



**INSTITUTE FOR
TRANSPORTATION
DECARBONIZATION**

Call for Research Proposals

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy Development

March 2023

ISSUED BY

Institute for Transportation Decarbonization

REPRESENTATIVE

Kelly Fleming, Ph.D.

kelly@decarbonizetransportation.org

Introduction

The [Institute for Transportation Decarbonization \(ITD\)](#) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for research to support and inform decision-makers in the federal government on policy development to accelerate the production and adoption of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The deadline for submission is April 21, 2023. Prospective Principal Investigators are encouraged to send an email of intent by March 31, 2023.

Goals of this Request

ITD's mission is to develop a pathway to 100% transportation emissions reduction by 2050 in the United States and recognizes that this is not possible without the scale up of production of clean fuels, particularly for aviation and marine transport.¹ ITD will issue grants to researchers working on the scale-up and deployment of SAF in areas that are crucial for decision-makers in the federal government. These grants are intended to fund the Principal Investigator (PI) and supporting staff's time to develop targeted materials for federal agencies, Congressional staff, and Administration officials. Successful project proposals will target research areas of the SAF Grand Challenge that have been prioritized² and will have a strong focus on policy solutions across the following areas:

1. Achieving the goals of the SAF Grand Challenge;
2. Prioritizing emissions reductions, especially in disadvantaged and overburdened communities;
3. Scaling-up the production of low-carbon SAF for commercial use;
4. Accelerating the deployment of SAF through demand-side incentives.

ITD seeks to issue 1-2 awards to compelling submissions with individual awards of up to \$15,000 to be spent over a three-month period.

¹ Fleming, Kelly L., "Pathway to Net Zero Transportation in the United States: An Exploration of Technologies and Policies," Institute for Transportation Decarbonization, accessed February 22, 2023, <https://www.decarbonizetransportation.org/publications/pathway-to-net-zero/>.

² Department of Energy, "Sustainable Aviation Fuel Grand Challenge," Energy.gov, accessed September 9, 2022, <https://www.energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/sustainable-aviation-fuel-grand-challenge>.

Submission Guidelines & Eligibility Requirements

Grants are open to any and all professional researchers working in non-profit organizations, universities, or national laboratories. The following submission guidelines & requirements apply to this Call for Proposal:

1. Proposals should include a short abstract or executive summary (maximum 500 words)
2. Project description should include:
 - a. A description of the research and its stage of completion. If not completed, a specific timeline should be given with completed research before the end of the ITD grant timeframe (September 2023).
 - b. An explanation of how the research outcome will help inform decision-makers at the federal level.
 - c. Give specific examples of how this research will help further the goals of the SAF Grand Challenge and how it could benefit environmental justice goals.
 - d. Propose a policy engagement strategy, including public, executive branch and congressional engagement.
3. Anticipated budget for travel, salary for relevant staff to spend up to 25% of time on policy engagement for the duration of the grant, and other associated costs.
 - a. Indirect costs: All applicants must submit a line-item program budget with their application for funding. Such budget shall limit indirect costs to up to 25% of the project budget, or include a narrative justification for indirect costs in excess of 25%. Applicants are advised that the percentage of indirect costs shall be a criteria of selection, and prioritization shall be given to applicants who maximize program spending and limit indirect costs in accomplishing their project. For the purposes of this section, indirect costs are defined as costs for activities or services that support the organization as a whole, and are not directly associated with the delivery of program services. Examples of such costs include finance and accounting support, human resources, bank fees, board meetings, and fundraising.
4. List of staff and relevant background information (similar to NSF biosketches).

CFP & Project Timelines

The Request for Proposal timeline is as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Call for Proposal Issuance | 03/16/2023 |
| Submissions due | 04/21/2023 |
| Award Notifications | 05/05/2023 |
| Contract Start | 05/19/2023 |

The need-date for project completion is September 2023. Applicants may propose a date earlier or later, and will be evaluated accordingly.

Award Amount

The Institute for Transportation Decarbonization budget for the project is \$20,000 including associated costs. Please refer to ITD’s indirect cost policy above for maximum allotted budget to overhead and other indirect costs.

Evaluation Factors

ITD will rate proposals based on the following:

1. Responsiveness to the goals set forth in this Call for Proposal: What policy question can the applicant’s research help inform?
2. Relevant past performance/experience: Has prior research resulted in policy actions or led to industry-wide change?
3. Applicable research areas to SAF production policy: Does the applicant have prior experience specific to sustainable aviation fuel or similar clean fuel applications?
4. Technical expertise/experience of PI and relevant staff: Does the research team have expertise in chemistry, engineering, environmental science, biological science, or other relevant technical areas?



To Submit

To submit application materials please send a single pdf that meets all of the requirements listed above to grants@decarbonizetransportation.org before the deadline of April 21, 2023.

Identifying information will be removed before the reading committee reviews applications.