

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Request for Information Natural Gas Vehicle Incentive Funding Opportunities August 31, 2017

Purpose of Request:

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to solicit input for natural gas vehicle incentive activities for potential funding through the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP).

Background:

The ARFVTP was created by Assembly Bill 118 (Núñez, 750, Statutes of 2007), which authorized the California Energy Commission “to develop and deploy technology and alternative and renewable fuels in the marketplace, without adopting any one preferred fuel or technology.” The ARFVTP has an annual budget of approximately \$100 million for projects that:

- Reduce California’s use and dependence on petroleum transportation fuels and increase the use of alternative and renewable fuels and advanced vehicle technologies.
- Produce sustainable alternative and renewable low-carbon fuels in California.
- Expand alternative fueling infrastructure and fueling stations.
- Improve the efficiency, performance, and market viability of alternative light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicle technologies.
- Retrofit medium- and heavy-duty on-road and non-road vehicle fleets to alternative technologies or fuel use.
- Expand the alternative fueling infrastructure available to existing fleets, public transit, and transportation corridors.
- Establish workforce training programs and conduct public outreach on the benefits of alternative transportation fuels and vehicle technologies.

Over the past 10 years, ARFVTP funding has been utilized for natural gas vehicle purchase incentives through numerous mechanisms. These have included direct grant awards for large-scale deployments, pilot deployments of low NOx natural gas engines, as well as purchase incentives provided through auto manufacturers, vehicle dealerships, and directly to vehicle purchasers.

ARFVTP natural gas vehicle incentive funding is currently provided, in partnership with the University of California Irvine Campus, through the Natural Gas Vehicle Incentive Project (NGVIP). More information on the NGVIP is available at:

<https://ngvip.its.uci.edu/>.

Requested Information:

The Energy Commission is accepting public comments under this RFI to guide future natural gas vehicle incentive funding activities and accelerate the deployment of natural gas engines meeting the California Air Resources Board's optional reduced NOx emission standards for on-road heavy-duty engines.

This RFI seeks feedback and comments for questions such as the following:

- What are the highest need areas for this funding?
 - Specific regions?
 - Specific vehicle types or vocations?
- Are the current per vehicle incentive levels appropriate?
- Are there specific mechanisms that may help accelerate the deployment of natural gas vehicles?
- Are there innovative concepts that will promote natural gas vehicle adoption, outside of vehicle purchase incentives, that the ARFVTP should consider implementing in the future?
- How can the administrative burden associated with applying for funds be mitigated?
- Any other comments?

All comments should contain clear and substantiated reasoning for why changes are appropriate and may include the following:

1. A discussion of the benefits which may be realized from support and development of the funding mechanism.
2. A discussion on why ARFVTP funding is necessary for the funding area.

No confidential information may be submitted in response to this RFI. A description of project types for which the Energy Commission may provide funding can be found at: <http://energy.ca.gov/altfuels/> .

Respondents to this Request for Information should not include any proprietary, sensitive, or confidential information. This Request for Information will not consider the merits of individual projects or any requests for funding.

How to Comment:

Comments may be submitted through September 15, 2017. Comments must be emailed to AB118@energy.ca.gov and the subject line must begin with "RFI NGV Funding Opportunities".