



**INSTITUTE FOR
TRANSPORTATION
DECARBONIZATION**

Call for Research Proposals

Drop-in Fuels for Legacy Fleet Vehicles

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ISSUED BY

Institute for Transportation Decarbonization

REPRESENTATIVE

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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 understand the role of clean fuels in decarbonizing legacy on-road vehicles and move to a zero-carbon transportation sector. **The deadline for submission has been extended to December 22, 2023. Prospective Principal Investigators are strongly encouraged to send an email of intent to grants@decarbonizetransportation.org before the application deadline.**

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 in order to meet that goal, significant progress must be made to address the internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs) that are currently on the road and will continue to be driven for decades to come.¹ ITD will issue grants to researchers working on understanding the impacts of available drop-in fuels on emissions, public health, the domestic economy, and decarbonization. Clean drop in fuels include any fuel that can be used in an existing engine that does not need to be significantly retrofitted to run, including blending fuels with gasoline, and that reduces carbon and criteria emissions. This funding will go towards a policy engagement strategy for existing research, rather than new research. 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 including reports, briefs, and presentations. Successful project proposals will target research areas that have been noted as areas of priority and will have a strong focus on policy solutions across the following areas:

1. Prioritization of improving public health, particularly in communities that are disproportionately impacted by transportation emissions;
2. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the legacy ICEV fleet while the transition to EVs continues, including sustainable agriculture, carbon capture, and the role of e-fuels;
3. Scale-up of the deployment of drop-in fuels through reduced cost barriers, production, and distribution;
4. Understanding priority uses of drop-in fuels to maximize public health and economic benefits.

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/>.

ITD seeks to issue 1-2 awards to compelling submissions with individual awards of up to \$20,000 to be spent over a three-month period.

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 (tentatively April 2024).
 - 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 United States to reduce transportation emissions and achieve net zero in the sector by 2050.
 - 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 a 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.

CFP & Project Timelines

The Request for Proposal timeline is as follows:

Call for Proposal Issuance	10/06/2023
Submissions due	11/30/2023
Award Notifications	12/8/2023
Contract Start	12/20/2023

The need-date for project completion is December 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 up to \$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 clean fuel policy: Does the applicant have prior experience specific to drop-in fuels for on-road vehicles or similar applications?
4. Technical expertise/experience of PI and relevant staff: Does the research team have expertise in clean fuels, biofuels, synthetic fuels, combustion, 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 December 22, 2023 deadline. Identifying information will be removed before the reading committee reviews applications.