

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



Request for Comments

The California Energy Commission is developing a competitive grant solicitation for electricity-related clean energy apprenticeship and journeyman training programs in California investor-owned utility (IOU) service territories. The solicitation is being developed pursuant to the California Energy Commission's 2012-2014 Triennial Investment Plan for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program, as modified and approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on November 14, 2013. The Energy Commission is seeking input from interested stakeholders on aspects of the grant solicitation.

The Energy Commission requests that stakeholders respond to the stakeholder questions on page 4 and provide any additional feedback concerning the development of the solicitation.

Written Comments

Comments should be submitted to Mike Leaoon by 5 p.m. on June 20, 2014. The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name and/or the name of the organization you represent. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft® Word (.doc) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf). Please include ***EPIC Draft Solicitation – Initiative S17.1 – Human Power: Investing in the Future of California's Clean Energy Workforce*** in the subject line. Send comments to the technical lead staff at **Mike.Leaoon@energy.ca.gov**. Please note that submitted comments, your name, and your organization's name will become public records.

If you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

Mike Leaoon
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-51
Re: S17.1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Mail Lists: [epic](#)

Background for EPIC Initiative S17.1 Solicitation, Human Power: Investing in the Future of California's Clean Energy Workforce

The California Energy Commission is developing a competitive grant solicitation for clean energy training programs in California investor-owned utility (IOU) service territories. The apprenticeships or journeyman training must be designed to help workers update their skill set to better match the opportunities created by emerging clean energy technologies. The solicitation is being developed pursuant to the Energy Commission's 2012-2014 Triennial Investment Plan for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program,¹ as modified and approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on November 14, 2013.

A well-trained clean energy workforce familiar with current and emerging clean energy technologies such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart grid will be instrumental in achieving benefits for California's IOU ratepayers. The solicitation will seek competitive proposals that align workforce development activities with clean energy job opportunities located in "disadvantaged communities", which include the following in accordance with Senate Bill 535 (De León, Statutes of 2012, Chapter 830):

1. Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation; and
2. Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment.

The solicitation will target specific sectors experiencing regional economic recovery and growth, recognizing that many skilled workers in the energy sector are nearing retirement age. The training funded through the solicitation must reflect input from clean energy employers, labor organizations, and training and education providers on how best to target and design education and training programs and materials, including curriculum, to meet business demands for skilled labor in support of California's clean energy policies. Proposed training programs must support workforce development for deploying clean energy services and technologies expected to experience growth in employment opportunities. In addition, applicants must utilize existing workforce programs and institutions to develop and implement their proposed training programs. Training and outreach funded through the solicitation must be located in the service territories of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), and Southern California Edison Company (SCE).

¹ The Electric Program Investment Charge: Proposed 2012-2014 Triennial Investment Plan: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2012publications/CEC-500-2012-082/CEC-500-2012-082-SF.pdf>

EPIC Program Background: The solicitation will be funded by the EPIC, a ratepayer surcharge authorized by the CPUC in 2011. In December 2011, the CPUC adopted Decision 11-12-035, as modified by Decision 13-01-016, authorizing the collection of the EPIC for the benefit of electricity ratepayers of PG&E, SDG&E, and SCE. In May 2012, the CPUC adopted Decision 12-05-037, as modified by Decision 13-04-030, establishing the purposes and governance for the EPIC Program and designating the Energy Commission as one of its administrators. On November 14, 2013, the CPUC adopted Decision 13-11-025, which modified and approved the Energy Commission's Proposed 2012-2014 EPIC Investment Plan. The plan sets the framework for providing investments in applied research and development, technology demonstration and deployment, and market facilitation of clean energy technologies and approaches. Additionally, Senate Bill 96 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Statutes of 2013, Chapter 356) provides that in administering the EPIC Program, the Energy Commission will fund research, development, and demonstration programs and projects that lead to technological advancement and breakthroughs to overcome barriers that prevent the achievement of the state's statutory energy goals, and result in advancements on the most significant technological challenges. For additional information on the EPIC Program, please see: www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/index.html.

Goal of Solicitation: The goal of the solicitation is to enhance existing training programs so that an adequate and trained workforce exists for the widespread deployment of emerging energy technologies and services needed to achieve energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart grid policy goals. The training must be located in disadvantaged communities (as defined by SB 535, using the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool – CalEnviroScreen – developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment),² and within the service territories of PG&E, SDG&E, and SCE.

Training programs, such as apprenticeship programs and journeyman upgrade programs, are career training opportunities that offer structured on-the-job training combined with technical instruction, which can be tailored to the needs of the electricity-related clean energy industry. These types of programs are being targeted because they offer employment during training, demonstrate a financial commitment from an employer, increase productivity, and will advance an employer's capability to compete. Furthermore, the development of a highly trained workforce supports deployment of technological breakthroughs to help achieve California's statutory clean energy goals, and strengthen its economy.

The Energy Commission's competitive grant solicitation will require each applicant to submit a proposal that describes how its proposed project will develop training programs through existing workforce programs and institutions for existing and future clean energy technologies.

² Please see <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html>.

The Energy Commission will evaluate and score grant proposals submitted by qualified applicants. The scoring and ranking of grant proposals will follow specific criteria that the Energy Commission will include in the grant solicitation.

Timeframe: The Energy Commission tentatively plans to release the grant solicitation in mid-2014 and to announce awards in late 2014. Awardees will have until March 2018, approximately three and one-half years, to complete the tasks outlined in their Scope of Work.

Stakeholder Questions and Comments for EPIC Initiative S17.1 Solicitation, Human Power: Investing in the Future of California's Clean Energy Workforce

The Energy Commission is soliciting input from stakeholders to help inform the development of a grant solicitation for EPIC Initiative S17.1, tentatively titled *Human Power: Investing in the Future of California's Clean Energy Workforce*. Please respond to the following questions, and provide any comments where indicated below.

- 1) What is the name of your organization?
- 2) Which of the following do you represent?
 - Employer
 - Training provider
 - Labor union
 - Other (please specify):
- 3) Which electricity-related emerging clean energy technology sectors – such as zero-net energy buildings, renewable energy, distributed generation, energy storage, bioenergy, and smart grid – need additional workforce training? Please explain.
- 4) Within each sector listed in your response to Question 3:
 - a. What skill levels are most needed? Be as specific as possible.
 - b. Which employers are likely to hire workers with these skills?
 - c. Do currently available apprenticeships, journeyman upgrade programs, or other programs address this need? If yes, which programs?
 - d. Is there a need for additional curriculum development?
- 5) Please specify which types of apprenticeship and/or journeyman programs would be the most inclusive of the following groups for training (as identified in SB 535): low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, and/or low levels of educational attainment.
- 6) Additional Comments: