

Call for Proposals

Renewable Energy Training Resources – Survey and Assessment

The CEC has been sharing information and collecting data on renewable energy since the 2002 Article 13 report *Environmental Challenges and Opportunities of the Evolving North American Electricity Market*. Since that time, the CEC has helped enhance the development of the North American renewable market through a number of activities, including: work on definitions of renewable energy, papers on market, policy, and financial mechanisms, tracking, and definitions across North America, development a web-based collection of “how-to” guides, among others, as well as promoting further exchanges through workshops and stakeholder meetings and consultations.

However, the effective expansion of renewable energy in North America also requires a parallel growth in the availability of trained specialists to properly install and maintain the systems, an area of concern for North America. In 2007, the CEC’s REEC (Renewable Energy Expert Committee) highlighted the need for a collaborative mechanism to support renewable energy education and training in the three countries. Consequently, the CEC was given the mandate, in its 2008 Operational Plan, to identify education and training resources available in the three countries with the ultimate view to encouraging networking.

This call for proposals is aimed at developing a survey and a needs assessment of the training initiatives in the three countries focusing exclusively on the following technologies:

- Solar Photovoltaic
- Solar Water heating
- Wind power

The background paper should also focus on how the existing training efforts can promote tri-national cooperation.

The paper should be guided by the following questions:

1. What are the existing education and training resources offered in Mexico, the US and Canada, for the three technologies (Solar Photovoltaic, Solar Water heating and Wind Power)? The survey should allow the development of a directory of all training and education initiatives with standard information related to them and should provide information on the range and the value of the programs. It should also identify possible areas for collaboration.
2. What are the current difficulties and challenges for the effective expansion of installation and maintenance support through existing training and educational programs offered? What are the opportunities for improvement? What might be the role of a tri-national collaborative mechanism?

3. What are the potential financial mechanisms (e.g. private sector, governments, philanthropic foundations, international organizations) to facilitate training opportunities on renewable energy for students and experts from the three countries?
4. What are the types of recognition these programs offer (accreditation, certification, etc.) for these technologies: Solar Photovoltaic, Solar Water heating and wind power?

The CEC is looking for Proposals that address the above questions for each of the sectors of focus. Aggregated proposals looking at more than one sector are also welcome provided the research team holds significant expertise on the selected sectors. We will favor submitters that partner with contractors across the three NAFTA countries to ensure equal coverage of the three countries. The submitter will be in charge of creating an outline for the project, ensuring the data obtained from the three countries is reported in the same format and compiling the final document. The expected range of submission is between CND\$20,000 and CND\$25,000.

The submitter must submit the name of the lead author and of people that will be working on the project as well as their CV's and a short note justifying their pertinent experience.

The proposal should include three sections:

Section I: Technical proposal (not to exceed 5 pages)

Section II: Financial Proposal

Section III: Justification and CVs

The Report will have to be submitted **December 31, 2008** at the latest.

Submissions are to be sent to J. Carlos Fernandez, at jcfernandez@cec.org and cc to emcarrillo@cec.org before **September 30, 2008**.

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is an international organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) to address regional environmental concerns, help prevent potential trade and environmental conflicts and promote the effective enforcement of environmental law. Its mission includes facilitating cooperation and public participation to foster conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment for the benefit of present and future generations, in the context of increasing economic, trade and social links among Canada, Mexico and the United States. Within its current strategic plan, Trade and Environment is one of its focus themes aimed at promoting policies and actions that provide mutual benefits for the environment, trade and the economy.