

RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • MARCH 2024

Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders,

This month's funding opportunity in focus is the announcement of the DOE's notice of intent for a funding opportunity entitled; *DE-FOA-0003256 titled "IRA: Methane Emissions Reduction Program Oil and Gas Methane Monitoring and Mitigation."* The anticipated technical objectives are to make funds available to a variety of applicants for the purpose of monitoring and mitigating methane emissions, and legacy air pollution from oil and gas assets, including but not limited to marginal conventional wells.

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— Sincerely, The NETL RWFI Team

Workforce Funding Announcements

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT



Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): Methane Emissions Reduction Program Oil and Gas Methane Monitoring and Mitigation

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, April 15, 2024

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Issue DE-FOA-0003256 titled "IRA: Methane Emissions Reduction Program Oil and Gas Methane Monitoring and Mitigation." The anticipated technical objectives are to make funds available to a variety of applicants for the purpose of monitoring and mitigating methane emissions, and legacy air pollution from oil and gas assets, including but not limited to marginal conventional wells. These efforts are anticipated to accelerate cost reductions and commercial deployment of innovative methane emissions reduction technologies and advance the characterization and reduction of methane emissions through multi-scale, measurement-informed data collection and analysis that also support environmental justice. DISCLAIMER: The NOI is for informational purposes only and the DOE is not seeking comments on the information contained in the Notice.

Future Manufacturing

National Science Foundation, Deadline, April 11, 2024

The goal of Future Manufacturing is to support fundamental research, education, and training of a future workforce to overcome scientific, technological, educational, economic, and social barriers in order to catalyze new manufacturing capabilities that do not exist today. Future Manufacturing seeks inventive approaches to invigorate the manufacturing ecosystem and seed nascent future industries that can only be imagined today.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 Assistance for the Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, April 30, 2024

The IRA of 2022 provides up to \$1B for states and units of local government with the authority to adopt building energy codes to adopt and implement the latest building energy codes, zero energy building codes, or equivalent codes or standards. An energy code is one of several types of building codes that help contribute to the overall health, safety, efficiency, and long-term resilience of buildings.

Local Government Energy Program (LGE): Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, May 31, 2024

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is being issued by the DOE's State and Community Energy Programs on behalf of the LGE. This FOA will support eligible local governments and Tribes to implement projects that provide direct community benefits, spark additional investments, meet community-identified priorities, and build local capacity. Community benefits may include creation of local economic opportunities for workers, workforce measures and agreements, community revitalization, lowered energy burdens, increased access to renewable energy, improved air quality, increased public participation in energy decision-making processes, and improved quality of life for local residents. Projects may span a range of geographic scopes and wide variety of technology areas including, but not limited to building efficiency and/or electrification, electric transportation, energy infrastructure upgrades, microgrid development and deployment, renewable energy, resilience hubs, and workforce development.

Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC) Program

National Science Foundation, Deadline, June 12, 2024

Program Mission: The IUCRC program catalyzes breakthrough pre-competitive research by enabling close and sustained engagement between industry innovators, world-class academic teams, and government agencies. IUCRCs help industry partners and government

agencies connect directly and efficiently with university researchers to achieve three primary objectives: Conduct high-impact research to meet shared and critical industrial needs in companies of all sizes; Enhance U.S. global leadership in driving innovative technology development; and identify, mentor and develop a diverse, highly skilled science and engineering workforce.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) 40503: Energy Auditor Training (EAT)

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, June 28, 2024

The EAT Program will provide Grant funding to States for the purpose of training individuals to conduct energy audits, or surveys, of commercial and residential buildings. This program was established by Section 40503 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, more commonly known as the BIL. The goals of the program are to offer auditor training certifications that include informed curriculum and program design that aligns with current and future standards; inform or empower States with current, standardized framing of the education and training requirements for energy auditors; enlarge the pipeline of diverse talent by closing gaps in job access; address workforce inclusion deficiencies and improve disparities with underrepresented groups; connect auditor trainees to career opportunities that promote job quality and economic mobility; and inspire sustainability through intentional practices and partnerships that support infrastructure development and the long-term value of a clean energy workforce.

NETL News

Marianne Walck, Ph.D., Selected as NETL Director

The DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) has named Marianne Walck, Ph.D., as the new director of NETL. Walck joins NETL from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), where she served as deputy laboratory director for science and technology and chief research officer. In this role, she was responsible for executive leadership of research and development activities; the annual laboratory plan development and overall strategic planning; the laboratory directed research and development program; DOE Office of Science programs at INL; university relationships; research integrity; research equipment; and the research culture at the laboratory.



NETL Team's Whirlwind Visit to Norway Ensures CO₂ Capture Projects Moving Forward

Completing an 8,000-mile business trip in just six days can be daunting, but the journey was well worth the effort for a contingent from NETL and the FECM to ensure key projects supported by NETL remain on track to capture greenhouse gas from industrial sources.



NETL's Multi-Functional Sorbent Technology for Removing Heavy Metals from Water Nets Patent

A game-changing award-winning NETL technology that can effectively capture heavy metals from acid mine drainage and municipal water supplies and extract beneficial critical minerals such as aluminum, nickel and rare earth elements from water, has been granted a U.S. patent, bringing it step closer to wide use throughout the nation.



NETL/FECM Visit to Switzerland Focuses on Direct Air Capture (DAC) Technology

An NETL researcher overseeing construction of the Lab's DAC recently met with industry and scientific leaders in Switzerland to discuss accelerating the commercialization of critical technologies for removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere.



Marshall Middle School Wins 2024 Western Pennsylvania Science Bowl (WPASB) Middle School Competition

Marshall Middle School Team 1 captured first place at the WPASB middle school competition, which was held Saturday, March 2, 2024, at the Community College of Allegheny County-South Campus in West Mifflin, PA.



