



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUBMISSION DEADLINES.

Intent to Submit Proposal (required): **January 5, 2009** (midnight, EST)
Submission of Proposal: **February 2, 2009** (midnight, EST)

BACKGROUND. The Energy Center at Appalachian State University was established in 2001 to conduct energy research and applied program activities in a multi-disciplinary environment. The Center, working through faculty, staff and students, has programs in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy technology, biofuels, policy analysis, forecasting, and economic development. For more information, visit the center's website at <http://www.energy.appstate.edu>.

PROGRAM GOAL. The Energy Center is committed to research, development, policy analysis and demonstrations in all areas of energy, with a stated mission to facilitate the work of faculty and students engaged in teaching, research and outreach activities associated with energy technologies, conservation and policy. The Energy Center Grant Program advances the mission by providing funds to support innovative research, policy analysis, and development and demonstration activities. The aim is to establish a well-balanced portfolio of activities that includes basic and applied research, relevant policy analysis, and engagement activities that further the center's mission. The program encourages participation from all disciplines, and welcomes collaboration with entities on and off the Appalachian campus.

ELIGIBILITY. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a current full-time employee of Appalachian State University.

RESEARCH TEAM. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged as well as project teams that include researchers from other universities/institutions and partners in the public and private sectors.

FUNDING. Funding is provided by the North Carolina Department of Administration.

AWARDS. Depending on final appropriations, approximately \$1 million is available for awards over the two-year budget cycle. Individual awards typically range from \$10,000 to \$100,000, though all proposals will be considered. No facilities and administrative (overhead) costs will be charged to these grants.

Awards will maintain current programs of work in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, biofuels, policy analysis, and economic development, but seek to expand and develop new programs of work in these and other areas.

FUNDING LIMITATIONS. Funds may be used for supplies, equipment, salaries, technical support, graduate students, hourly help and post-doctorial positions. All Appalachian State University financial rules and regulations apply. Funds may not be used for any of the following purposes:

- To replace current funding;
- Major remodeling, renovation or construction;
- Recruitment start-up packages;
- Supplies for general purposes, such as desk or laptop computers, printers, software and related accessories; and general office supplies not exclusive to the project; and
- Curriculum development.

PROJECT DURATION AND REPORTING. Projects may be proposed with one- to two-year time frames. One-year projects may commence at the start of year 1 or year 2. Initial funding in year 1 is available July 1, 2009, and in year 2 is available July 1, 2010. Second-year funding of 2-year projects is provisional and will be contingent on adequate project and financial performance as documented in the required progress reports. Progress reports are due periodically and a final report will be required at the conclusion of the project.

SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING. Special consideration is given to those projects that will use this funding opportunity to develop the capacity for future energy-related activities and/or improve the chances of external funding. Principal Investigators should indicate how an award will facilitate one or both of these outcomes.

SELECTION CRITERIA. Scientific merit, project impact and probability of success in achieving proposal objectives will be the main selection criteria. Proposals should also clearly indicate how they address one or more of the following criteria:

- develop new technologies, processes and system improvements that contribute to renewable energy supply, energy efficiency improvements and energy conservation;
- provide relevant information and policy analyses that assist leaders in public and private sectors in solving problems facing North Carolina;
- increase competitiveness for external grant funding at the Energy Center and Appalachian;
- elevate the quality and visibility of energy-related research at Appalachian State University;
- establish collaborations with other universities, research organizations, public agencies, and the private sector;
- contribute to economic development in North Carolina; or
- meet an energy need identified by either the State Energy Plan for North Carolina, the NC Public Utilities Commission, NC General Statutes, Gubernatorial Directive, UNC General Administration, or other legitimate public policy vehicle.

REVIEW PROCESS. Proposals will be evaluated by an Energy Center Grant Program Advisory Committee based on scientific merit, probability of success, and relevance to the stated missions and goals. Final awards will require the approval of the Director of the Energy Center, Dean of Graduate School, and the Provost.

INTENT TO SUBMIT (required). To be eligible to compete, the Principal Investigator (PI) must send a letter of intention to submit a proposal by January 5, 2009.

The letter of intent should provide a *brief* overview (less than 500 words) of the project's team, goals, methods, and anticipated impacts. PIs that intend to submit multiple proposals should send a separate letter of intent for each project. The PIs that submit a letter of intent will receive a proposal form.

Send the letter of intent by January 5, 2009 to:

Energy Center Grant Program
Appalachian Energy Center
Appalachian State University
PO Box 32131
Boone, North Carolina 28608-2131

You may send an electronic version of the letter as an email attachment to: cherrytl@appstate.edu. Please include "Energy Center LOI" in the subject line.

PROPOSAL. Proposals must be submitted by the PIs who sent a letter of intent. The deadline to submit a proposal is midnight EST February 2, 2009.

REVIEW. Proposals that do not adhere to the instructions will not be reviewed.

INFORMATION. If you have questions about this Request for Proposal (RFP), contact Todd Cherry at cherrytl@appstate.edu or 828.262.6081.