
impact
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hcrlaw

HCR is committed to becoming a net zero business by 2040. We also play a key role in the communities we work and live in.

But this commitment isn't just about us and what we do. We actively support and promote other initiatives, and organisations who are looking to create their own positive impact.

We're therefore delighted to expand our support programme, Impact55.

What is Impact55?

Impact55 has been designed to support start-ups who are using technology to create a positive social or environmental change.

Successful start-ups will receive legal support from HCR to help them on the next stage of their journey. The awards are:

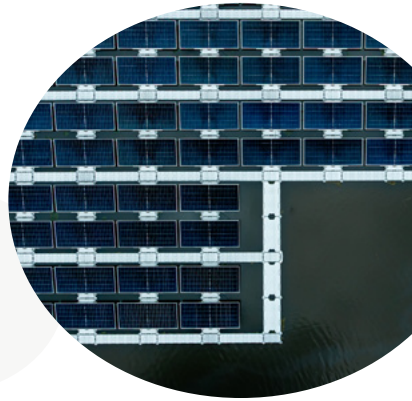
- **£25,000** of support to the overall winner
- **£10,000** of support to up to three additional start-ups.



What is an impact start-up?

To enter the programme, you must:

- be a company registered in England and Wales and have your registered office (or principal place of business) in East Anglia, the South West and the West Midlands
- have raised or be seeking to raise external capital funding from pre-seed to Series A (inclusive) or secured grant funding
- be founded for the intention of using technology to create a positive social or environmental change as well as economic rewards for your investors - an 'impact start-up'.



To qualify as an impact start-up, you must be creating change relating to at least one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Details of these goals can be found here and you will need to demonstrate in your application, which goal your work relates to and the impact it will have.

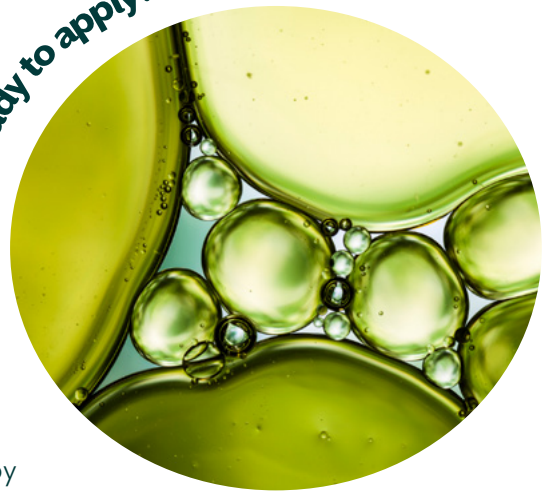


Specialist support for high growth start-ups

Our value extends beyond the headline figures. Successful entrants to the Impact55 programme will not only be supported with expert legal advice but will benefit from our knowledge and connections. Our specialist lawyers regularly work with high growth start-ups and innovative businesses. We act as part of your team, taking on the legal elements of a transaction and leaving you free to focus on running the business. We love helping businesses to realise their potential and develop long standing relationships with our clients, often supporting them through multiple phases of growth.

We're embedded in the local technology and innovation ecosystems across East Anglia, the West Midlands and the South West, supporting ambitious businesses throughout these regions. And it's not all about business, we've raised over £1.5 million for charitable causes in our communities.

Ready to apply?



Applying for Impact55 is simple.

Visit www.hcrlaw.com/impact55 and complete the short online application form. You will also need to upload a three-minute video to demonstrate how you meet the impact criteria. Applications must be received by 8pm on 16th November 2026.



What happens next?

Shortlisted businesses will be invited to pitch to our panel which will include lawyers from HCR. As well as experts in early stage and high growth businesses.

Key dates

15 September 2026	Applications open
27 November 2026	Applications close
15 December 2026	Finalists notified
10 & 11 February 2027	Pitching events
2 March 2027	Winners announced



Need more information?

If you have any questions about the application process, please email impact55@hcrlaw.com

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