



## ***BOULDER ENERGY CHALLENGE***

### **2014 Boulder Energy Challenge Grant Program Information Sheet**

**Application Deadline: June 27, 2014**

The City of Boulder is launching a new program called the Boulder Energy Challenge (BEC), which is a grant program designed to solicit innovative solutions from the community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Boulder. This new program is funded by the Climate Action Plan (CAP) tax and reflects the value of pairing public sector programs and services with market-driven efforts to achieve Boulder's climate commitment goals.

#### **Program Objectives:**

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Boulder.
- Support the development and commercialization of cutting-edge emission reduction technologies and strategies that lead to private sector market adoption.
- Stimulate the growth of a low carbon innovation sector in the City of Boulder.
- For 2014 grant cycle: Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

#### **Eligible Projects:**

- **Pilot projects** – a limited test or trial of a technology, strategy, application, etc.
- **Concept feasibility/demonstration** – an analysis or testing of the viability of a new idea
- **New product/service development** – the funding of continued development of a new product or service that has already demonstrated viability
- **Education and behavior change** – community education and mobilization efforts aimed at significantly altering behavior that result in emissions reductions
- **Other innovative projects to significantly reduce emissions**

#### **Eligible Applicants:**

- Eligibility open to businesses, nonprofits, academic institutions, and individuals
- Entity does not need to be Boulder-based, but implementation must occur in Boulder
- No cost-share requirement, but additional funding outside the BEC grant will earn points in merit evaluation

#### **2014-2015 Program Scope:**

The BECG will be focused primarily on energy efficiency and clean energy related submissions for the 2014 grant cycle, although other submissions will be considered if received.

#### **Grant Term and Amounts:**

There is no pre-determined distribution of grants. The program will aim for awarding grants to a portfolio of five to ten projects ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Depending on the proposals received, not all of the available funding may be awarded in the first cycle. BEC grants are for a one year term only (August 2014 – July 2015).

**Application:**

All applicants must submit a short Letter of Intent to Apply (link to form available on [www.BoulderEnergyChallenge.com](http://www.BoulderEnergyChallenge.com)). The application consists of four parts, including a concept video, narrative document, project work plan and project budget.

**Evaluation Process:**

Projects will be evaluated through a four step process by city staff and a panel of community experts that have been involved in the program design. Staff will conduct an initial eligibility screening on a pass/fail basis to ensure that the proposal meets the program eligibility requirements and that the application is complete. Accepted proposals will then receive a merit evaluation score based on the evaluation criteria below. Proposals that meet a minimum threshold in the merit evaluation will be interviewed and finalists will be chosen. The final part of the evaluation process will be a Community Showcase event for the finalists with an element of public participation.

*Merit Evaluation Criteria*

The merit evaluation score will be based on two main criteria: (1) ability of the project to meet the program objectives, and (2) project feasibility.

- (1) Ability of meet program objectives – in assessing each project’s ability to meet the objectives, evaluators will consider:
  - a. Projected energy use reductions (electricity, natural gas or petroleum) or how much zero carbon energy the project will add to the Boulder system
  - b. Degree of innovation – does the project address an existing barrier
  - c. Scalability
  - d. Impact – longevity of impact, number of people reached, equitable distribution of project benefits or ability to participate across social and economic groups
- (2) Project feasibility – in assessing each project’s feasibility, evaluators will consider:
  - a. Readiness and time to benefit – ability of a project to be completed in grant period
  - b. Team qualifications
  - c. Proposal work plan
  - d. Budget/cost-effectiveness

Additional bonus merit evaluation points will be earned in three instances:

- (1) Boulder location – the proposing entity is based in the City of Boulder
- (2) Collaboration – the proposal is a result of a collaboration of partners
- (3) Cost-share – the project has funding from sources other than the Boulder Energy Challenge

*Community Showcase Event*

The Community Showcase will give finalists an opportunity to pitch their project to attendees and give the community an opportunity to provide input to the evaluation process. This event will provide a great opportunity to promote the program and the finalists and for the public to get engaged and excited about participating.

*Final Selection*

Following the Community Showcase event the evaluators will make funding recommendations and the City Manager will make a final decision on funded projects.

**For additional questions please contact:**

Jamie Harkins, Business Sustainability Specialist  
Phone: 303.441.1846  
HarkinsJ@bouldercolorado.gov