FLORIDA ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COST SHARE PROGRAM - EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE (ERICA)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

February 13, 2018

(1) I raise triploid grass carp in an intensive recirculation system. I have one pond I use as a bio filter and use less than 10,000 gallons of well water per year. I do use one pump and blower for my system both are very energy efficient. I have looked into solar power but the initial costs are high. Would I qualify for this grant in offsetting my electrical costs to run the pump and blower? Would the cost of solar power to run my pump and aerator qualify for this grant?

**Answer:** Due to the competitive nature of the Efficiency and Renewable Improvements in Commercial Aquaculture Program, the Department cannot provide comments on potential projects that may be submitted for funding.

Examples of projects that would be eligible under this cost share program include:

- Energy efficiency or renewable energy improvements in climate control systems – including but not limited to HVAC, evaporative cooling, geothermal systems, passive solar heating, solar hot water systems.
- Energy efficiency improvements or retrofits for water pumps, treatment, disinfection and filtration systems.

(2) I am certified aquaculture in FL with a dealer license for Monroe Co. My facility is a vessel used for work and my live rock aquaculture site in Federal waters. If the grant was asking for funds to repower the vessel to electric drive, replacing the polluting gas outboard for the vessel, would I be qualified?

**Answer:** Due to the competitive nature of the Efficiency and Renewable Improvements in Commercial Aquaculture Program, the Department cannot provide comments on potential projects that may be submitted for funding. The application must identify and propose energy efficient and/or renewable technology measures which will have a significant impact on the energy use of a facility’s production/operation.

(3) I recently obtained an aquaculture lease and I'm seeking assistance with start-up costs. Would this grant be applicable?

**Answer:** Start-up costs would not be an eligible use of funds under this program. For the purposes of this notice qualified applicants must be actively engaging in a commercial aquaculture production/operation to implement any grant funded energy efficient and/or renewable technology measures.

(4) The application for ERICA appears to one that you print and fill out by hand. Is there a version that we can type directly into?

**Answer:** A fillable application form will be posted to the website and available for use this week.
(5) Is there any information on the energy assessment requirement found in Part A, PROJECT DESCRIPTION?

**Answer:** The energy assessment is an evaluation of a system’s current energy usage and current energy expenditures. The assessment provides basic recommendations for implementing energy measures and their estimated cost and projected savings and payback period. At a minimum the energy assessment for this application must include estimated costs of the energy improvements, expected energy savings from the proposed improvements, and the dollars saved per year.

(6) Are there any other instructions for completing the application other than those found in the NOFA and the application itself?

**Answer:** All instructions and guidance can be found in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), Application for Assistance. Additional clarification will be provided and updated weekly through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and posted to the Office of Energy website at [http://www.freshfromflorida.com/offices/energy/](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/offices/energy/).