

1. When is the start date of the projects?

Selected projects can start as soon as financial and programmatic vetting requirements are met and a subaward agreement is in place with Virginia Energy.

2. Would the program accept a joint application from a site owner/operator and a technology provider?

Yes. A joint proposal would be acceptable. For budgeting purposes, one organization would be lead, and the other a partner. Please prepare a joint budget for the project. Both partners will be financially vetted, but the lead will be responsible for deliverables and reporting. All key personnel from both organizations should be listed.

3. What Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is expected at the start of the project, and what TRL is targeted by the end of the project?

While this program is not beholden to TRL requirements, the application states:

The total program goal is to reduce an additional 1 million metric tons (MMT) CO₂e emissions from active and abandoned mine outgassing per year from new or upgraded projects using **commercialized or commercial-ready** uses and technologies (e.g. natural gas addition, electricity production, energy conversion to fuel cells, use for direct manufacturing feedstock, or conversion to low-emission transportation fuel), as compared to baseline emissions or required capture.

4. Is there an expectation for an end-of-project pilot demonstration? If so, could you please provide guidance on the expected scale or scope of such a demonstration?

This program aims to reduce CO₂e by 1 million metric tons per year. If a technology or pilot operation can contribute towards the emission reduction goal, it will be considered.

5. How many awards are expected to be made?

One or more subawardees will be selected under this grant application process.

6. What is the maximum amount that a subawardee can receive under the grant?

We anticipate only a single round of funding.

7. Based on the following concept description, could you please advise whether (our) proposed research aligns with the scope of the call?

We cannot comment on specific project concepts/proposals at this stage.

8. It is stated that the purpose of this grant is to establish a subaward for the Fugitive Coal Mine Methane Capture & Utilization Program for active and abandoned mines in the Commonwealth of Virginia for 2026-2029. Our proposed project is long-term and will be completed over years and during 2026-2029, while the emission abatement will continue past 2029. Please clarify that if all works of project need to be completed during the 2026-2029 period to be eligible for the grant.

Any project work funded by the grant must be completed within the period of performance (through September 2029).

9. The grant application asks for a project budget – do contracts need to be finalized by the applicant or can an estimate be provided based on information from potential partners? An example would be for any potential generation resource/technology.

An estimate is sufficient for the application. All partners must be included as part of the application. All federal procurement guidelines must be followed.

10. Does an applicant need to identify specifically what the requested amount of funding would be used for, as part of a larger project dollar amount?

Yes.

11. Will grant funds be allocated into an account billable by applicant or will the applicant make all payment and submit for reimbursement?

The subawardee will make all payments and submit for reimbursement.

12. Our understanding is that NEPA permitting is not required for projects that receive grant funding. Is our interpretation correct? Are there certain project activities that would necessitate additional state level permitting beyond standard practice in the absence of grant funding?

This depends on the project. Please refer to the EPA Subaward Cross Cutter Requirements at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-subaward-cross-cutter-requirements>.

13. 2 CFR 200.320(c) allows for noncompetitive procurement if the procurement transaction can only be fulfilled by a single source. Certain pieces of equipment and processes that are envisioned for the project are proprietary to a single vendor. What information is required to evidence that the procurement of specialized equipment qualifies for noncompetitive procurement under 2 CFR 200.320 subpart (c) single vendor?

Federal procurement guidelines must be followed. Please refer to federal conditions for noncompetitive procurement.

14. We interpret that grant funds are conveyed to the subawardee upon invoice of qualified project expenses. Our interpretation is that there are no grant funds withheld from approved invoices (i.e. retainage). Is this interpretation correct?

No retainage fee. Any reimbursement of eligible project expenses is contingent upon meeting the requirements for reimbursement (applicable documentation) and approval by VA Energy.

15. We interpret the grant application to require that the subawardee(s) reinvest program income in the project that is generated by the project (including methane sales, renewable energy credits, tax credits, etc.) **during the performance period** (through September 2029) **only** and the subawardee(s) obligation to account for reinvestment of program income does not continue with respect to income generated after the performance period – understanding, of course, that the desire is for subawardee(s) to sustain their respective programs beyond the period of performance. Is this interpretation correct?

Correct.

16. Virginia Energy states that program income “must be reinvested in the project(s) during and after conclusion of the project.” In a scenario where program income exceeds project expenses during the period of performance, our interpretation is that the excess income would be required to be allocated to project expenses beyond the performance period until excess income is exhausted. Is this interpretation correct? In the scenario described above, what are the allowable uses of retained funds prior to incurring project expenses?

This is only required during the period of performance (through September 2029). Examples of allowable expenses include operation and maintenance, expansion of project, or other allowable expenses as agreed upon by Virginia Energy and EPA.

17. Our interpretation is that program income excludes grant funds awarded to the project. Is this interpretation correct?

Correct.

18. The grant application does not mention the possibility of cost share. Could the applicant request a grant for only a portion of expected project capital expenses, and use program income to fund the balance of project capital expenses unfunded by the grant?

Yes.

19. Attachment C, Applicant data sheet refers to other “Accounts” that our company is servicing. Could Virginia Energy verify the intended definition of accounts? (We) would be happy to provide background information on similar projects (we) have developed and operated, which seems most relevant in this context.

Attachment C is typically referred to as a vendor data sheet. Items 1-4 are required for financial vetting. For item 5, other projects with recipient contact information would be sufficient.

20. The application instructions do not specify a font or font size to be used. I assume that any standard font (Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial, etc.) at 10- or 12-point will be acceptable. Can you provide any guidance on this?

Font or font size requirements were removed. Your interpretation is acceptable.

21. Page 8 of the application instructions references a “cover sheet.” Is the form that is page 2 of the announcement?

Yes.

22. Is an EPA QAAP - Quality Assurance Project Plan – required as part of this application?

An EPA QAAP will be developed by the selected subawardee(s) in coordination with Virginia Energy within 60 days of project selection to be submitted to EPA Region 3.