

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC)

Request for Comments

The California Energy Commission is developing a competitive grant solicitation to advance innovative approaches and tools that can be used to improve planning and permitting for clean energy technologies and strategies in California investor-owned utility (IOU) service territories. The topics included in this solicitation will invest in overcoming regulatory and permitting challenges at the local level related to clean energy. Local governments play an important role in achieving California's short- and long-term energy and climate goals through technology adoption. The goal of the solicitation is to demonstrate and scale-up innovative approaches and tools that can be used to improve planning and permitting in IOU service territories for high-priority clean energy technologies and strategies, such as energy efficiency upgrades, localized renewable energy resources, and energy storage.

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 Marija Krapceвич by 5 p.m. on October 1, 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: Planning and Permitting*** in the subject line. Send comments to marija.krapceвич@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:

Marija Krapceвич
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-51
Re: Planning and Permitting
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Mail Lists: [epic](#)

Establish Strategies for Enhanced Local Regulatory Assistance and Permit Streamlining That Will Accelerate Deployment of Clean Energy

Solicitation Background: The California Energy Commission is developing a competitive grant solicitation to advance innovative approaches and tools that can be used to improve planning and permitting for clean energy technologies and strategies in California IOU service territories.

This solicitation will target the following strategic objectives:

- Conduct pilot demonstrations of localized energy resource markets.
- Provide planning grants to cities and counties to incorporate clean energy technology planning and permitting processes into local government land use planning.
- Conduct a local government needs assessment study that identifies regulatory gaps within local planning and zoning processes.
- Collaborate with local jurisdictions and industry stakeholders to create model ordinances for emerging clean energy technologies.
- Provide funding to assist in the implementation of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research general plan guidelines.
- Develop consensus based educational materials for local officials interested in facilitating clean energy market growth.

EPIC Program Background: EPIC is a ratepayer surcharge authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). In December 2011, the CPUC adopted Decisions 11-12-035, as modified by Decision 13-01-016, authorizing the collection of EPIC funds for the benefit of electricity ratepayers of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), and Southern California Edison (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.

Projects funded out of this solicitation must demonstrate benefits to IOU ratepayers by promoting greater grid reliability, lowering costs, and ensuring the safety of clean energy systems. In addition, projects may demonstrate complementary benefits listed in Attachment 4 of CPUC Decision 13-11-025, such as providing societal benefits, mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and fostering economic development. 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.

For additional information on the EPIC Program, please see:

www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/index.html.

Timeframe: The Energy Commission tentatively plans to release the grant solicitation late this calendar year and to announce awards in 2015.

¹ The Electric Program Investment Charge: Proposed 2012-2014 Triennial Investment Plan: http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/documents/final_documents_submitted_to_CPUC/2012-11-01_EPIC_Application_to_CPUC.pdf, Attachment 1.

Stakeholder Questions and Comments to Establish Strategies for Enhanced Local Regulatory Assistance and Permit Streamlining That Will Accelerate Deployment of Clean Energy

Please respond to the following questions and provide additional comments below.

1. What is the name of your organization? Please specify whether the organization is a local government, installer, developer, utility, planning/permitting service provider, or other entity.
2. Which of the following technologies or upgrades face significant permit challenges:
 - a. Energy efficiency.
 - b. Zero net energy buildings and communities.
 - c. Bioenergy.
 - d. Energy storage.
 - e. Electric vehicle charging equipment.
 - f. Microgrids.
3. What permitting needs are the top two priorities? What action would be most effective in addressing the top two priorities?
4. What successes have been achieved on these priorities that this solicitation should advance further?
5. What strategies have been employed to make high-performing energy efficiency upgrades and localized renewable energy resources more accessible to disadvantaged communities (as identified in SB 535, Statutes of 2012, Chapter 830, Health and Safety Code 39711) within IOU service territories?
6. Additional Comments: