REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
for
WOOD-FIRED HEATING PROJECTS

September 2, 2011

Dear Community Leader:

The Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group (AWEDTG)* is seeking a Statement of Interest from parties that would like to explore the feasibility of community heating projects of individual facility, community, and/or district heating projects with high-efficiency, low-emission, wood-fired systems.

At this time, the Task Group is accepting Statements of Interest for projects that displace fossil fuels through direct combustion of wood (logs, chunks, chips, bark, sawdust, pellets etc.) for heating applications in schools, other public facilities/buildings, and buildings owned and operated by not-for-profit organizations. The Task Group will evaluate the applications and recommend projects to be considered for further study. If your project is selected, the Task Group will hire a consultant to visit your community to write an Assessment Report. This Report will be provided to the community to be included in their future requests for funds. Applicants may be contacted directly and asked to provide additional project information prior to final selection.

The goal of this request is to identify cost-effective heating projects that will displace fossil fuels with wood and/or wood residues. The information from the Statements of Interest will be used by the AWEDTG to rank projects and determine which ones may receive further consideration, either by the Alaska Energy Authority or other granting agency. AWEDTG reserves the right to limit the maximum value of any single feasibility assessment.

The Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group consists of a coalition of federal and state agencies and not-for-profit organizations that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore opportunities to increase the utilization of wood for energy and biofuels production in Alaska. These organizations include: the Alaska Energy Authority; Alaska Village Initiatives; Denali Commission; Juneau Economic Development Council; National Renewable Energy Laboratory; State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry; USDA Farm Service Agency, Alaska; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alaska; USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station; USDA Rural Development, Alaska; USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska; USDI Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office; USDOC, Economic Development Administration, Alaska; The Nature Conservancy; Tanana Chiefs Conference; Southeast Conference; University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service; and USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region.

Eligible parties are defined as local governments (either municipal or tribal), State of Alaska agencies, federal agencies including U.S military installations, public housing authorities, boroughs and other governmental subdivisions, not-for-profit organizations, and certificated electrical utilities. In this round of pre-feasibility studies ANCSA Corporations and other corporations will also be eligible if they can demonstrate a public benefit.

To see previous assessments please visit the AEA web page. Additionally, three pre-feasibility assessment reports for Tok, Kake and Sitka are on JEDC's website at http://www.jedc.org/wood.shtml

It is preferred that interested parties submit their application electronically, although paper copies will be accepted. Electronic copies of the form can be downloaded from the Alaska Energy Authority web site at http://www.aidea.org/aea . Electronic applications can be e-mailed to Karen Petersen at khpetersen@alaska.edu. Paper applications should be sent to:

Karen Petersen
University of Alaska
Cooperative Extension Service
P.O. Box 19190
Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Statements of Interest must be received by close of business on

Friday November 4th, 2011

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Petersen at (907) 828-3339.

Other Wood Energy Funding Opportunities:

Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) / Denali Commission
Program Name/Focus: Renewable Energy Grants
Contact/Website: http://www.aidea.org/aea
*Application Deadline: August 26, 2011

USDA Rural Development
Program Name and Focus: Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program (Section 9006). Provides loan guarantees and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems (including biomass) and make energy efficiency improvements.
Contact: Renee Johnson, Director of Business Programs, 907-761-7722