

**AGENCY:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

**TITLE:** ACTIVITIES THAT ADVANCE METHANE RECOVERY AND USE  
AS A CLEAN ENERGY SOURCE

**ACTION:** Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP)

**RFP NO:** EPA-OAR-CCD-06-08

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO:** 66.034

**SUMMARY:** Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFIP

**DATE:** November 1, 2006

### **Eligibility of Applicants**

***Q1: Are private companies eligible to receive this grant?***

**A1:** No. Proposals will be accepted from States, local governments, territories, Indian Tribes, possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories and other public or private non-profit institutions. Proposals submitted by for-profit companies will not be considered.

***Q2: Are multilateral organizations eligible for this grant?***

**A2:** Yes. As an international organization, multilateral organizations are eligible and are encouraged to submit proposals.

***Q3: Are international governments eligible for this grant?***

**A3:** Yes. Non-U.S. government entities are eligible and are encouraged to submit proposals. Government entities at the national regional, local and municipal levels are all eligible.

***Q4: Are companies that are wholly state-owned and run entities eligible to receive funding under this grant?***

**A4:** It depends. If the companies are non-profit, then they would be eligible to receive funding. However, there are many that are for-profit even though they are wholly state-owned. Those companies, because they are for-profit, are ineligible to receive funds under this grant.

**Q5:** *Will oil and gas companies owned by an international government be eligible to apply?*

**A5:** No. Proposals will not be accepted from oil and gas companies that are for-profit, even if they are part of an international government.

### Eligibility of Proposals

**Q6:** *Are activities or projects completed in the U.S. eligible for this grant?*

**A6:** No. This opportunity is specifically for activities and projects that support methane capture and use projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition (EITs). Please note, however, that U.S. entities undertaking activities to support methane projects in developing countries and EITs are eligible. *Projects and activities focused on promoting methane projects within the U.S. are not within the scope of this RFIP and will not be considered.*

Although this RFIP does not focus on domestic methane projects, EPA has very active voluntary programs to promote methane capture and use projects within the U.S. in each of the four methane sectors. For more information on these programs please visit the sites indicated below.

<i>Sector</i>	<i>US EPA Program</i>	<i>Website</i>
Animal Waste Management	AgSTAR Program	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/agstar/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/agstar/index.html</a>
Oil and Gas	Natural GasSTAR	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/gasstar/index.htm">http://www.epa.gov/gasstar/index.htm</a>
Coal Mines	Coal Mine Methane Outreach Program	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/cmop/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/cmop/index.html</a>
Landfills	Landfill Methane Outreach Program	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/lmop/index.htm">http://www.epa.gov/lmop/index.htm</a>

**Q7:** *Are projects to promote methane capture and use projects from sources other than the four identified in the RFIP eligible for funding? For example would a project or activity that promoted methane capture and use from waste water be eligible for funding?*

**A7:** No. Projects or activities that promote methane capture and use from sources other than those identified in the RFIP (animal waste management, coal mines, landfills, and oil and gas systems) are not eligible for funding. Projects or activities that promote methane capture and use from waste water are outside the scope of this RFIP and will not be considered.

## Process and Selection

**Q8:** *How many grants will be awarded and how much money is available under this RFIP?*

**A8:** EPA anticipates up to approximately 20 awards ranging in value from approximately \$25,000 to \$300,000, subject to the availability of funds and quality of evaluated proposals.

**Q9:** *What is the largest project budget that will be considered under this RFIP?*

**A9:** The awarded grants will range from \$25,000 to \$300,000 and will have a project period of one to three years.

**Q10:** *Can I submit more than one proposal?*

**A10:** Yes. Entities may submit as many project proposals as they want. These proposals will be reviewed separately and based on their own merit though, not as a part of a group of proposals.

**Q11:** *How will the proposals be reviewed and selected?*

**A11:** EPA will evaluate all eligible proposals using the criteria listed in the RFIP and each proposal will be given a numerical score, with a total of 100 points possible. The criteria and possible number of points associated with each criterion are:

<b>REVIEW CRITERIA</b>	<b>MAXIMUM POINT SCORE</b>
Project Summary/Approach	40
Environmental Results—Outcomes and Outputs	25
Past Performance— Programmatic Capability and Reporting on Environmental Results	25
Budget/Resources	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

The proposals will be rank ordered according to their numerical score, and preliminary funding recommendations will be developed based on this ranking. The Approving Official will make final funding decisions.

**Q12:** *Are matching funds required as a part of the proposal?*

**A12:** No. There is no statutory or regulatory match requirement under this RFIP. All projects, regardless of whether matching funds or in-kind resources are included, will be reviewed and evaluated. However, *cost effectiveness* will be evaluated under the Project Summary/Approach criterion, as set forth in Section V of the RFIP.

***Q13: What is the deadline for submitting a proposal?***

**A13:** An Amendment will be issued to extend the closing time and date for receipt of proposals under this announcement to **January 3, 2007, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time**. The Amendment will be posted on this website. Proposals received after this time and date will not be considered.

***Q14: How competitive was the process last year?***

**A14:** This is the first year for the grant solicitation process so we do not have historical information regarding the competitiveness of this proposal.

### **General Information**

***Q15: Will there be other project funding opportunities under the Methane to Markets Partnership?***

**A15:** Any future project funding opportunities that arise under the Methane to Markets Partnership will be listed on the Partnership website at:  
<http://methanetomarkets.org/resources/general/index.htm>

***Q16: How can I learn more about the Methane to Markets Partnership and future project funding opportunities?***

**A16:** Up-to-date information about the Methane to Markets Partnership is available at [www.methanetomarkets.org](http://www.methanetomarkets.org) . If you would like to receive email updates on funding opportunities related to methane capture and use projects and other more information about the Partnership please join the Methane to Markets Partnership Network on-line at: <http://methanetomarkets.org/partners/network/joinNetwork.aspx>