Emerging Energy Technology Fund

The Emerging Energy Technology Fund (EETF) is administered by the Alaska Energy Authority and created by the Alaska State Legislature in 2010 to promote the expansion of energy sources available to Alaskans.

Projects can either: test emerging energy technologies or methods of conserving energy; improve an existing technology; or deploy an existing technology that has not previously been demonstrated in the state. EETF grants must be for demonstration projects of technologies that have a reasonable expectation of becoming commercially viable within five years. Energy technology can include technologies related to renewable sources of energy, conservation of energy, enabling technologies, efficient and effective use of hydrocarbons and integrated systems.

Current Status:
Eighteen demonstration projects have been launched through two competitive rounds of funding, held in 2012 and 2013. They will demonstrate a broad range of technologies including battery and flywheel energy storage, river hydrokinetic devices, new heat pump systems, efficient diesel generation, and novel wind turbines. Projects funded under the program will record performance data throughout the demonstration period for independent review. A third solicitation for applications was published in September of 2016.

The EETF program uses a two-step review process: four-page abstracts are submitted by applicants in response to a funding announcement and are reviewed by AEA and the EETF Advisory Committee. A selected group of applicants is then invited to submit more detailed proposals from which funding selections are made.

Program Progress:

A combination of Alaska legislative appropriations and contributions from the Denali Commission led to a total of $8.9 million available for the first EETF round. The 71 abstract proposals submitted in response varied across a wide range of technological fields and scientific disciplines. Roughly half of the applicants were invited to submit full proposals and of these 16 projects were selected for funding. The awards totaled nearly $8.9 million in grant funds and brought a commitment of $3.1 million in matching funds for projects ranging from improved diesel efficiency to energy storage to river hydrokinetics. Work on the projects has begun and the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) has been contracted to assist with data collection and verification on behalf of AEA. Of the 16 projects, one has been cancelled prior to grant execution.

Awards for five projects under Round 2 of the EETF program were announced in March 2014 totaling $2.4 million in grants and leveraging $1.7 million in committed match. Round 2 projects include energy storage and heat pump demonstrations. Of the five Round 2 projects, one has been cancelled prior to grant execution. AEA successfully applied for DOE funding in the amount of $250,000 to support future EETF projects. The RFA for Round 3 of the EETF has been published and abstracts are due on October 10th with final project awards expected in January 2017.

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