

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Request for Comments on a Draft Solicitation to Fund Workforce Training for Advanced Energy Efficiency

California Energy Commission staff is developing a competitive program opportunity notice (PON) to fund workforce development through the EPIC Program. The Energy Commission staff tentatively plans to release the PON in the first half of 2015. The focus on the PON is planned for the following areas:

On-the-job training for constructing high performance attics and walls for new homes constructed in a manner consistent with proposals for the 2016 building energy efficiency standards. Proposals funded within this group will provide on-the-job training programs to construction superintendents and foremen on the proper installation of advanced energy efficiency measures and construction practices for new homes, specifically measures being proposed in the 2016 building standards. These standards will lead to further efficiency updates for the 2019 buildings standards, which will include measures intended to meet the policy goal for all new residential housing to be zero-net energy by 2020.¹ The training programs funded in this group should complement design assistance and training programs provided by other entities to architects and structural engineers designing high performance buildings. Training funded in this group is intended for those in the building and construction industries and will help ensure proper installation, recognizing new characteristics of the following advanced energy efficiency measures:

- High performance attics require technology-specific building practices different from standard attics to ensure advances in energy efficiency are achieved, while maintaining required levels of performance in roofing, indoor air quality, heating, ventilation, and cooling. For example, high performance vented attics include whole house fans, an efficient technology for cooling homes, but typically requires vents in the attic. High performance unvented attics require specialized techniques to avoid condensation and related health and roofing performance challenges.

¹ The CPUC Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan (2008) (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Energy+Efficiency/eesp/>) and the 2007 Integrated Energy Policy Report (http://www.energy.ca.gov/2007_energy_policy/) set goals of zero net energy for new residences by 2020 and new commercial buildings by 2030. The 2013 Integrated Energy Policy Report (http://www.energy.ca.gov/2013_energy_policy/) updates the definition of zero net energy buildings and discusses related issues and options.

- High performance walls also require specialized techniques, depending on the materials, framing design, and thickness of insulation. For example, exterior rigid insulation thicker than 1.25 inches may require a change in window and door specifications.

Workforce training for installing advanced energy efficiency measures in existing buildings (residential/commercial/multifamily) in disadvantaged communities as defined by Senate Bill 535 (2012).² Proposals submitted for this group must seek to advance the goals of Assembly Bill 758 (2009) by providing classroom and on-the-job training on the installation, maintenance, and operation of advanced energy efficiency technologies and measures in existing buildings, specifically in disadvantaged communities where electricity costs represent a higher percentage of living expenses. On-the-job training projects must be informed by the *Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program for Existing Buildings Scoping Report* (2012) and related work at the Energy Commission and the CPUC to implement AB 758.³ Proposals must be structured to:

- Provide trainees with income while they learn new skills to enhance career development.
- Provide training and funding for workers to install advanced energy efficiency measures, such as:
 - High performance lighting and controls.
 - Advanced building envelope sealing technologies, such as use of aerosol mists to seal building leaks.
 - Information systems to identify when energy-using equipment is operating sub-optimally.

The Energy Commission staff is seeking input from interested stakeholders on the attached sections of the draft PON (Attachment A). Specifically, staff seeks responses and comments on the following questions:

1. Please identify workforce training on these topics that is currently, previously, or imminently undertaken by electric IOUs, builders, research organizations, or other stakeholders.

² Senate Bill 535 (De Leon, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012) requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify disadvantaged communities for investment opportunities for at least 25 percent of proceeds from the sale of greenhouse gas emission allowances in California's cap-and trade program. The law requires at least 25 percent of the proceeds to benefit disadvantaged communities and at least 10 percent of the proceeds to be invested in projects located in disadvantaged communities. The communities must be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria, and may include, but are not limited to, either of the following:

(a) Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

(b) 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.

³ For more information on Assembly Bill 758 (Skinner, Chapter 470, Statutes of 2009) implementation at the Energy Commission, see <http://www.energy.ca.gov/ab758/>. For more information on energy efficiency programs at the CPUC, see <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Energy+Efficiency/>.

2. Please explain how the workforce training identified in the draft PON can best complement other workforce training on these topics.
3. Please provide suggestions to strengthen the ability of this PON to attract outstanding training projects to achieve the goals listed above or fill the gaps not provided by existing training opportunities.
4. Please provide input on match funding requirement.
5. Please provide input on the measurement and verification requirements and how best to assess benefits and sustainability of training activities.

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.⁴ 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.

The Energy Commission is committed to supporting the inclusion of a diverse group of participants in the EPIC program including women, minorities, and disabled veterans.

For additional information on the EPIC Program, please see:

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

Written Comments

Comments should be submitted to Pamela Doughman by 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2015. The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name and the name of the organization you represent. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft® Word (.doc) or

⁴ 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.

Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf). Please include the title of the ***EPIC Draft Solicitation: Workforce Development*** in the subject line. Send comments to:

pamela.doughman@energy.ca.gov

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

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Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489, toll free at (800) 822-6228.

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