Questions and Answers

Food Production Investment Program (FPIP)

GFO-22-303

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Applicants are encouraged to also reference the previous GFO-20-307 Q&As provided for additional guidance. Applicants can find the previous Q&As at:

https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/GFO-20-307\_Questions\_and\_Answers\_ADA.docx

# Background and Resources

## Background

1. What is the funding source for this solicitation?
   1. The funding source for this solicitation is the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). FPIP is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.
2. **a.** Will Tier II projects be eligible under this solicitation?

**b.** If there are remaining or additional funds after Round 1 Submission, will the solicitation fund Tier II projects, or will Tier I projects only be eligible again?

**c.** Will FPIP be doing a solicitation focused on Tier II projects?

* 1. **a.** No, Tier II projects are not eligible under this solicitation.

**b.** If there are remaining or additional funds after Round 1 Submission, the solicitation will only be open to Tier I projects for Round 2 Submission.

**c.** No, not with the remaining GGRF money. FPIP was allocated $25 million in the 2022-23 California Budget. The plan for use of these general funds is under development and will be based on the requirements in Assembly Bill 209.[[1]](#footnote-2) Applicants can stay up to date with FPIP and future solicitations by subscribing to the Food Production Investment Program listserve at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/food-production-program.

1. Is the Food Production Investment Program getting more funding?
   1. FPIP was allocated $25 million in the 2022-23 California Budget. The source of these funds is the general fund. The program using these funds is under development. The California Energy Commission (CEC) will hold a public stakeholder workshop in Spring 2023 to obtain feedback on the future of FPIP. Applicants are encouraged to subscribe to the Food Production Investment Program listserve.
2. Will the General Fund ($25 million) allocation for FPIP be used to fund Round 2 of this solicitation?
   1. No. The funding for this solicitation is GGRF dollars. Please also note that Round 2 Submission will only occur if there are remaining or additional funds after the Round 1 Submission. For more information on Round 1 and Round 2 Submissions, refer to Section I.E in the Solicitation Manual.
3. What has been the largest grant award under Tier I in FPIP?
   1. Since the start of FPIP, the program has awarded close to 40 Tier I projects. Awarded grant amounts have varied per project from $138,000 to $6,000,000. A complete list of FPIP projects is located at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4864>.

## Resources

1. Will the Pre-Application Workshop slides, recording, and attendee list be available to the public? Where will these be located?
   1. Yes, the Pre-Application Workshop slides, recording, and attendee list are available on the Pre-Application Workshop - GFO-22-303 page at https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2022-11/pre-application-workshop-gfo-22-303-food-production-investment.
2. What is the deadline to submit questions in writing, and to whom do we submit them to?
   1. The deadline to submit written questions was November 29, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. Please refer to Section I.E in the Solicitation Manual for more information about key dates and deadlines for this solicitation. All written questions should be submitted to the Contract Agreement Officer (CAO) for this solicitation - Angela Hockaday. The contact information is angela.hockaday@energy.ca.gov. Refer to Section I.G in the Solicitation Manual for more information about submitting questions.
3. Is there a technical contact for this solicitation?
   1. The CAO is the main point of contact for this solicitation. Please refer to the response to Question #7.
4. Are there any other greenhouse gas (GHG)-reducing grant programs that food processors can apply for?
   1. Applicants looking for additional funding opportunities are encouraged to use the California Grants Portal at https://www.grants.ca.gov and the Federal Grants Portal at <https://www.grants.gov>. Another resource is the CEC's Empower Innovation website at [https://www.empowerinnovation.net](http://www.empowerinnovation.net). This website is a curated database that identifies other potential funding opportunities and potential connections with others interested in partnering on projects, and interested applicants are encouraged to sign up there.

# Solicitation

1. Define what "industry-standard practice" means.
   1. For the purposes of FPIP, industry-standard practice is defined as typical equipment, technology, or process commonly used in current practice. Standard practice is meeting current standards, such as meeting current Title 24 or other code or standard requirements (e.g., energy). To be eligible for FPIP, grant-funded equipment must exceed these current industry standards.
2. **a.** Define what is a Tier I project.

**b.** What is a Tier II project?

* 1. **a**. Tier I projects focus on installing commercially available, energy-efficient equipment upgrades as drop-in replacements or additions to current systems, processes, and existing equipment to result in greater GHG emission reductions and higher efficiency than current best practices and industry standards. For more information on eligible technologies for Tier I projects, refer to Section II.B in the Solicitation Manual.

