

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Biodiesel Fuel Education Program: Request for Applications and Request for Input

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Economist, Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Chief Economist, Office of Energy Policy and New Uses (OEPNU) requests applications for the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program for fiscal year (FY) 2003 to educate governmental and private entities that operate vehicle fleets, other interested entities (as determined by the Secretary), and the public about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use.

DATES: Applications must be received by close of business (COB) on August 14, 2003 (5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time). Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding.

ADDRESSES: The address for hand-delivered applications or applications submitted using an express mail or overnight courier service is: Biodiesel Fuel Education Program; c/o Proposal Services Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Room 1420, Waterfront Centre; 800 9th Street, SW.; Washington, DC 20024; Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Applications sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be sent to the following address: Biodiesel Fuel Education Program; c/o Proposal Services Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2245; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2245.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Applicants and other interested parties

are encouraged to contact Carmela A. Bailey; National Program Leader, Plant and Animal Systems Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2220; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2220; Telephone: (202) 401-6443; Fax: (202) 401-5179; E-mail:

cbailey@csrees.usda.gov or James Duffield; Economist; Office of Energy Policy and New Uses; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Telephone: (202) 401-0523; E-mail: jduffield@oce.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.306.

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Part I. General

A. Legislative Authority and Background

Sec. 9004 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA), 7 U.S.C. 8104, established the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program and requires that the Secretary make competitive

grants to eligible entities to educate governmental and private entities that operate vehicle fleets, other interested entities (as determined by the Secretary), and the public about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use. Eligibility is limited to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education (as defined in sec. 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that have demonstrated both knowledge of biodiesel fuel production, use, or distribution and the ability to conduct educational and technical support programs.

The Secretary delegated this authority to the Chief Economist, who in turn delegated this authority to the Director of OEPNU. OEPNU has entered into an Economy Act agreement with CSREES for CSREES assistance in administering this competitive grant program.

B. Purpose and Fund Availability

The Biodiesel Fuel Education Program seeks to familiarise public and private vehicle fleet operators, other interested entities, and the public with the benefits of biodiesel, a relatively new fuel option in the United States. It will also address concerns previously identified by fleet operators and other potential users of this alternative fuel, including the need to balance the positive environmental, social and human health impacts of biodiesel utilization with the increased per gallon cost to the user. It is the Program's goal to stimulate biodiesel demand and encourage the further development of a biodiesel industry in the United States. Like other programs in the Energy Title (Title IX) of the FSRIA, the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program was motivated by a desire to increase our Nation's renewable energy sources and help reduce our dependence on petroleum imports.

Applications should demonstrate the applicant's ability to provide an education/outreach program with a national scope and a consistent message. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. Approximately \$920,000 is available to fund applications in FY 2003.

C. Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education that have demonstrated both