

OEMR Monthly Newsletter

November 2024



The Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR) is responsible for coordinating energy and mineral resource planning and policy development for the State of Idaho.

Brain teaser

Southeastern Idaho is home to one of the largest U.S sources of which mineral?

OEMR NEWS

Salmon River Electric Cooperative Resiliency Project

In 2023, through OEMR's Energy Resiliency Grant Program, Salmon River Electric Cooperative (SREC), located in Challis, ID, purchased vegetation management equipment and wrapped 562 power poles with fire-retardant mesh.

One year later, OEMR's investment continues to support reliable and resilient power for central Idaho residents. SREC mowed about 20 miles of forested areas in its service territory to reduce wildfire risks. Additionally, as shown in the picture, the mesh wrapping, funded by OEMR and installed in 2023, prevented damage to power poles during a recent wildfire and prevented outages for residents of Stanley.



The Energy Resiliency Grant Program is a state and federally funded program that aims to make strategic investments in Idaho's electric infrastructure to increase power reliability, harden the grid, and reduce wildfire impacts.

Last Call for Energy Efficiency Awards Applications

The Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency application period is closing soon! Please submit your application as soon as possible in order to be recognized for 2023 energy efficiency projects!

Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance Meetings

On October 31, 2024, the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance (ISEA) met to review its 2024 guidelines and procedures and to set a roadmap for the coming year. The ISEA is a 20-member board continued by Executive Order 2024-10 and is composed of individuals with backgrounds and interest in the energy sector. The group will meet quarterly to advise and provide information to elected officials, stakeholders, and the public on the economically efficient development of the state's energy resources that maintains the integrity of Idaho's natural resources. Upcoming meetings and information about the work of ISEA can be found here: <https://oemr.idaho.gov/isea/>.

Idaho National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program Networking List

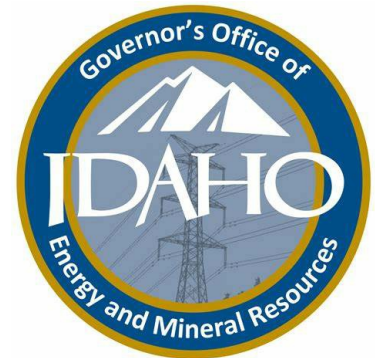
The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program Networking List is a tool for potential NEVI Developers, prospective site hosts, and other interested stakeholders to connect. Interested participants should enter their information on the form on evidaho.org/resources. This information will be compiled and published on the website periodically. Please note this is strictly an informational resource and the State will not "match" developers and hosts.

PROGRAMS

State Energy Loan Program

The State Energy Loan Program offers low-interest loans to develop energy projects for homes located in Idaho.

Applications are now open! [Link](#)



Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency

The annual Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency honors businesses and government entities for achievements in reducing energy consumption over the past year

Applications are due to OEMR 11/22/2024. [Link](#)

Energy Resilience Grant Program

ERGP fosters strategic investments that demonstrate measurable improvements to grid resiliency, deliver modernized grid infrastructure, and mitigate risks from increased electrification and disruptive events. Funding is available to electric grid operators, electricity storage operators, electricity generators, transmission owners and operators, distribution providers, and fuel suppliers.

[Link](#)

OEMR will reopen the application period.

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

NEVI provides states with federal funding to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and establish an interconnected network of EV charging stations across the US. [Link](#)

K-12 Energy Efficiency Program

OEMR will launch a new program to provide retrofits for K-12 school facilities. More information coming soon.

Sign up for Other OEMR Newsletters

K-12 Energy Efficiency. [Link](#)

Weekly Grants Newsletter. [Link](#)

Electric Vehicle Newsletter. [Link](#)

Home Energy Rebates Newsletter. [Link](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OEMR tracks funding opportunities and posts notifications to our website. For more information, visit our Funding Opportunities page. [Link](#)

For further Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding opportunities please visit the DOE Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program & Funding Opportunity Announcements ([Link](#)). For further funding opportunities from the DOE please visit: Grants.gov ([Link](#)), EERE Funding Exchange ([Link](#)), and OCED Funding Exchange ([Link](#)).

