

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001236

**Notice of Intent to Issue
Funding Opportunity Announcement “Alternative Fuel and Advanced Vehicle
Procurement Aggregating Initiatives” No. DE-FOA-0001237**

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

The VTO 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 over 20 years, Clean Cities has supported the use of alternative fuel in transportation, including renewable biofuels and the deployment of energy efficient transportation technologies. Clean Cities activities were authorized by the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 1992, Section 505. This FOA 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.

Alternative fuel vehicles and other advanced vehicles are attractive for many reasons, such as fuel diversification for energy security, environmental benefits, and potential cost savings over the life of the vehicle. However, their higher initial costs compared to conventional vehicles is a deployment barrier. Higher alternative fuel vehicle and advanced vehicle prices can be attributed to not only manufacturers spreading costs over fewer vehicles, but also the complexities of marketing and supplying vehicles to meet diverse local requirements and fleet needs. If vehicle fleets or consumers could purchase vehicles in larger quantities, or participate in aggregate purchasing initiatives, manufacturers would be able to reduce per vehicle costs resulting in lower prices.

The objective of this FOA is to develop and implement effective purchasing/procurement processes designed to coordinate and consolidate bulk alternative fuel vehicle and advanced vehicle orders and reduce per-unit prices of commercially-available vehicles. It is anticipated that the aggregated purchasing/procurement process will enable original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and suppliers to increase production volumes, achieve economies of scale, and reduce incremental vehicle costs specific to electric drive, natural gas, propane, hybrid, and other alternative fuel vehicle and advanced vehicle technologies. Applications will address the following:

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- Management and administration of all aspects of the aggregated vehicle procurement/purchasing program being proposed
- Group purchasing initiatives or organizations such as a buyer's consortium, where potential members/users have a mutual interest to procure alternative fuel vehicles and advanced vehicles based on vocation, fleet type, geography, vehicle class, configuration, or classification to effectively leverage volume orders and coordinate and bundle procurement packages
- Projected vehicle orders as well as acquisition, delivery, and deployment timelines
- Projected volume price reduction when compared to current commercially-available singular alternative fuel vehicle and advanced vehicle prices
- Approaches and plans for coordination/consolidation of standardized vehicle specifications to streamline manufacturing and reduce unnecessary product variations
- Approaches and plans for coordination of order and delivery schedules that complement OEM manufacturing windows and end-user procurement cycles
- Criteria used to determine competitive or sole source approaches
- Innovative contracting, financing, and payment/escrow strategies for vehicle purchases
- Identification and recording of best practices and lessons learned

Project funds will not be used for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and advanced vehicles. The intent is for proposing teams to create processes and procedures that can be used by a wide variety of public and private fleets and individuals who wish to acquire alternative fuel vehicles and advanced vehicles.

Project teams are envisioned and may include vehicle OEMs and dealers, suppliers, fleet management and purchasing/procurement organizations, state and local agencies, utility companies, vehicle leasing companies, fuel providers, and trade groups engaged in AFV-related businesses.

EERE expects to make 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 in the February 2015 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:

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- 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 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 at <http://www.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. All applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange.

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