

Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund Vision OPEN Challenge

Background

The ARPA-E Vision OPEN challenges the research and business community to commercialize groundbreaking technologies aligned with three specific goals to enable a future energy landscape that protects the environment. **These goals include greenhouse gas-free energy, intermodal transportation of diverse primary energy sources, and sustainable carbon transition for polymers and other materials.** Investments in these core areas reduce the need to rely on other countries for energy resources and technologies, lessen the impact of energy production on the environment, and create new long-term job opportunities in the clean energy sector.

Opportunity

The DOE is making up to **\$150 million in federal grants available** through the ARPA-E program. Under the Vision OPEN Challenge, the **Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund (The Fund) will provide half of the 10% match** required by the DOE for small businesses and start-ups who apply for the program. Concept Papers to The Fund are due by Monday, July 15, 2024, to meet the DOE's concept paper deadline of Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Through The Fund's Vision OPEN Challenge, these matching grants support the **implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan while positioning the state as a hub for clean energy innovation and research.** These investments will also help Michigan continue to grow its clean energy job sector.

Impact

Security: Achieving abundant greenhouse gas-free energy, an intermodal superhighway, and carbon as a clean material of the future reduces the need to rely on other countries for energy resources and technologies.

Environment: Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing energy transfer infrastructure of greenhouse gas-free energy sources lessens the impact of energy production on the environment and reduces the environmental impacts of carbon materials on the environment.

Economy: Invigorating American-made clean energy sources, energy transfer infrastructure, and sustainably produced carbon materials fuels economic growth and creates new opportunities for Michigan workers.

By July 15 at 12 p.m., submit your concept paper to The Fund (DTMB-MIIMCF@michigan.gov) for review. Eligible projects will receive a conditional approval letter subject to committee review of the project's full application. Projects encouraged by the DOE will be invited to submit a full application to The Fund.