

Appalachian Energy Center Internal Grant

Open Application Process 2018-2019

The [Appalachian Energy Center \(AEC\)](#) is open to proposals for funding to support research, engagement, and educational activities that align with the [state-sponsored portion](#) of our mission. Appalachian faculty and staff may request up to \$5,000 to support work conducted in one or more of the focus areas below.

Focus Areas

Extension, Education and Outreach

This program area seeks to provide resources and services to disseminate knowledge, increase understanding, and enable adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Work in this program area includes workforce development and continuing education activities, outreach and community engagement, and extension services and development assistance.

Clean Energy Conversion and Supply

This program area seeks to support design, manufacturing, and implementation of renewable energy systems in North Carolina, including education, outreach, and research activities that lead to an increase in the number and scale of renewable energy systems installed in the state.

Efficient Distribution and Grid Integration

This program area seeks to improve the efficiency of energy distribution across the state and includes work on distributed generation, emerging power systems, and electric utility operations and infrastructure innovations.

Energy Consumption and Efficient Infrastructure

This program area seeks to improve the energy efficiency of both new and existing buildings while maintaining a healthy indoor environment, as well as improving the efficiency of transportation systems in North Carolina.

Emerging Issues, Policy, Economics and Societal Impacts

This program area is primarily concerned with energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, environmental asset markets, and development and deployment of technologies and business models that improve economic outcomes for citizens and businesses.

Funding Priorities: Proposals must address one or more of the aforementioned Focus Areas AND must result in a direct and definable benefit to those living, learning or operating in North Carolina. We will give priority to proposals that also do one or more of the following:

Result in a resource or service

Activities that result in resources, tools and/or services that aid decision making, increase understanding, or otherwise enable adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are of specific interest to the AEC. Proposals responding to this priority must describe the resource, how it will be made available to North Carolinians AND for how long it will be available and remain useful. Fact sheets and media for a general audience, resource maps, and economic analysis tools are examples of resources we seek to support.

Lead to external funding

Proposals that support work that is beneficial to North Carolina and leads to applications for external funding are also a priority, even if that external funding supports future work in other states, the region or outside the US. Proposals responding to this funding priority must identify possible source(s) of external funding and due date(s) AND briefly describe how the concept aligns with the external funding program goals.

Broaden participation and impact

Because the AEC originally carried out a narrowly defined scope of work for the state, we have worked primarily with faculty and staff on technological and economic aspects of renewable energy and energy efficiency issues. Our current scope is broader, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of most energy issues, and for this reason, we seek to support and collaborate with faculty and staff across campus. Proposals from interdisciplinary teams are of specific interest when they involve faculty or staff that have not previously worked with the AEC, an AEC staff member, or a community partner. Proposals responding to this priority must describe 1) how an interdisciplinary approach enriches their work AND 2) clearly define roles and responsibilities of team members. A brief letter of commitment is required for community partnerships.

Review Criteria: Proposals must:

1. Address one or more Focus Areas described on page one
2. Result in direct, definable benefit(s) to the State of North Carolina and/or its citizens and businesses
3. Follow application instructions

Proposals that meet these minimum requirements will be further evaluated on their:

- Potential to advance knowledge, lead to increased understanding of energy issues or enable a cleaner and more efficient energy economy
- Response to funding priorities defined above
- Potential to further develop Appalachian's research and engagement capacity in clean energy fields
- Funding decisions may also be driven by the AEC's obligation to conduct a minimum amount of work in all program areas listed.

Application Instructions: The application shall consist of the following:

1. Cover Page (include name, project title, and intended focus area)
2. Project Description (2-page limit)
 - Background and Significance
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Benefit to the State of North Carolina - include description of beneficiaries and how they will benefit
 - Response to AEC Priorities – how does the work respond to the needs of one or more of the focus areas and funding priorities?
3. Workplan and Timeline, including deliverables
4. Budget and Budget Narrative

Submission Instructions: For full consideration, proposals should be submitted before November 12th, 2018. Please submit to your application package as a single PDF document to aec@appstate.edu.

Award Information and Funding Restrictions

- Award decisions announced on or before November 22, 2018.
- All expenditures must adhere to State and University policies, including [spending guidelines for state budget codes](#), but cannot be used for work or travel abroad.
- All awards must be fully expended by May 30, 2019.

Reporting and Dissemination Requirements

- All publications and presentations related to the award should acknowledge support from the Appalachian Energy Center.
- All awardees are expected to present their work at least one time to the broader campus community at the request of the Appalachian Energy Center in the 12 months following the award. Fora might include research collaboration events or the Sustainable Energy Speaker Series.
- All projects are required to submit a final report by June 30, 2019, including the items listed below.
 - Progress toward goals and objectives
 - Realization of intended benefit(s) to the state
 - Any measurable impacts or outcomes such as number of people or businesses served, number of attendees at events, citations for publications, presentations and reports resulting from the work
 - Funding applied for or proposals in development
 - Photographs of work in progress (hands on student work images encouraged)
 - Next steps and future needs