

Call for Expressions of Interest – Review of NEF Consulting

Background

The New Economics Foundation (NEF) is a UK-based think tank and charity working to build a fairer, more sustainable economy. Alongside its research and advocacy, NEF previously operated a significant advisory and consultancy arm, NEF Consulting <https://www.nefconsulting.com/>, which delivered commissioned work for progressive businesses, public bodies, and civil society organisations, and generated income to support the charity's mission.

After the sad passing of the NEF Consulting Director, the size and scale of consultancy has reduced over the last 3 years. NEF is now seeking to determine what role—if any—a refreshed consultancy model should play in NEF's future.

We are therefore inviting expressions of interest from consultants or small teams to undertake a short strategic review and provide advice to NEF's management and Trustees.

Purpose of the Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is, after a brief review of the history and evolution of NEF Consulting, to:

- Assess the current external environment and demand for consultancy services aligned to NEF's areas of work and expertise among progressive businesses, public bodies, and nonprofits.
- Engage with relevant stakeholders to consider potential products and services for delivery and understand the opportunities and constraints of these.
- Provide clear, written advice to NEF's management on strategic options for the future of NEF Consulting, including whether and how it could be rebuilt as a profitable entity in today's market.

This is a strategic and diagnostic piece of work, not an implementation assignment.

Indicative Scope of Work

While we expect applicants to propose their own approach, the assignment is likely to include:

- Desk-based review of relevant NEF documents, past consultancy materials, and financial or operational information.
Interviews with key stakeholders (e.g. NEF leadership, selected staff, including those

involved in past consultancy work, selected former clients or partners).
Light-touch market and peer analysis (e.g. comparable mission-led consultancies or think tanks with advisory arms).
Development of a small number of clear strategic options, with an assessment of risks, opportunities, and organisational implications.
A written report with practical, decision-ready recommendations for NEF management.

Deliverables

A written report setting out findings, analysis, and recommendations, accompanied by a short summary or slide deck suitable for presentation to NEF's senior leadership and Trustees. The final report is expected by **1 September 2026**.

Budget and Timing

Budget: up to £15,000 (inclusive of fees and expenses).

Deadline for expressions of interest: 9am GMT Monday, 13 April 2026

Interviews: late April 2026.

Consultancy period: May-August 2026.

Who Should Apply

We are interested in hearing from individuals or teams with relevant experience, which may include:

- Strategy or organisational development consulting.
- Advisory work with mission-led organisations, charities, think tanks, or public-interest consultancies.
- Experience of building, scaling, or repositioning consultancy or advisory offers.
- Understanding of progressive economics, sustainability, social value, or public-purpose organisations.

What to Submit

Interested parties should submit:

1. A short outline (1–2 pages) describing their proposed approach to the assignment and how they would structure the work.
2. A CV or short profile outlining relevant experience (or equivalent for teams).

Submissions should be sent to NEFCEOI@neweconomics.org, with the subject line: 'NEF Consulting – Expression of Interest'.

Selection Process

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview in late April. NEF will assess submissions based on:

- Quality and clarity of the proposed approach.
- Relevance of experience.
- Understanding of NEF's mission and context.
- Value for money within the available budget.