



## Request for Information (RFI) – ARCH2 Project Applicants

Date: October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Overview

The Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) is the recipient of a Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub award from the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED). The ARCH2 Program Management Office (PMO) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to identify potential projects to add to the ARCH2 portfolio. Entities interested in submitting an RFI response are encouraged to read the **Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0002779**. The criteria for selecting projects resulting from this RFI will largely follow the criteria outlined in this FOA. The FOA for Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs is available through the following link:

[OCED eXCHANGE: Funding Opportunities \(energy.gov\)](#)

More information regarding OCED's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs is available through the following link:

<https://www.energy.gov/oced/regional-clean-hydrogen-hubs-0>

Through this RFI process, ARCH2 is seeking projects that demonstrate production, processing, delivery, storage, and/or end-use of clean hydrogen in accordance with criteria outlined in the FOA and the Department of Energy's Clean Hydrogen Production Standard (CHPS) Guidance. See link below for CHPS guidance:

<https://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/docs/hydrogenprogramlibraries/pdfs/clean-hydrogen-production-standard-guidance.pdf>

ARCH2 will consider proposed clean hydrogen projects that address a single step in the value chain (e.g., production), however, projects that address the full value chain, or multiple steps, are preferred. Also, projects that address connective infrastructure, e.g., clean hydrogen transport, delivery, storage, are of particular interest.

ARCH2 encourages submittals from entities not currently part of ARCH2. Entities with existing ARCH2 projects are also encouraged to submit projects that consist of new or additional scope beyond the scope of the project currently funded under ARCH2.

Up to \$110,000,000 in federal assistance is available to fund up to three additional ARCH2 clean hydrogen projects. ARCH2 project developers must contribute at least 50% of the proposed



project's total cost share. A cost share commitment greater than 50% is encouraged. Existing ARCH2 projects have committed much greater than 50% cost share (e.g., current ARCH2 projects partners have committed to nearly 70% of the total project's cost share for Phase 1 efforts).

### **Process for Selecting Clean Hydrogen Projects for Federal Funding Assistance under ARCH2**

This RFI is released as of Monday, October 7, 2024. Submission will be accepted until 11:59pm EST on Friday, November 8, 2024. RFI submissions must be sent to:

Kurtis Hoffman  
ARCH2 Program Manager  
ARCH2RFI@battelle.org

via email with the email titled "Request for Information (RFI) – ARCH2 Project Applicant – [Insert Company Name]". Please provide the company representative's contact information in the submission. The same email address shall be used to pose questions concerning the RFI. Questions concerning the RFI must be received by Friday, October 18, 2024. Answers to questions received will be provided no later than Friday, October 25, 2024.

The ARCH2 PMO will review all RFI submissions and may contact ARCH2 Project Applicants for clarifications, if necessary. The ARCH2 PMO will evaluate all RFI submissions received by the deadline and select up to eight ARCH2 Project Applicants to complete a full application for consideration. ARCH2 Project Applicants who are selected to submit a full application will be notified by Friday, November 22, 2024. The deadline for the full application submittal is 11:59pm EST on Monday, December 23, 2024. The ARCH2 PMO will score full applications and, following concurrence from the ARCH2 Executive Board, will recommend to OCED up to 3 projects to receive federal funding assistance by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **Minimum Requirements for Submission of the Clean Hydrogen Proposed Project**

1. Your response must be in Calibri font 12 font size and must not exceed 20 pages, inclusive of any charts, figures, presentations, report and/or schematics.
2. Please mark any information you deem confidential using brackets as follows **[[confidential information]]**. Any page containing confidential information should be marked "confidential" in the footer.
3. Provide an Executive Summary to summarize the full content of the RFI submission.
4. Describe the proposed clean hydrogen project, including production, processing, delivery, storage, and/or end-use. For hydrogen production projects producing carbon dioxide, describe the approach for ensuring clean hydrogen in accordance with the CHPS guidance. Per OCED stipulations, steam methane reforming pathways to produce clean hydrogen will not be considered.



5. Provide clean hydrogen production rates and/or demand estimates.
6. Describe the proposed clean hydrogen process, facilities, and technologies including, if known, any planned suppliers or vendors. Technologies proposed must meet Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 8 or higher by Phase 4 and must be at TRL-6 or higher to be considered for Phase 1 funding with a plan to reach a TRL-8 by Phase 4. See Appendix B of the FOA for TRL definitions.
7. Provide the following:
  - a. Estimated Total Project Cost (TPC) – for all 4 project phases, broken out by phase. Include the requested amount of federal funds (federal cost share) and confirmation of commitment to provide cost share to cover difference between TPC and federal funding requested.
  - b. Proposed project schedule, milestones and activities
  - c. Status of site selection – anticipated or planned location of project.
  - d. Summary of financing arrangement(s) or financing strategy
  - e. Business arrangement(s), i.e., feedstock and off-take agreements
  - f. Management plan – organizational structure and experience in developing projects of similar scope
8. Estimated Lifecycle Analysis (LCA), calculated by using the link for the spreadsheet that is found on OCED’s Funding opportunity exchange website at: <https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=e3da4d8d-f96b-4a03-9a51-1f8ba8fcf68d>
9. Estimated Techno-Economic analysis (TEA), calculated by using the link for the spreadsheet that is found on OCED’s Funding opportunity exchange website at: <https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=e3da4d8d-f96b-4a03-9a51-1f8ba8fcf68d>
10. Description of safety risks, safety history, and safety culture
11. Overview of proposed Community Benefits Plan – Summarize approach to ensuring that Federal investments advance the following four goals: 1) community and labor engagement; 2) investing in the American workforce; 3) advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and 4) contributing to the Justice40 Initiative.

### **Eligibility Requirements for the Proposed Clean Hydrogen Project**

1. See Section III of the FOA for eligibility information.
2. Proposed project must be physically located in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) designated area. See the following link for ARC designated counties:



<https://www.arc.gov/appalachian-counties-served-by-arc/>

### **Responsibility for Costs Incurred**

Any costs associated with the preparation of the RFI response, or the preparation of a full application if requested, shall be the responsibility of the submitting party, including existing ARCH2 Project Development Partners, and will not be reimbursed by ARCH2 or OCED nor considered as cost share.