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NSF Sustainable Energy Pathways Information Session

PSIEE and the Strategic Interdisciplinary Research Office (SIRO) are hosting an informational meeting for the new NSF Sustainable Energy Pathways (SEP) on Tuesday October 4, 2011 from 12:15 to 1:15 in room 107 Engineering Unit A. The goal is to share ideas about what would make a winning proposal, and to brainstorm about potential ideas. We have reserved the room until 1:30 pm so there will be an opportunity for informal discussion afterwards.

Penn State Limited Submission Process

This is one of several new NSF solicitations in the sustainability area. For this program there will be 15 to 20 awards nationally, each with a limit of $500K/year for 4 years, or $2M total, and with a minimum of three investigators per proposal. This is a limited submission program, with a maximum of 3 proposals from Penn State. A memo about the internal downselect process was distributed through the various research deans earlier this week. Internal letters of intent are due Oct. 10, and pre-proposals are due on Oct. 24.

About the SEP Program

The SEP solicitation will support interdisciplinary efforts by teams of researchers to address the challenges of developing efficient pathways towards a sustainable energy future. The overarching theme of the solicitation is "sustainability" in all of its facets. Pathways to sustainable energy, from their starting points to ending points, should use renewable sources of energy, or at least work to reduce the carbon intensity associated with our current dependence on carbon-based energy and fuels. These pathways should also employ energy efficient, economically, socially, and behaviorally viable processes that minimize adverse environmental or societal impacts.
This solicitation calls for innovative, basic research in science, engineering, and education for developing systems approaches to sustainable energy pathways based on a comprehensive understanding of the scientific, technical, environmental, economic, and societal issues. In this context, the development of the proposed sustainable energy pathway should be guided by all three fundamental considerations: scientific knowledge & technological innovation; environmental, societal and economic imperatives; and education and workforce development. A proposal that does not consider all three is unlikely to be competitive.

The SEP solicitation considers scalable approaches for sustainable energy conversion to useful forms, as well as its storage, transmission, distribution, and use. The following Topic Areas illustrate the broad scope of sustainable energy interest areas of this solicitation: Energy Harvesting & Conversion from Renewable Resources; Sustainable Energy Storage Solutions; Critical Elements & Materials for Sustainable Energy; Nature-Inspired Processes for Sustainable Energy Solutions; Reducing Carbon Intensity from Energy Conversion & Use; Sustainable Energy Transmission & Distribution; Energy Efficiency & Management.

More information about the SEP Program is available online at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504690.

Limited Submission Forms

If a faculty team in your college/unit plans to submit a proposal, please ask them to complete an online notice-of-intent by October 10, 2011. The form can be accessed at: https://www.research.psu.edu/limitedsubs/notice-of-intent.

Additionally, interested faculty teams should also complete the pre-proposal application located at: https://www.research.psu.edu/limitedsubs/programs by October 24, 2011.

We will notify associate research deans of the internal downselect decision in early November.

Any questions may be directed to limitedsubs@psu.edu.

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We welcome your input!

In order to make this listserv useful for our subscribers, we appreciate your feedback! Please send your comments/suggestions to Patricia Craig at plc103@psu.edu. Please use “PSIEE listserv” in the subject line. If you have information that you would like us to distribute please send that as well. Thanks!

Thank you for your continued interest in the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment!

Best regards,

Patricia Craig