

Guideline for Administering Funds under the Bioenergy Programs: Integrated and Bioenergy Clusters

Background

- The Alberta Provincial Energy Strategy (PES) released on December 11, 2008, cited that it is in Alberta's interests to encourage complimentary energy sources such as integrated bioenergy clusters to help address environmental footprint.

“Expanding the development of bioenergy will diversify the energy basket with clean alternatives. Bioenergy clusters that facilitate waste to energy conversion will provide significant carbon reduction, a positive energy balance, community development and environmental sustainability. Several development opportunities have been proposed throughout the province to leverage municipal, farm and forestry infrastructure with emerging bioenergy technologies.”

(Pg 33, “Launching Alberta’s Energy Future: Provincial Energy Strategy, 2008)

- In order to provide consistency between the intent of the PES and the two bioenergy programs: Biorefining Commercialization Market Development Program (BCMDP) and Biorefining Infrastructure Development Program (BIDP), companies that are “integrated” or “clustered” can be considered as more than one component for the purpose of determining funding eligibility.

What is a cluster?

One sample definition of “Cluster” is: A geographically-bounded concentration of similar, related, or complementary businesses with active channels for business transactions, communications, and dialogues that share a specialized infrastructure, labour markets, and services and that face common opportunities and threats.

Key eligibility determinants for bioenergy clusters. Clusters must:

- Have a geographically-bounded concentration;
- Include multiple energy outputs (e.g. electricity, biofuels, etc);
- Provide quantifiable carbon reduction and environmental efficiencies;
- Include transfer of energy between components;
- Each component must have its own technology and intellectual property that is capable of functioning separately and independently of other components within the cluster.

Calculation and Methodology

- The review committee will consider each project on a case-by-case basis, and evaluate if the integrated project is within the scope of this guideline.
- Once deemed a “cluster”, each component will be funded as a separate “project” under the BCMDP and BIDP.
- Each component must continue to meet the criteria of the BCMDP and BIDP.
- All components and projects are subject to Ministerial Approval and sign-off.