

**AGENCY:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

**TITLE:** "NON-CONSTRUCTION MARKET-BASED APPROACHES TO REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOMES AND BUILDINGS"

**ACTION:** Request for Proposals (RFP)

**RFP:** EPA-OAR-CPPD-10-12

**CFDA:** 66.034

**SUMMARY:** Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFP

**DATE:** October 7, 2010

### **Process and Legal Questions**

**Q1. Are applicants allowed to submit multiple proposals for this solicitation?**

**A1.** Yes, applicants are allowed to submit multiple proposals. Applicants are asked to inform the EPA on how many proposals your organization will submit at the time of intent to apply.

**Q2. Is "Non-Construction Market-Based Approaches to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emission through Energy Efficiency in Homes and Buildings the same announcement as Market-Based Approaches to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emission through Energy Efficiency in Homes and Buildings?"**

**A2.** Both announcements are fundamentally the same. The EPA cancelled RFP EPA-OAR-CPPD-10-11 due to language changes needed. RFP EPA-OAR-CPPD-10-12 is the updated version with the corrected language.

**Q3: How do I view the full announcement?**

**A3.** You can see the full announcement by going to [grants.gov](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html) and downloading the full announcement. You can also see the announcement on [http://www.epa.gov/air/grants\\_funding.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html)

**Q4. Have you solicited for proposals for this program in past years? How many proposals did you receive? How much funding did past recipients receive?**

**A4.** Yes, the number and award amounts for the 13 projects awarded so far are as follows:

No. of proposals received: 64

Past Awardees:

Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Mgmt. - \$321,300

Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance - \$150,000

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.- \$490,000  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute -\$1,198,586  
Natural Resources Defense Council- \$1,150,123  
New Buildings Institute- \$180,000  
Consortium for Energy Efficiency, Inc.- \$1,380,000  
Nat'l Assoc. of Reg. Utility Comms.- \$224,997  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance- \$180,000  
City of Berkeley- \$115,000  
Nat'l Assoc of Reg.Utility Comms.– \$299,934  
Nat'l Assoc. of State Energy Officials- \$300,000  
Association of State Energy Research and Tech Transfer Institute- \$90,000

**Q5. How do I submit an application?**

**A5.** As stated in the RFP in Section IV. Part B. Mode of Proposal Submission, applicants can submit an application electronically via grants.gov or by hardcopy.

**Q6. Must the Cost Allocation Plan already be approved or can it be submitted to a federal cognizant agency? Do we need a negotiated indirect cost rate?**

**A6.** Your federal cognizant agency would be the agency that has awarded you the most federal dollars. This is one way to create your indirect cost rate before being awarded. The term awarded also refers to being selected for funding from this RFP. It would be at the point of funding that an indirect cost rate would be needed. This RFP is not due to be funded until May or June of next year which would give time to create a rate if you started now. You only need a negotiated indirect cost rate if you are claiming indirect cost in your proposal.

**Q7. Where exactly will the answers to these questions be posted?**

**A7.** Questions will be posted on EPA's website at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/air/grants\\_funding.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html) , under the Office of Atmospheric Programs, under the heading "Non-Construction Market-Based Approaches to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Efficiency in Homes and Buildings, RFP# EPA-OAR-CPPD-10-12.

**Eligible Applicants Questions**

**Q1. Is my organization eligible for this program?**

**A1.** See Section III. A. Eligible Entities of the RFP for more information.

**Q2. Are foreign entities eligible?**

**A2.** Yes. In order to be eligible you must meet the definition of eligible entities as defined in Section III.A. of the RFP.

**Project Questions**

**Q1. In developing market-based approaches, does a proposal need to identify combined heat and power (CHP) applications only or will other energy efficiency processes and technologies be considered?**

**A1.** Proposals do not have to identify combined heat and power (CHP) applications, but they must address at least one of the objectives listed in Section I. Part B (Scope of Work) of the RFP. In order to be considered, proposals must also meet all of the Threshold Eligibility Criteria listed in Section III. Part C (Threshold Eligibility Criteria) of the RFP.

**Q2. Please clarify the significance of "non-construction" in the wording.**

**A2.** The EPA will not be awarding construction grants under this solicitation.

**Q3. What constitutes a "large cooperative" grant?**

**A3.** A cooperative agreement would include substantial EPA involvement as stated in Section II. Part E. Funding Type. For this RFP, the amount of funding an applicant applies for also determines whether a project is considered a cooperative agreement.

**Q4. Our type of organization does not have state approved indirect cost rates. If we do not include any indirect costs, is it acceptable not to include an approved rate?**

**A4.** If you are not seeking indirect cost recovery in your proposal, a rate is not needed.

**Q5. The RFP reflects that it is for non-construction costs. Is it possible to use the grant to acquire a component for data analysis/presentation, even though it might be used in the final product of a construction project?**

**A5.** EPA will not fund construction costs under this announcement. For fairness reasons, this restriction must stand for all materials/components that are acquired as part of the construction process. However, there might be other parts of your project that meet the scope of work interests identified in the RFP. Please review Section I. Part B of the RFP to determine if your project meets the one or more of the areas of interest for this solicitation; also review Section III. Part C to ensure that your project meets all of the threshold requirements.

**Q6. Can energy audits be funded under this grant?**

**A6.** Energy audits could be considered for funding if they are part of a project that demonstrates the potential to create a sustainable change in the market for energy efficient products, services, and best practices. Please review Section I. Part B of the RFP to help you further determine if your project meets the one or more of the areas of interest for this solicitation; also review Section III. Part C to ensure that your project meets all of the threshold requirements.

**Q7. In the RFP one of the possible objectives that the proposed activities could address is "Improving energy performance in the residential and commercial/government market through increased use of high-efficiency**

**products.” Can you please provide an elaboration on what you mean by “high-efficiency products?” Specifically, would this cover things such as insulation and air sealing (the “product” or sealing mechanism plus the associated correct installation), which are typically not considered “equipment” but which, when installed correctly, provide excellent energy efficiency benefits?**

**A7.** Section I. Part B of the RFP states, in part, that proposals must demonstrate the potential to create a sustainable change in the market for energy efficient products, services, and best practices, so the scope of work addresses more than efficient products alone. If your proposed project meets this criterion, please then review all the other requirements contained in Sections I. Part B and III. Part C of the RFP to ensure that your project is indeed eligible and meets all of the threshold requirements of the RFP.

**Q8. When the RFP states ‘Proposed activities must address, but are not limited to, one or more of the following objectives,’ would an acceptable (but not listed) objective be “Improving energy performance in the residential and commercial/government market through increased use of holistic whole building design and retrofit measures”?**

**A8.** We cannot advise on a specific concept, but please refer to the other requirements contained in Sections I. Part B and III. Part C of the RFP to guide you in developing your proposal objectives and help ensure that your project is indeed eligible and meets all of the threshold requirements of the RFP.

**Q9. Can these dollars fund electric vehicle charging stations at residences and commercial enterprises?**

**A9.** Electric vehicle charging stations would be an allowable activity, provided a GHG reduction can be calculated and assuming that the proposal is fully responsive to the RFP.

**Q10. Does renewable energy fit in the criteria for this RFP?**

**A10.** Renewable energy would be an allowable activity, provided a GHG reduction can be calculated and assuming that the proposal is fully responsive to the RFP.