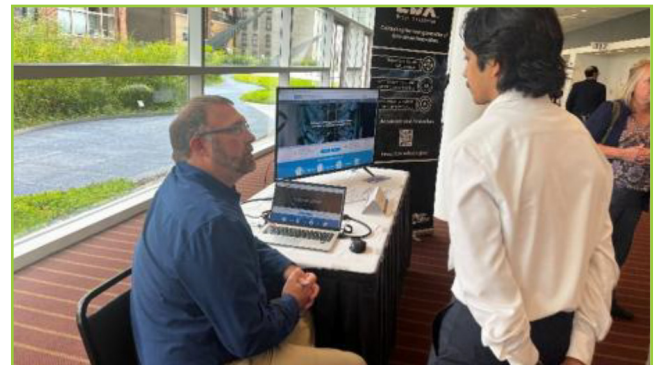
North Allegheny Team 1 Wins 2024 WVPASB High School Competition

North Allegheny Senior High School Team 1 captured first place at the WPASB high school competition, which was held Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at the Community College of Allegheny County-South Campus in West Mifflin, PA.



DOE To Invest \$30M in Carbon Conversion and Highly Efficient CO₂ Capture Technologies

The FECM today announced up to \$30M in additional funding to support two carbon management priorities—the conversion of CO₂ into environmentally responsible and economically valuable products and the development of lower-cost, highly efficient technologies to capture CO₂ from industrial sources and power plants for permanent storage or conversion. Advancing the development of these technologies will help establish the foundation for a successful carbon capture, storage, and conversion industry in the United States and will help meet the Biden-Harris Administration's ambitious climate goals of achieving a carbon neutral power sector by 2035 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



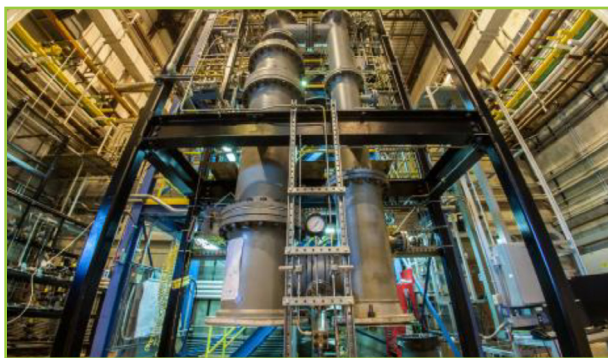
NETL's Energy Data eXchange (EDX) Is Migrating to a Multi-Cloud Environment for Improved Access to DOE-Funded Energy Research

NETL's EDX, a virtual platform that provides public access to ongoing research sponsored by the FECM, is migrating to a multi-cloud environment in March to improve accessibility and reliability while incorporating evolving artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities.



National Journal Highlights Features of NETL's Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Pipeline Route Planning Database

NETL's CCS Pipeline Route Planning Database—a one-stop-shop for U.S. geospatial data resources collected to help strategically plan safe and sustainable routes for transportation of CO₂ from where it is captured to where it can be stored underground or converted into other products—was the subject of paper in a national science journal.



NETL Discovers Breakthrough Scaling Approach for Circulating Fluidized Bed Technology (CFB)

NETL researchers have developed a new scaling methodology for measuring and understanding the performance of key elements used in CFB that can speed the development of CFBs for more widespread use.



NETL Demonstrates New Electrode Fabrication Technology on Durable Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFCs)

NETL researchers have successfully demonstrated how the Lab's patented electrode infiltration technology can be applied to electrode fabrication, marking a significant advancement in SOFC research that may have positive implications for emerging electric transportation.

Reports and Resources

Small Towns, Big Opportunities

Center for Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University

Rural America has long been perceived as "left behind" by policies that leave it struggling while benefiting bustling urban cities and suburbs. That narrative holds some truth: rural America has a declining population, along with lower educational attainment and lower workforce participation than urban America. But while rural America certainly faces challenges, it also has its own strengths and assets.

DOE STEM Rising



Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$24M to Expand America's Clean Energy Workforce and Enhance Manufacturing Efficiency

In support of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the DOE announced a new \$24M funding opportunity for workforce training programs with a focus on training in clean energy jobs that do not require a four-degree. This funding, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will further expand the existing Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC) network to include more union training programs, community colleges, and trade schools. These IACs support the Biden-Harris Administration's goals of growing our clean energy workforce and boosting the economy by helping small and mid-sized manufacturers identify opportunities to save costs and increase productivity.

DOE Announces First Winners of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Clean Energy Education Prize Partnerships Track

The DOE announced the first 10 prize winners in the *inaugural HBCU Clean Energy Education Prize Partnerships Track*. Each winning team will receive \$100K to support partnerships between HBCUs and other universities, government agencies, and industry leaders to build new programs and provide professional opportunities that will equip HBCU students with the skills needed to succeed in the clean energy industry.

Regional & Bonus Prize Finalists Selected in EnergyTech University Prize (EnergyTech UP) 2024

The EnergyTech UP, sponsored by the DOE Office of Technology Transitions, has named the 28 student finalist teams selected to earn cash prizes and compete in the EnergyTech UP National Pitch Event this April. The finalists—made up of multidisciplinary teams of post-secondary students—were chosen from among the *225 competing teams representing 117 schools* and invited to compete in regional Explore Events in late February.

Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Fellowship Programs

The FECM sponsors a number of fellowships. Follow this page to see current openings and deadlines associated with each fellowship opportunity.

ABOUT NETL



NETL, owned and operated by DOE, is one of the Department's 17 National Laboratories. NETL supports DOE's mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.

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