**b**. Tier II projects focus on implementing cutting-edge, emerging technologies that are not widely used in California industries but have been proven elsewhere to reduce GHG emissions. Tier II projects are not drop-in-ready replacements for existing equipment and are not eligible for funding in this solicitation. For more information about Tier I and Tier II projects, please refer to the FPIP Guidelines at: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=229188&DocumentContentId=60586.

1. Define what "commercially available equipment" means under Tier I projects.
   1. FPIP defines "commercially available equipment" as equipment that is readily available for procurement and installation, has been widely used, and has performance and energy savings that are well documented. This equipment should be drop-in ready for replacement of existing equipment. Equipment must be fully developed and operational, and not in a research or demonstration phase. For the prescriptive list of eligible technologies for Tier I projects, please refer to Section II.B. in the Solicitation Manual.
2. Is the goal of this solicitation reduction in global warming potentials (GWP) or GHG emissions?
   1. The primary purpose of FPIP is to reduce onsite GHG emissions at eligible food processing plants.
3. Can the funding from other programs be stacked with this funding if awarded?
   1. Possibly. Third-party funds from non-CEC sources could be considered eligible match funds if they meet the requirements of Section I.K of the Solicitation Manual. However, previously awarded FPIP funds, other CEC program funds, and future/contingent awards are not eligible as match funds. These funds cannot be combined or used to satisfy the match requirement for this solicitation. If the applicant is leveraging or pursuing funding from multiple sources of GGRF, the applicant must describe all existing or potential GGRF sources in their application materials.
4. Can other GGRF funds be applied toward the match requirement?
   1. Please refer to the response to Question #14.

# Applicant and Facility

## Applicant

1. Should the applicant be the technology manufacturer on the project or recipient of the equipment? Can a technology manufacturer be the primary applicant?
   1. No, technology manufacturers or project subcontractors are not eligible to apply and cannot be the prime applicant. The applicant must own or operate one or more food processing facilities located in California and fall under the defined North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 311 (Food Manufacturing) and 3121 (Beverage Manufacturing).

Applicants may use subcontractors to assist them in grant application preparation; however, the application package must be reviewed and signed by the applicant prior to submission. Please note that Section IV.D.1 of the Solicitation Manual states, "The CEC will not reimburse applicants for application development expenses under any circumstances, including cancellation of the solicitation." Costs must be incurred during the agreement term to be reimbursable or counted as match funds.

## Facility

1. Can a beverage manufacturer apply to this solicitation?
   1. Yes, food processing facilities may apply if they are located in California and defined by the NAICS codes 311 (Food Manufacturing) and 3121 (Beverage Manufacturing). Applicants must also meet all eligibility and other criteria specified in the solicitation. For more information, please refer to Section II.A of the Solicitation Manual.
2. Is a facility that is a citrus packing house, used for the cultivation of cannabis, and has a manufacturing license for making cannabis-infused products eligible for this solicitation?
   1. No, packing and cannabis production facilities are not eligible for this solicitation. Please refer to the response to Question #17.
3. Are coffee roasting facilities eligible for this solicitation?
   1. If the facility falls under the NAICS codes 311 (Food Manufacturing) or 3121 (Beverage manufacturing), it will be eligible to apply for this solicitation. Please refer to the response to Question #17.
4. Is a controlled environment agriculture facility, with the primary NAICS code of 424480, that does harvesting and packaging onsite to sell directly to retail as a packaged finished product eligible for this solicitation?
   1. No, the NAICS code does not fall under the eligible food processing facilities for this solicitation. Please refer to the response to Question #17.

# Project and Technology

## GHG Emissions

1. How does an applicant estimate the baseline (required for the application) for the facility and the proposed equipment/systems that will be replaced?
   1. The baseline required for the application will be estimated based on current equipment type and operations and using the emissions factors from Attachment 9, FPIP Benefit Calculator. Establishing this baseline as part of the application is not reimbursable by the grant. Applicants should use the best available information to fill out the baseline portion of the FPIP Benefits Calculator. If baseline data is unavailable, equipment specification sheets for the existing equipment can be used in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy’s MEASUR[[2]](#footnote-3) tool to estimate baseline energy use. Utility and other related energy data sources can also be used as supporting materials. The grant can fund the post-award M&V for baseline and post-retrofit if a third-party subcontractor is used for this M&V. Post-award M&V will be monitored, collected, and verified to validate the GHG emissions and energy reductions attained by the equipment installations.