U.S Department of Energy's Northwest Onsite Energy Technical Assistance

The U.S. Department of Energy's Northwest Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP) works in the four-state region of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington using a regional TAP model that ensures end users can transition to clean energy with guidance and support that reflects local considerations. TAPs provide no-cost technical assistance tailored to your organization's goals and offer guidance on incentives, programs, and policies that are applicable to your specific situation. More information can be found on their website. [Link](#).

Battery Workforce Challenge Program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced its new Battery Workforce Challenge Program, a comprehensive workforce development program designed to build and train a diverse, domestic workforce and to promote job creation for battery and electric vehicle (EV) technicians, electricians, skilled workers, and engineers. Applications out now. [Link](#).

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Applied to Nuclear Science and Technology

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, under the Nuclear Physics (NP) program, is issuing notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for research and development (R&D) efforts directed at artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) for

autonomous optimization and control of accelerators and detectors of relevance to current or next generation NP accelerator facilities and scientific instrumentation, as well as applications applying AI/ML to advance nuclear physics computations. Letters of Intent due 11/14/2024. [Link](#).

American-Made Upskill Prize for the Solar Manufacturing Workforce ROUND 2

The prize incentivizes partnerships between U.S. manufacturers and training organizations, aiming to attract new workers to careers in solar manufacturing with job-ready training programs. Full applications due 11/20/24 [Link](#).

Advanced Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO)* for up to \$46 million to accelerate the research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of affordable clean-hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Projects funded under this NOFO will improve the performance of technologies for hydrogen production, hydrogen infrastructure, and fuel cells, and will demonstrate hydrogen and fuel cells in a new, high-impact application. Concept papers due 11/20/2024. [Link](#).

Advancing Technology Development for Securing a Domestic Supply of Critical Minerals and Materials (CMM)

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM), in collaboration with DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), announced up to \$19.5 million in federal funding to advance technologies that will help reduce costs for recovering critical minerals and materials from domestic secondary and unconventional sources. Applications due 11/26/2024. [Link](#).

Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) Base Core Laboratory Infrastructure for Market Readiness (CLIMR) Lab Call

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) is seeking applications for the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) Base Core Laboratory Infrastructure for Market Readiness (CLIMR) Lab Call. Based on FY24, an estimated \$30.1 to \$36.8 million is expected to be available to fund projects solicited in this lab call pending FY25 appropriations and program direction. This lab call represents collaboration among 14 DOE program offices and OTT, demonstrating DOE's dedication to deploy lasting energy solutions from our renowned National Labs, plants, and sites. Funded by the Base Annual Appropriations Technology Commercialization Fund, this initiative is designed to boost America's energy competitiveness by facilitating the transition of critical technologies for use in the private sector. Concept papers due 12/12/2024. [Link](#).

Clean Energy Careers for All

The US Department of Energy (DOE) announced the Clean Energy Careers for All (CEC4A) program which will award nearly \$3 million to non-profit science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) organizations in support of their workforce development initiatives targeting K-12 and university students, alumni and academic professionals, veterans, and formerly incarcerated individuals. Applications due 12/13/2024. [Link](#).

Good Jobs in Clean Energy Prize

The Prize is designed to encourage coalition-building in communities across the country that focus on creating quality jobs and fostering an equitable and inclusive workforce in clean energy sectors. Full applications due 1/31/25 [Link](#).

