

The California Energy Commission: Introduction to Research Funding

Are you developing innovative new clean energy technologies? Are you looking for funding to help move your research forward?

If so, the California Energy Commission's Research and Development (R&D) funding programs may be able to help.

Hi, I'm Diana with the California Energy Commission. In this video, I'll introduce you to the Energy Commission's R&D funding programs, and give you some tips that can help get you started, especially if you're new to applying.

First, a little bit about our work. The Energy Commission has two primary R&D programs, the Electric Program Investment Charge, or EPIC, and the Natural Gas Research Program. Combined, these two programs award approximately one hundred and fifty million dollars in funding for new projects every year. Funding for these programs comes from, and must benefit, California's electric and natural gas ratepayers.

To get a feel for the types of projects we fund, check out the Energy Innovation Showcase at innovation.energy.ca.gov. The showcase is our online database featuring all of our funded R&D projects. Users are able to explore by location, by research topic, or by customer group.

If you think that our R&D funding could be right for you, one of the most important steps to take is signing up for our listservers. The listservers specific to our R&D program can be found by going to the main Energy Commission web page at energy.ca.gov. Click on the research tab at the top of the page, scroll down to find the grey subscription box at the bottom right hand corner, and provide your information. To connect with our R&D programs, we recommend you sign up for the EPIC, Research and Natural Gas lists. These lists will keep you up to date on our research, events, and, most importantly, upcoming R&D funding opportunities. We also suggest you sign up for our Opportunity listserver. The Opportunity listserver will notify you of all new funding opportunities happening throughout the Energy Commission. By subscribing to these listservers, you'll get the information as soon as it's released.

After you've signed up for the listservers, we recommend you look through a few application manuals, included in each funding opportunity. This will help you become more familiar with the format and standard requirements of our application process. That way, when you're ready to apply, you'll be better prepared.

Another great way to dive in, especially if you're new, is by attending one of our pre-application workshops. Staff holds at least one of these for every funding opportunity. The time, date, and location of the workshop can be found in the application manual. These workshops provide a forum for applicants to ask staff questions about the funding opportunity, including its scope and administrative requirements. These workshops can also be a good venue to network and meet potential project partners.

Another valuable resource worth checking out is the Energy Commission's Research and Development Networking Hub on LinkedIn. This is a great way to connect and partner on proposals for R&D funding opportunities. You'll see that we create individual subgroups, and host dedicated networking webinars for each of our opportunities. We encourage you to participate even if you're not ready to apply.

Lastly, to be sure you're staying up to date on the most important news coming out of R&D, check us out on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and the Energy Commission blog. The blog can be found on the Energy Commission's main web page by scrolling down to the bottom and clicking on "Follow the California Energy Commission Blog. It features stories about Energy Commission projects, activities, events, and guest speakers. This blog is a great way to learn about current clean energy efforts, and how your work could support the state's energy goals.

Thanks for watching. I hope this video's been helpful. And as a reminder, be sure to sign up for our listservers!