In summary, there are three M&V phases: Phase I M&V will be conducted before application submittal and is not reimbursable by the grant. Phase II M&V occurs after the grant award and will happen before the grant-funded equipment is installed to obtain a more accurate baseline. Phase III M&V will be post-implementation of the grant-funded projects. Phase II and Phase III are reimbursable expenses under the M&V category if a third-party subcontractor does the work. Please refer to Section II.B.1 in the Solicitation Manual for more information.

1. How should the applicant determine the past two-year electricity consumption of a process or piece of equipment compared to the overall energy consumption of the complete facility?
   1. Please refer to the response to Question #21.
2. Can an applicant use past utility data of the facility if they do not have the specific energy data on the existing equipment or process being proposed for replacement?
   1. Please refer to the response to Question #21.

## Project Eligibility

1. Is third-party financing and ownership of eligible equipment installed at the applicant's facility allowed if the applicant remains the direct Prime of the CEC grant?
   1. No. The recipient must hold title to the equipment, and the CEC is not responsible for any agreement with a third party. Rental or lease fees are not eligible costs. FPIP's Terms and Conditions, Section 14, state, "Title to equipment acquired by the Recipient with grant funds will vest in the Recipient." Please refer to the FPIP's T&Cs for more information at: [https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites](https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/FPIP_Grant_TCs_ada.pdf)/default/files/2020-02/FPIP\_Grant\_TCs\_ada.pdf .
2. Can a project lease equipment?
   1. No, projects are not allowed to lease equipment. Please refer to the response to Question #24.
3. Does the project have to replace existing infrastructure fully, or can the project augment existing fossil fuel-reliance equipment with cleaner technology?
   1. From the information provided, both project descriptions could be eligible. Infrastructure improvements may be an eligible cost only if directly related to the equipment reducing GHG emissions. Projects must still meet all eligibility and other criteria specified in this solicitation. Please refer to Section II of the Solicitation Manual for more information. Proposed equipment must replace existing equipment at a food processing facility.
4. Is renewable energy eligible as a Tier I project? Would renewable energy be eligible if it's a mature technology?
   1. No, renewable energy generation, including biogas production and use of renewable energy in place of fossil fuels, is not eligible as a Tier I project. Eligible technologies must also be considered "commercially available equipment." Please refer to the responses to Question #11 and Question #12.
5. Do renewable energy projects, such as solar panel installation, qualify under the Tier 1 project category?
   1. No, renewable energy projects, such as solar panel installation, are not eligible for this solicitation. Please also note that installation costs are not eligible costs and will not be funded under this solicitation. Please refer to the response to Question #27.
6. Is solar thermal technology as a renewable energy source eligible under Tier I or Tier II? Is there any more information about Tier II projects?
   1. No. Solar thermal technology is not eligible as a Tier I project. Please refer to the response to Question #11. Tier II projects are not eligible for this solicitation.
7. Is replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy an eligible project? For example, is replacing a fossil fuel boiler with a waste wood boiler eligible?
   1. No. From the example provided, the proposed technology would not meet the definition of "commercially available" as described in the response to Question #12.
8. Would a boiler replacement coupled with the use of renewable energy, such as renewable natural gas/biogas be eligible?
   1. No. The project described would not meet the definition of a Tier I project as described in the response to Question #11 or the definition of "commercially available" as described in the response to Question #12.
9. Would waste heat generated by a renewable energy technology to offset heat for refrigeration or boilers be eligible?
   1. No. The project described would not meet the definition of a Tier I project as described in the response to Question #11 or the definition of "commercially available" as described in the response to Question #12.
10. Is redirecting biogas to boilers from a digester that is currently flaring an eligible project?
    1. No. The project described would not meet the definition of a Tier I project as described in the response to Question #11 or the description of "Boiler, economizers" in Section II.B of the Solicitation Manual.

## Technology Eligibility

1. Can a technology that has been previously proven and successfully demonstrated under a CEC grant be defined as "commercially available equipment"?
   1. Not necessarily. CEC grants often fund prototypes with limited M&V and testing. This testing and collected data may be insufficient to determine technology performance and viability during long-term continuous testing under varying climate and load conditions. The technology must be considered "commercially available equipment" to be eligible. Please refer to the response to Question #12 for the definition.
2. Can control demand system technologies and high-temperature solar heating technologies be added to the eligible technology list for this solicitation?
   1. Control demand system technologies that serve solar thermal are not eligible under this solicitation. Solar thermal is not eligible under this solicitation, refer to the response to Question #29.
3. Can electric roasters be added to the eligible technology list for this solicitation?

