

## DOE Issues Funding Opportunity for Low Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Vehicle Technologies Research, Development, Demonstration and Deployment

### Key Highlights

- The Department of Energy has announced a funding opportunity for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in underserved communities. This includes rural, low-income and communities with minimal access to electric vehicles.
- NRECA is evaluating submitting an application on behalf of a team consisting of multiple interested parties or participating with other leads and cooperatives. Interested cooperatives are asked to contact [Brian.Sloboda@nreca.coop](mailto:Brian.Sloboda@nreca.coop) by **May 7, 2021**.

### What has changed?

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), on behalf of the Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO), is issuing a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled, "Low GHG Vehicle Technologies Research, Development, Demonstration and Deployment Funding Opportunity Announcement." The full funding announcement is available [online](#).

According to the FOA, the program "is seeking innovative solutions for on-road and off-road vehicles to develop and accelerate the charging infrastructure and drastically-reduced GHG emissions in support of Administration goals. In partnership with industry, VTO has established aggressive targets to focus research, demonstration and deployment on cost-reduction, efficiency, and emissions reduction that improve air quality and improved mobility. The FOA seeks projects across the following areas: electric vehicle community partner demonstration projects; electric vehicle workplace charging projects; RDD&D of technologies to reduce the cost of EV chargers, advanced engines and fuels that reduce emissions, including natural gas, propane, and dimethyl ether; and, innovative solutions for medium/heavy duty on- and off-road vehicles including electrification and high-power charging."

The FOA has specific requirements for projects to address EV charging infrastructure in rural and low-income areas.

NRECA is seeking co-op partners with electric transportation projects that would include one or more of the following:

- School or transit buses
- Commercial freight

- Vehicle-to-grid or vehicle-to-building
- Low income communities

## What is the impact on cooperatives?

Cooperatives may be interested in applying for funds under the FOA or partnering with other entities. The FOA seeks a community approach to charging infrastructure. Topic Area 1 is titled *Electric Vehicle Charging Community Partner Projects* and is an area of the FOA of interest to many cooperatives.

Projects under Topic Area 1 should have the following elements:

- Project approach must include both:
  1. Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEVs) and charging infrastructure in underserved communities (e.g., low-income, rural, and demographics that currently have minimal access to PEVs).
  2. Multi-family housing and curbside charging providing PEV charging opportunities for residents without access to dedicated off-street parking.
- Project approach may also include but not be limited to:
  1. Electrification of on-road and off-road vehicles at ports and airports and supporting infrastructure.
  2. Electrification of public and/or private transit and paratransit buses and supporting infrastructure.
  3. Multi-modal electrified transportation hubs.
  4. Electrification of ride hailing vehicles, taxis, car sharing and/or rental vehicles.
  5. Electric vehicle corridor development with DCFC.
  6. Electrification of freight vehicles and infrastructure.
  7. Charging co-located with retail, medical clinics, hospitals and/or other businesses or government entities (e.g., museums, DMVs) where PEV drivers may have extended dwell times.
  8. Destination charging and electric transportation services to recreation facilities and other attractions that attract a large number of visitors (e.g., parks, forests, wildlife refuges, historical sites).
  9. Outreach, education, and workforce training (e.g., driver, technician, first responder) efforts encouraging PEV adoption.

For the purposes of this FOA, a PEV or plug-in electric vehicle includes both a plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and all-electric vehicles.

## What do cooperatives need to know or do about it?

The Department of Energy has established a 50% cost share for Topic Area 1. That means that winning teams will have to cover at least 50% of the projects cost with their own funds.

Additionally, DOE plans on awarding 3 to 5 contracts under Topic Area 1. The anticipated minimum federal award will be \$4,000,000, with an anticipated maximum award of \$6,600,000.

Anticipated project length will be 36 to 39 months.

Proposal timeline:

Submission Deadline for Concept Papers:	05/13/2021 5:00pm ET
Anticipated Date of Concept Paper Notification	06/07/2021
Submission Deadline for Full Applications:	07/12/2021 5:00pm ET
Expected Date for EERE Selection Notifications:	October 2021
Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations:	October 2021 - December 2021

**Co-ops that have a program concept and/or would like to explore joining an NRECA-led effort are asked to contact:**

**[Brian Sloboda](#) by May 7, 2021.**

### **Additional Resources**

- [Viable Fuel Alternatives to Class 7/8 Diesel Trucks](#)
- [Charging Infrastructure for Electric Trucks](#)
- [Advisory: Electric Trucks - Do They Make Sense](#)
- [Market Potential for Commercial Electric Trucking](#)
- [Preparing to Plug in Your Fleet - 10 Things to Consider](#)
- [Preparing to Plug In Your Municipal Electric Transit Bus Fleet - 10 Things To Consider](#)
- [Electric Vehicle Service Equipment Load Control Case Studies](#)
- [Residential Electric Vehicle Service Equipment \(EVSE\) Program Design for Co-ops](#)

### **Contacts for Questions**

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