

DOE EERE Notice of Intent (NOI) No. DE-FOA-0001097

**Notice of Intent to Issue
Funding Opportunity Announcement “Alternative Fuel Vehicle Deployment Initiatives”
(DE-FOA-0000951)**

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Vehicle Technologies Office, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Alternative Fuel Vehicle Deployment Initiatives.”

The Vehicle Technologies Office supports a broad technology portfolio aimed at developing and deploying cutting-edge, advanced highway transportation technologies that reduce petroleum consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, while meeting or exceeding vehicle performance and cost expectations. Research, development, and deployment efforts are focused on reducing the cost and improving the performance of a mix of near- and long-term vehicle technologies including advanced batteries, power electronics and electric motors, lightweight and propulsion materials, advanced combustion engines, advanced fuels and lubricants, alternative fuels, and other enabling technologies.

For the past 20 years Clean Cities has supported the use of alternative fuel in transportation, including renewable biofuels and the deployment of energy efficient transportation technologies. The Clean Cities activities were authorized by the Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 1992, Section 505. This requirement aligns with EERE’s Strategic Plan that aims to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, increase the viability and deployment of renewable energy technologies, and increase energy efficiency.

The objective of this FOA is to create and implement high impact and highly innovative approaches to increase the acceptance and deployment of Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs).

It is anticipated that the FOA may include the following areas of interest:

1.) Alternative Fuel Vehicle Demonstration and Enhanced Driver Experience Projects

Consumers embrace alternative fuel vehicles once they are provided an opportunity to experience them first-hand in daily driving. The intent of this area of interest is to combine a targeted vehicle demonstration project with a driver/fleet education experience to allow participants to better understand the benefits that these vehicles/technologies can offer.

Applications under this area of interest will allow users to experience alternative fuel vehicles for an extended period of time (more than just a quick test-drive), gather vehicle use data, and

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. DOE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or DOE may not issue a FOA at all. EERE is not accepting applications for funding as a result of this notice.

analyze the benefits of using alternative fuel vehicles. Applications should clearly describe all elements of the enhanced driver experience and consumer awareness/education aspects of the project, and also identify any financial and non-financial incentives that will be offered (such as special rental or lease rates, special programs to facilitate access to EV charging and alt-fuel infrastructure, insurance, and other related services during the demonstration period), as well as any special programs that will be offered to stimulate actual vehicle purchases as a result of the demonstration project. Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following;

- Local ride-share and car-share programs.
- Rental Car programs that are partnered with large rental car companies or OEM dealerships that can make the long term demo vehicles available as part of national outreach and education campaign.
- Commercial truck/bus leasing programs that allow vehicles to be used in regular daily operations.
- Activities that include driver feedback devices, data gathering, and analysis during the demo period to document energy savings and other performance measures that will help customers understand vehicle benefits.
- Assessment of what kinds of incentives successfully motivate drivers/fleets to purchase alternative fuel vehicles (beyond simple price buydowns and rebates).

2.) Alternative Fuel Training for First Responders, Public Safety Officials, and Critical Service Providers

Applications under this area of interest will develop and/or deliver alternative fuel safety and technical training to emergency first responders, public safety officials, and critical service providers that have a broad impact across the alternative fuel user community. This includes training for technicians and service personnel that will be operating and maintaining AFVs, and the associated fueling/re-charging infrastructure and service facilities, as well as tow-truck operators and automotive salvage/recycling operators that are dealing with wrecked vehicles and equipment end-of-life processes. Existing training materials, curricula, websites, online tools, and other relevant information resources previously developed in cooperation with EERE or accepted by EERE are encouraged to be leveraged to the greatest extent possible.

Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following;

- Workshops and in-person fuel-specific safety and technical training.
- Service training and/or certification for service technicians, inspectors, and equipment operators.
- Curriculum development and resources for utilization at community colleges, technical schools, etc.
- Train-the-trainer courses.

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. DOE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or DOE may not issue a FOA at all. EERE is not accepting applications for funding as a result of this notice.

- Training on critical garage and/or maintenance facility modifications for code and safety compliance relative to alternative fuel use.
- Online training courses and curricula.

3.) Incorporating Alternative Fuels into Emergency Response and Preparedness Operations

In times of natural disasters and other major events that can interrupt supplies of petroleum for transportation, alternative fuels can serve as a valuable resource for disaster relief, and emergency response, along with restoration of utilities and public services. Emergency preparedness plans that incorporate the use of alternative fuels can serve to increase protection of the public and maintain critical operations.

Applications under this area of interest will include collaboration and participation with state and local governments to incorporate the use of alternative fuel vehicles, and alternative fuel infrastructure across multiple city, state, and regional emergency management and response entities into existing and future emergency preparedness plans.

EERE anticipates that many different projects will be proposed and encourages new and innovative approaches that are projected to have a high impact. The alternative fuel types to be addressed under this FOA are provided at;

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/epact/key_terms.html#alt_fuel.

EERE envisions awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately two years.

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the EERE's intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA on or about the April 2014 timeframe via the EERE Exchange website (<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>). If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this FOA, they should register in EERE Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE Exchange.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to register for any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. DOE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or DOE may not issue a FOA at all. EERE is not accepting applications for funding as a result of this notice.

Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov

- Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.
- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange.

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. DOE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or DOE may not issue a FOA at all. EERE is not accepting applications for funding as a result of this notice.