Electric, ventless, fully automated commercial-scale coffee roasters can roast coffee without ventilation or natural gas lines, reducing CO2 from the roast cycle by 87% compared to roasters using natural gas, the most ubiquitous technology in coffee roasting today. It uses 12 thermocouples for pinpoint accuracy and optimization. Industry-standard coffee bean roasting is dependent on natural gas and entails a manually-driven drying stage, a high-nitrogen oxides (NOx) browning stage, and a roasting/cooking stage. Electric coffee roasters are a commercially available, energy-efficient equipment upgrade that replaces natural gas-dependent coffee bean roasters, resulting in greater GHG emission reductions and higher efficiency than current best practices and industry standards. Therefore, electric roasters should be eligible under a new Tier I category of "Roasting and Cooling Equipment" that reduces GHG emissions by electrifying and automating for optimization of these three food production processes to replace the use of natural gas and reduce GHG emissions.

Beyond a new Tier I category, the electric roaster can fit into four current Tier I Eligible Technology categories:

* Machine drive controls and upgrades - by installing advanced programmable logic controllers to optimize process flows and improve overall production efficiency and throughput used in conjunction with control software systems.
* Drying equipment - by replacing existing, inefficient drying equipment including installation of high efficiency drying equipment (e.g., efficient, low-NOx dryers).
* Boilers/economizers - by replacing existing, inefficient boilers and economizers, including installation of high efficiency, low-NOx boilers and economizers.
* Industrial cooking equipment - by replacing existing, inefficient, natural gas based cooking equipment with high-efficiency cooking equipment to reduce energy use.
  1. This technology could qualify under the "Drying Equipment" category. Please refer to Section II.B of the Solicitation Manual for the full description of the category.

1. Can solar process heat plants and solar thermal technologies be added to the eligible technology list for this solicitation?

The International Energy Agency says that 74% of the total energy consumption is heating in the industry sector. To decrease the dependency on fossil fuels, innovative and low CO2 emissions-related technologies and bio-fuels are needed. Solar Thermal Technology should be part of the solution but needs more funding and demo projects to increase the awareness level in California and the whole United States. The following key points summarize the advantages of Solar Thermal:

* State of the art technology for low, medium, and high temperature applications. Demonstration projects needed to proof the reliability and effectiveness of the technology in California.
* Long lifetime of 25 years and more, enables stable and predictable leveled costs of heat for the Food Industry. Strengthen the industry and keep it competitive.
* Drop-in energy technology at food production facilities, with a CO2 free heat supply improving public health, quality of life and economic opportunity in California
* Very high onsite work effort for mounting of the equipment (steel vessels, collectors, pump units, steel pipes, etc.), which will generate additional jobs and investments in the region and create a completely new industry sector within renewable energies.
* On site generation of renewable heat – no logistics and transport efforts necessary compared to oil, gas, wood chips, bio-gas material, etc.).
* Very low electricity input versus solar thermal output (approx. 1:100), no negative additional loads on the electricity grid.
  1. No. Solar process heat plants and solar thermal technologies are not eligible for this solicitation. Please refer to the response to Question #29.

1. Is an ammonia-based cold storage unit an eligible technology?
   1. This technology may be eligible under the "Refrigeration system optimization" and/or "Low-GWP refrigerants" category if it meets the requirements as described in Section II.B of the Solicitation Manual.
2. Would an ammonia-based heat pump that recovers heat from hot discharge gas and supplies hot water and/or steam to offset natural gas boilers be eligible?
   1. This technology may be eligible under the "Refrigeration system optimization" and/or "Waste heat to power" category if it meets the requirements as described in Section II.B of the Solicitation Manual.
3. Would a biogas blending skid, compressor, and engine upgrades be eligible?

The facility utilizes a bank of microturbines (fueled by natural gas) to generate baseload electricity for the facility and operates an onsite wastewater treatment plant that generates biogas through anaerobic digestion. To utilize 100% of the biogas in the microturbines, a blending skid and a compressor would be installed to blend and pressurize gas going into the microturbines properly. The microturbine engines (including valving, piping, and manifold replacements) would also be upgraded to accept the higher-pressure gas. The project would reduce GHG emissions due to a direct reduction of natural gas in the microturbines as well as a reduction in natural gas needed to run the flare to burn excess biogas.