Commercial Direct Air Capture Pilot Prize

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management

(FECM) announced up to \$52.5 million, made available through President Biden's Investing in America agenda, to advance carbon dioxide removal technologies that reduce legacy carbon dioxide pollution by removing it directly from the atmosphere to counter-balance emissions from hard-to-abate sectors, such as aviation and shipping. Applications due 2/07/2025. [Link.](#)

American-Made Large Animal and Solar System Operations (LASSO) Prize

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that applications are open for \$850 million in federal funding for projects that will help monitor, measure, quantify, and reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sectors as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. Applications due 3/6/2025. [Link.](#)

American-Made Challenges' Lighting Prize

The Lighting Prize (L-Prize) is designed to advance the U.S. clean energy economy for next-generation LED lighting, encouraging innovators to engage in advanced lighting system development that leads to transformative designs, products, and impact. The L-Prize will reward innovations that move rapidly to improve lighting performance, resulting in energy, emissions, and cost savings for American businesses and consumers. Intent to submit forms due 4/1/2025. [Link.](#)

Promoting Registration of Inverters and Modules with Ecolabel (PRIME) Prize

The American-Made Promoting Registration of Inverters and Modules with Ecolabel (PRIME) Prize is a two-phase, \$2.7 million competition aimed at increasing EPEAT registration of solar PV modules and inverters. The goal is to help manufacturers meet the high bar for EPEAT product standards and make their products more attractive to purchasers with sustainability goals. Applications due 4/15/2024. [Link.](#)

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Carbon Utilization Procurement Grants

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced it is making \$100 million available to support states, local governments, and public utilities in purchasing products derived from converted carbon emissions. The goal of this opportunity is to speed up adoption of advanced carbon management technologies, creating a market for environmentally sustainable alternatives in fuels, chemicals, and building products sourced from captured emissions from industrial and power generation facilities. Applications due 4/30/2025. [Link.](#)

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas

As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) opened applications for up to \$400 million to spur innovative, community-focused, clean energy solutions for rural and remote communities across the United States. Applications due 8/28/2025. [Link.](#)

FY 2025 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced up to \$500 million in funding for basic research in support of DOE's clean energy, economic, and national security goals. The funding will advance the priorities of DOE's Office of Science and its major programs, including Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, Isotope R&D and Production, and Accelerator R&D and Production. Applications open until 9/30/2025. [Link.](#)

Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program

The electric program makes insured loans and loan guarantees to nonprofit and cooperative associations, public bodies, and other utilities. Insured loans primarily finance the construction of electric distribution facilities in rural areas. The guaranteed loan program has been expanded and is now available to finance generation, transmission, and distribution facilities. The loans and loan guarantees finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacement required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems. Applications are now open. [Link](#).

Boise State University Seed Grant

Seed grants aim to fund local or topical studies, or public forums (such as structured conversations, focus groups) that shed light on how consent is agreed upon and shaped by community engagement processes for critical infrastructure, such as temporary storage of nuclear waste (spent nuclear fuel). A total of approximately \$125,000 is currently available. Due date for full application is a rolling submission. [Link](#).

Rural Energy Savings Program

The Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) provides loans to rural utilities and other companies who provide energy efficiency loans to qualified consumers to implement durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures. Full applications open now. [Link](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 14: Idaho Power Forecasts & Energy Efficiency meeting
- November 19: Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission meeting
- November 22: OEMR Energy Efficiency Awards applications close
- December 2: Idaho Public Utilities Commission customer hearing
- December 3: Idaho Public Utilities Commission customer hearing
- December 12: Idaho Power Reliability and Capacity meeting

RECENT ARTICLES

Avista receives \$85M grant for Lolo-Oxbow power grid upgrades | KHQ

EPA announces \$885,000 for Idaho to upgrade older diesel engines to cleaner, zero-emission solutions | EPA

75.4% of Idaho Energy Firms Are Focused on Sustainable Energy, 3rd Most in the U.S. | Kilgore News Herald

Amazon and Google make dueling nuclear investments to power data centers with clean energy | Apnews

Idaho approves first solar permit on state endowment land | Idaho Press



Answer to the Brainteaser:

Phosphate! Phosphate is an essential mineral in agriculture and this mineral has contributed nearly \$500 million to Idaho's economy!



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