

California Energy Commission Announces New Funding Opportunities for Clean Tech Projects: Energy Efficient Technologies and Energy Storage Systems

April 25, 2014

Over the last month, the California Energy Commission (CEC) announced the first in a series of 24 funding opportunities to support innovative energy technologies and solutions that will be released throughout 2014. Grants will be awarded through the CEC's Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program, and cover a wide variety of topics across renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean technology applications. The program has an annual funding of \$162 million.

Program Background. EPIC is an electricity ratepayer surcharge established by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in December 2011 to benefit the ratepayers of three investor-owned utilities (IOUs): Pacific Gas and Electric Co., San Diego Gas and Electric Co., and Southern California Edison. EPIC funds clean energy technology projects that promote greater electricity reliability, lower costs, and increased safety. In addition, EPIC projects are intended to lead technological advancement and breakthroughs to overcome the barriers that prevent achievement of the state's statutory energy goals.

Program Funding. Of EPIC's \$162 million annual allocation, 80 percent of the funds are administered by the CEC and 20 percent are administered by the three IOUs. Funds are divided into three categories: 1) applied research and development, 2) technology demonstration and deployment, and 3) market facilitation. Program areas and strategic objectives are developed by the CEC through stakeholder involvement on a three-year basis. Due to a series of legislative and programmatic delays, no funds were released in 2012 or 2013. As a result, EPIC currently retains all funds, totaling \$467 million, for the first three years of the program, which are to be made available in Program Opportunity Notices (PONs) throughout 2014.

Current Opportunities. Applications for grants of up to \$3 million are currently available for applied research and development in the following PONs:

[PON-13-301: "Developing a Portfolio of Advanced Efficiency Solutions: Technologies and Approaches for More Affordable and Comfortable Buildings"](#) was released March 31, 2014, and provides \$25 million to support innovative energy-efficient building technologies such as HVAC, lighting, building envelope, plug loads, weatherization, and occupant behavior. The opportunity is open to all applicants and no cost share is required. However, applicants who intend to spend funds in California and provide matching funds are preferred. Eight-page abstracts are due May 15, 2014, and full applications are due July 31, 2014.

[PON-13-302: "Advancing Grid-Level Energy Storage Innovation to Achieve Policy Goals, Lower Costs, and Spur Investment"](#) was released April 16, 2014, and provides \$6 million for the development of advanced energy storage technologies and systems, as well as computer models to analyze energy use cases and system optimization for the CPUC. Full applications are due July 1, 2014.

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In addition, CEC has provided a comprehensive list of the first two tranches of planned opportunities in 2014:

| Upcoming Funding Opportunities for Applied Research and Development Beginning March 2014 | Funding Amount |
|--|-----------------------|
| Developing Technology Improvements for a Flexible and Responsive Electricity Grid | \$5 million |
| Demonstrating Secure, Reliable Microgrids and Grid-linked Electric Vehicles to Build Resilient, Low-Carbon Facilities and Communities | \$26.5 million |
| Advancing Grid-Level Energy Storage Innovation to Achieve Policy Goals, Lower Costs, and Spur Investment | \$6 million |
| Developing a Portfolio of Advanced Efficiency Solutions: Technologies and Approaches for More Affordable and Comfortable Buildings | \$25 million |
| Advancing Cleaner, Less Costly, More Reliable Distributed Generation to Enable Customer Solutions and Zero-Net Energy Communities | \$19.5 million |
| Creating a Reliable and Predictable Renewable Energy Future: Advancing Utility-Scale Renewable Technologies | \$9.5 million |
| Human Power: Investing in the Future of California's Clean Energy Workforce | \$4.5 million |
| Building a Renewable Energy Future That Protects Human and Environmental Health | \$11 million |
| Demonstrating Bioenergy Solutions That Support California's Industries, the Environment, and the Grid | \$27 million |
| Bringing Solutions to Scale: Proving New Efficiency and Demand Response Technologies Work for California's Industrial, Water, and Agricultural Sectors | \$27.3 million |

| Upcoming Funding Opportunities for Applied Research and Development Beginning July 2014 | Funding Amount |
|--|-----------------------|
| Guiding Future Energy Needs, Plans, and Programs Through Commercial End-Use Surveys, Phase I | \$1 million |
| Developing Technology, Environmental, and Market Roadmaps and Analysis to Guide Our Progress | \$2 million |
| Driving the Integration of Electric Vehicles to Maximize Benefits to the Grid | \$4 million |
| Advancing Solutions That Allow Customers to Better Manage Their Energy Demand | \$21.4 million |
| Leveraging Innovation Clusters to Accelerate Deployment of Early-Stage Technologies | \$27 million |
| Developing the Smart Grid of 2020: Clean, Safe, and Highly Intelligent | \$8 million |
| Establish Strategies for Enhanced Local Regulatory Assistance and Permit Streamlining That Will Accelerate Deployment of Clean Energy Infrastructure | \$23.3 million |
| Reducing Costs for Communities and Businesses Through Integrated Demand-Side Management and Zero-Net Energy Demonstrations | \$28 million |
| Guiding Future Energy Needs, Plans, and Programs Through Commercial End-Use Surveys, Phase II | \$7 million |
| Developing a Portfolio of Advanced Efficiency Solutions: Technologies and Approaches for More Affordable and Comfortable Buildings, Phase II | \$18.3 million |

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Additional WSGR Insight and Outlook. EPIC is open to applications from all public and private entities; however, projects must spend a minimum of 60 percent of project funds in California IOU service territories, with higher scores for additional funds spent beyond the minimum. Additionally, the CEC specifically seeks to leverage federal funding with grants awarded through EPIC, as noted by the memorandum of understanding established with the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy to commercialize innovative energy technologies.

For more information on the program or how to begin the process of developing an application, please feel free to contact:

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