* 1. No. Technologies that support biogas production and use are not eligible for this solicitation.

1. Would a project that installs blowers and piping to transport the biogas to the boiler room, installs a blending skid that would blend the biogas with natural gas to a maximum biogas blend of 25%, and completes modifications to (4) boilers and burners, which would allow them to run efficiently and meet permit requirements, qualify for Tier 1? The facility currently has (4) large boilers that operate 100% on natural gas and a wastewater digester in which biogas is generated and currently flared into the atmosphere.
   1. No. From the description provided, this would be a fuel-switching project and does not meet the description of a Tier I project as described in the response to Question #11.
2. **a.** Would replacing an older natural gas fryer with a more efficient, Energy Star-rated electric model be eligible?

**b.** Can an upgrade to the electrical panel that distributes power to the restaurant be allowed under this solicitation if the panel upgrade would allow for future efficiency upgrades and replacements?

* 1. **a.** This technology may be eligible under the "Industrial cooking equipment" category if it meets the requirements described in Section II.B of the Solicitation Manual and the facility falls within the eligible NAICS codes. Please refer to the response to Question #17. Restaurants generally do not fall within these codes.

**b.** Infrastructure improvements may be an eligible cost only if directly related to the equipment reducing GHG emissions. Since you mentioned that the electric panel upgrade would enable future efficiency upgrades and replacements, the panel upgrade is not considered an eligible cost.

1. Is replacing gas boilers with electric heat pumps eligible?
   1. No. From the description provided, this would be a fuel-switching project and does not meet the description of a Tier I project as described in the response to Question #11.
2. Are heat pumps that replace boilers an eligible technology under this solicitation?
   1. No. Please refer to the response to Question #43.
3. Would replacing diesel-powered light towers, that provide lighting to the exterior processing areas, with permanent lighting powered by grid electricity to offset the direct emissions, be eligible?
   1. No, lighting is not an eligible technology under this solicitation.
4. Would replacement of outdated motors with variable frequency drives (VFDs) be eligible?
   1. This technology may be eligible under the "Advanced motors and controls, including variable frequency drives" if it meets the requirements described in Section II.B of the Solicitation Manual.
5. Would a commercially available solar boiler be an eligible technology?
   1. No. From the description provided, this would be a fuel-switching project and does not meet the description of a Tier I project as described in the response to Question #11.
6. Would the addition of a steam boiler that uses solar thermal energy instead of fossil fuel, is commercially available, and reduces GHG emissions be eligible? The solar boiler would be an addition to current natural gas boilers.
   1. No. If the equipment is an addition to the system, it would not be eligible. The proposed equipment must replace existing equipment at a food processing facility. From the description provided, the project does not meet the description of a Tier I project as described in the response to Question #11. Please refer to the response to Question #29.
7. Are technologies that produce thermal energy/cooling systems and clean salt water/brine water into drinking water eligible under this solicitation?
   1. No, wastewater technologies are not eligible under this solicitation.
8. Would retrofitting a cooling system with an absorption chilling system that uses waste heat to produce processing room space cooling directly, without the inefficiency of conversion first to electricity, be eligible?
   1. This technology may be eligible under the "Refrigeration system optimization" category if it meets the requirements as described in Section II.B of the Solicitation Manual.
9. Is waste heat to cooling an eligible technology?
   1. Please refer to the response to Question #50.
10. Is wastewater treatment considered an eligible technology?
    1. No, technologies which focus on wastewater treatment are not eligible under this solicitation.

**Eligible costs**

1. Can the third-party M&V subcontractor request funds for testing and measuring equipment and sensors?
   1. No, third-party M&V subcontractors cannot include costs for equipment and sensors. Eligible costs for subcontractors are limited to the following categories: Direct Labor, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Subcontractors, and Indirect Costs. The prime recipient may purchase instrumentation and control equipment if the following conditions are met: (1) the equipment is required for the system to function properly; and (2) is intended to be a permanent component of the system (i.e., not removed after the project is complete). Please refer to the budget instructions in Attachment 5A, Prime Budget Form, and Attachment 5B, Major Subcontractor Budget Form.
2. Can secondary equipment, materials, or supplies necessary for the eligible equipment operation, therefore indirectly related to direct GHG savings, be included as eligible costs? For example, vessels and piping, new structural (new concrete pads, bracing, steel infrastructure, etc.), or safety-required equipment (containment, etc.).
   1. Yes, secondary equipment, materials, or supplies necessary for the eligible equipment operation are considered eligible costs. Infrastructure improvements may be an eligible cost only if directly related to the equipment reducing GHG emissions. The applicant's budget should account for these costs under the equipment category. Please note that installation costs are not eligible costs.

