cost effectiveness of Solutions and the benefits or limitations they may present for customers.
- current deployment and deployment potential of solutions.
- barriers to Solutions being deployed more widely.

This information will allow EECA to develop a clear, consistent, and accessible view of options across the market which it will collate and make it accessible to New Zealand businesses.

EECA may also consider possible market interventions that might support the introduction of solutions such as publishing information, case studies, and supporting demonstration projects and disseminating information about their outcomes.

One of EECA's core functions is informing New Zealand businesses about technologies and tools that can improve their energy efficiency and energy productivity. A key objective of this RFI is helping commercial and industrial electricity consumers to understand how these Solutions can help them optimise their operations to maximise their energy productivity, increase affordability and enhance reliability. This may include optimising on-site renewable generation and energy storage systems.

Specifically, we are seeking clear information about:

- the Solution's key features
- the Solution's targeted market segments
- the efficiency opportunities the Solution creates for customers
- the value creation opportunities the Solution may create for New Zealand's wider energy systems
- the Solution's implementation support options.
- case studies, example use cases and references of Solution installations

Also, to the extent possible without disclosure of confidential or commercially sensitive information we would like to know which AI techniques that the Solution uses to enhance its ability to provide the service.

If the AI aspect has been added to upgrade the solution, this might include information about the performance improvement over the non-AI version of the Solution.

We are only seeking high-level, shareable information that is suitable for public distribution.

1.4 What we don't want

We do **not** want:

- commercially sensitive or confidential information that we are unable to share more widely
- proposals
- formal quotes
- pricing commitments
- detailed contractual terms
- information that would typically be exchanged during procurement or partnership development processes.

1.5 Why should you respond?

By responding to this RFI, Solution suppliers can help deliver information on their products that will support New Zealand businesses to make informed decisions about potential use. Your participation ensures that your organisation's offerings are accurately represented, clearly explained, and easily understood by commercial and industrial electricity consumers.

This is an opportunity to increase visibility of your Solution, align with government programmes and upcoming EECA initiatives, and potentially supporting New Zealand's energy resilience and access to affordable energy.

1.6 A bit about us

EECA is New Zealand's lead agency and trusted expert on energy use, with a focus on driving energy efficiency improvements and scaling proven renewable and innovative energy solutions to deliver value across the energy system.

We identify barriers to the uptake of emerging efficient technologies and practices, smart flexible systems, and future fuel integration. By addressing these barriers - including low awareness, affordability, and market coordination issues - we can help New Zealand businesses to be clean and clever energy users.

We partner with other government agencies, local councils, community organisations, iwi, and the private sector to drive practical change. To make it easier for people and organisations to take action our work includes providing advice, support, tools, and information to support energy efficiency and energy affordability projects,

We engage with businesses across New Zealand. through dedicated regional engagement complemented by targeted direct engagement. This approach enables tailored support and relationship-building at a local level to help Businesses identify and implement energy efficiency. EECA also maintains strong links with

industry bodies and sector organisations which enables coordinated action, knowledge sharing, and strategic alignment across priority sectors. We help shape policy and regulatory settings, deliver public awareness campaigns, and support the uptake of innovative technologies that increase energy efficiency. We focus our efforts where the biggest impact can be made, especially in sectors like process heat, transport and industry.



SECTION 2: Key Information

2.1 Context

- a. This Request for Information (RFI) seeks information to help the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) assess the latest information on solutions incorporating AI relevant to energy efficiency for electricity consuming businesses.
- b. We want to understand the range of Solutions currently available, their key features, target sectors, efficiency opportunities enabled, system value created and use cases. This information will inform EECA's decisions on the scope, design, and approach necessary to inform New Zealand businesses and potentially support demonstration deployments.

2.2 Our timeline

Our timeline for this RFI (New Zealand times and dates):

RFI release date Wednesday 11 February 2026

Deadline for Responses Thursday 30 April 2026

2.3 How to contact us

Contact us by emailing:

applications@eeeca.govt.nz

Include 'AI for energy efficiency' in the subject line.

2.4 Developing and submitting your information

- a. This is not a tender process.
- b. Take time to read and understand the RFI. In particular, understand the key outcomes we are seeking from the RFI. These are in Section 3 of this document.
- c. Please contact us if you have any questions (see 2.3 above).
- d. Submit your Response before the Deadline for Responses using the Response Form provided.

2.5 Address for submitting your Response

Submit your Response by emailing it to:

applications@eeeca.govt.nz

We will not accept Responses sent by post or delivered to our office.



2.6 Our RFI Terms

The RFI is subject to the RFI Terms in Section 4 below.

2.7 Later changes to the RFI or RFI process

- a. After publishing the RFI, if we need to change anything or provide additional information we will place a notice on the Government Electronic Tenders Service website (GETS) at www.gets.govt.nz.
- b. If you downloaded the RFI from GETS you will automatically receive notifications of any changes through GETS.

SECTION 3: Key outcomes sought

This RFI relates to the collection of information about available AI Solutions to improve energy efficiency. The outcomes EECA seeks to achieve through this RFI are:

#1	<p>Obtain a clear and comprehensive understanding of Solutions currently available.</p> <p>EECA seeks to understand the range of Solutions on offer that support energy-efficiency for commercial and industrial electricity consumers.</p>
#2	<p>Understand the product features, target sectors, and perceived value for each Solution</p> <p>To ensure information on Solutions can be assessed accurately and consistently, EECA is seeking clear details on product features, target sectors, efficiency opportunities, system value, use cases and any implementation support offered</p>
#3	<p>Identify gaps, opportunities, and emerging Solution concepts.</p> <p>EECA seeks insights into any gaps or opportunities within existing AI products that support energy-efficiency for consumers. This will help identify areas where additional clarity or support may be valuable for businesses.</p>
#4	<p>Ensure electricity consumers can easily identify Solutions aligned with specific sectors and technologies.</p> <p>EECA aims to ensure commercial and industrial electricity consumers can easily identify the Solutions for energy efficiency that can support innovative upgrades to the business operations.</p>
#5	<p>Learn of any barriers that might be hindering the uptake and usage of Solutions.</p> <p>EECA seeks to understand any potential barriers that might hinder the uptake of Solutions so that it can consider these and potential options that might address the barriers.</p>

SECTION 4: RFI Rules to apply

1. EECA may extend the close date for responses at its discretion.
2. The Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with preparing and submitting its Response.
3. This RFI does not create any contractual relationship between EECA and any Respondent in any respect.
4. While EECA has used reasonable efforts in compiling this RFI, it will not be liable to Respondents or any third party for any inaccuracy or omission in the RFI, or any additional information EECA may provide in the RFI process.
5. EECA reserves the right to cancel, amend, or withdraw all, or part, of this RFI at any stage.
6. No previous assurances or representations made by EECA generally, or to any Respondent, will be acknowledged by EECA.
7. Only non-confidential information is to be submitted as a response to this RFI.
8. EECA may publish all, some or none of the information submitted as part of a report or summary paper.
9. All Responses become the property of EECA and will not be returned to the Respondent. Except as required by law.