

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQS SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE ([HTTP://ARPA-E.ENERGY.GOV/?Q=FAQ/GENERAL-QUESTIONS](http://arpa-e.energy.gov/?Q=FAQ/GENERAL-QUESTIONS)) FOR ANSWERS TO MANY GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARPA-E AND ARPA-E'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS FOA ONLY ARE INCLUDED BELOW. PLEASE REVIEW ALL EXISTING GENERAL FAQS AND FOA-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING NEW QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E.

I. Full Application Phase Questions:

Q1. I would like to know if [redacted] is an acceptable crop for this FOA. We have worked with landowners over the years to develop commercial scale fields of this crop and there is an ethanol plant nearby that wants to use sugars from biomass to generate ethanol. Would this be an acceptable combination for this FOA, assuming that we meet the other criteria listed as well?

ANSWER: Refer to General FAQ 6.19 and the Site Requirements text set forth at Section XVI, Appendix H, Part 2.A, which states in pertinent part -- *ARPA-E is specifically interested in field sites for biofuel feedstock production that are: (1) Directly marketing to biofuel producers ...*

Q2. What is the deadline? We are confused because the FOA at <https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/Default.aspx> for DE-FOA-0001954, states "FA Deadline is 9:30 AM ET, November 18, 2019" for Appendix H, and "Full Application Submission Deadline: 12/19/2019 5:00 PM ET" for the entire topic.

ANSWER: DE-FOA-0001954 utilizes a process of Targeted topics for Full Application Submissions. The Targeted Topics Table in the Funding Opportunity Announcement lists topic-specific application due dates. The deadline to submit full applications to DE-FOA-0001954, Topic H, is 9:30 AM Eastern Time, November 18, 2019.

Q3. A group of us are planning on submitting a proposal in response to this [Targeted Topic] and have a number of questions.

Q3.1 Do you have any guidance on how data should be made available or shared and the desired latency? For instance, among other avenues, would it be possible to register the sites with [redacted] ... ?

ANSWER: The expectation is that data distribution will be addressed in the application.

Q3.2 The GREET model is mentioned in this [Targeted Topic]. Is there an expectation that modelers would use GREET as part of this project.

ANSWER: Data collected by the teams will be used for the purposes of quantifying carbon intensity. The focus of this solicitation is on data collection; a specific LCA modeling approach is not required.

Q3.3 Are individual teams expected to include multiple crop species?

ANSWER: No.

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Q3.4 Are proposals encompassing sites in different states encouraged or is the expectation that different institutions from different regions will be selected as independent validation sites?

ANSWER: Applications with sites in different states/regions and environmental conditions are not required. ARPA-E may consider geographic diversity in its selection process (refer to FOA Section V.B.1.I).

Q4. Regarding the FOA-1953/4 we have a few questions for clarification:

Q4.1 Is the bioenergy feedstock crop to be a purpose grown energy crop (such as sorghum) or is a crop residue equally eligible (such as corn stover, or straw)?

Q4.2 Is the focus on existing operating plants in the US for a biofuel production (i.e. corn stover to cellulosic ethanol) or any conceptual plant, that may have large scale demonstration in other countries (such as a straw to biogas conversion process)?

Q4.3 Does the biofuel/biogas operation need to be at full scale or is permissible to be at scale sized to the site acreage, or is it not even necessary to have?

ANSWER (Q4.1 through Q4.3): Refer to General FAQ 6.19 and the Site Requirements text set forth at Section XVI, Appendix H, Part 2.A, which states in pertinent part -- *ARPA-E is specifically interested in field sites for biofuel feedstock production that are: (1) Directly marketing to biofuel producers ...* . Place of performance limitations are set forth at FOA Section IV.F.6.

Q4.4 Is the biofuel/biogas process part of the proposal, i.e., a plant for that, or is that assumed to exist (in reality or in abstract)?

ANSWER: Refer to Section XVI, Appendix H, Part 2.A, specifically, the bulleted points listed after -- *A submission to this Targeted Topic must include an applicable commercial field site (described in more detail below) and describe the Applicant's ability to: ...*

Q4.5 [The p]roposed pathway we consider is [redacted]. [The a]lternative pathway we consider is [redacted]. Is there any specific encouragement or discouragement/intention?

ANSWER: Refer to General FAQ 6.19 and the Site Requirements text set forth at Section XVI, Appendix H, Part 2.A, which states in pertinent part -- *ARPA-E is specifically interested in field sites for biofuel feedstock production that are: (1) Directly marketing to biofuel producers ...* .

Q4.6 The sampling guideline is talking about 3-5 samples from soil and plant per acre, and at other locations it talks about 85 acre minimum site. Does this imply 3-5 samples times 85 acre[s] as minimum samples per year per site or is a subset of samples sufficient?

ANSWER: Yes, 3-5 samples times 85 acres is the minimum number of samples per year per site.

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Q4.7 [Redacted] is critical to understand the [redacted], can that be covered as eligible expense?

ANSWER: The FOA is open to all approaches that can meet the data requirements listed in Section XVI, Appendix H, Part 2.A, *Technical Areas of Interest & Performance Targets*. Federal Cost Principles applicable to for-profit entities are found at 48 C.F.R. Subpart 31.2. Federal Cost Principles applicable to all other entities are found at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E.

Q5. With regarding to the budgeting, we plan to budget the land usage for the farmers. Do we have to have the subcontract well established in the budgeting process, or we can budget the level as a contracting fee in the central budget[?] ...

ANSWER: Criteria for assessing whether a particular transaction should be considered as a subaward versus a subcontract can be found at 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(a)-(b). Any land lease or usage agreement is not required to be bound when submitting an application under this FOA; however, applicants selected for award negotiations must be prepared to show how they determined any estimated costs to be fair and reasonable. Pertinent cost principles are set forth at FAR Subpart 31.2 for commercial entities, and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E for academic and non-profit entities. Each of these includes principles addressing allowable rental costs for real property. Refer to FAR 31.205-36 and 2 C.F.R. § 200.465 respectively.