# Submission

1. Once an application is submitted, does the applicant have the ability to revise the submission or provide additional information to ensure projects are approved?
   1. No. Once an application is submitted, the applicant will not be able to revise the submission or provide additional information. The applicant must contact the CAO in Section I.G. of the Solicitation Manual if they would like to withdraw the application and resubmit a revised application before the submission deadline. For instructions on how to apply using the GSS system, please see the "How to Apply" document available on the CEC website at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/1654>.
2. What is the total funding for this solicitation? What is the maximum award per application? Can technologies be combined under a single application?
   1. There is up to $10 million available for this solicitation. The maximum award amount is $6 million (see Section I.D. of the Solicitation Manual). Projects in a capped facility[[3]](#footnote-4), along with any facility(ies) under the same ownership, can be bundled (combined) in one application. (see Section IV.F. of the Solicitation Manual).
3. Can an application that bundles multiple eligible technologies and facilities under the same ownership into one application be awarded $6 million (the maximum amount that can be requested)?
   1. Yes. It is possible for one application to be awarded the maximum amount of $6 million.
4. **a.** Is there a minimum requirement for project development to submit a grant application?

**b.** Please define the level of engineering development required to receive the grant. For example, if a project has been identified as part of an American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Level III assessment, would that be adequate, or should these be shovel-ready projects with engineering completed?

**c.** Do the GHG emissions reductions and cost estimates need to be accurate within a defined percent range?

* 1. **a.** Not enough details are provided to determine what "project development" means. Please refer to Section II.B in the Solicitation Manual for more information on project requirements.

**b.** There is no minimum level of engineering development required to apply. Completion of an ASHRAE Level III assessment or other energy audit or study does not need to be completed to apply for the grant. However, detailed calculations and assumptions of baseline conditions and engineering estimates of potential energy savings resulting from the requested projects will be needed. Applicants must complete each of the required nine attachments with enough details and information to pass the screening and be evaluated for scoring. It is up to the applicant to determine how much detail and information to provide in the application. Applicants are encouraged to be as specific as possible, provide detailed calculations and assumptions of baseline conditions, and provide engineering estimates of potential energy savings resulting from the requested projects. Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the Scoring Criteria and Scoring Scale in Section IV.F in the Solicitation Manual.

**c.** GHG emission reductions and cost estimates provided in the application should be as accurate as possible. Refer to the response to Question #21 for estimating GHG emission reductions. If awarded, M&V will be required to verify the estimate provided within the application. Cost estimates provided in the application will weigh into the cost-benefit criterion of the project (see Section IV.F, criterion 3). Cost estimates will be considered capped and part of the budget; if awarded and may not change during the agreement term (see Attachment 5).

1. Is there a template or an example that demonstrates the expected format of the commitment letter?
   1. For formatting and page limit expectations, please refer to Section III.A. of the Solicitation Manual. Attachment 8, Commitment and Support Letter Form, also provides detailed instructions and information to include within the letter.

# Terms and Conditions

1. Is the public release of project information mandatory if awarded?
   1. The CEC will not accept or retain applications that identify any portion of the application as confidential. As indicated in Section IV.D.3 of the Solicitation Manual, information received by the CEC in response to a solicitation shall be kept confidential before posting the Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA). After the NOPA is published, all application documents submitted to the CEC are considered public records subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act. In addition, information on grant awards must be reported to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), as indicated in Chapter 5 of the Food Production Investment Program Guidelines (https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=229188&DocumentContentId=60586).

After the solicitation process has concluded and a NOPA has been issued, a recipient or other party that needs to submit records they believe to be confidential to the CEC may apply to have those records designated as confidential. The recipient or party must provide a legal justification supporting the confidential designation and additional information as provided in Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations sections 2505 - 2510 and referenced in Section 19 of the FPIP's Terms and Conditions (https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/2249).

1. Assembly Bill 209, Chapter 251, Section 12, Chapter 7.6, Article 3. Food Production Investment Program (Sections 25663 to 25663.6), [Bill Text - AB-209 Energy and climate change. (ca.gov)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB209) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.energy.gov/eere/amo/measur [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. California Air Resources Board, Mandatory GHG Reporting –Reported Emissions, <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/mrr-data> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)