

Request for Information (RFI): DE-FOA-0002660 Deployment and Demonstration Opportunities for Carbon Reduction and Removal Technologies

Environmental Justice, Engagement & Workforce Development

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Fossil Energy and
Carbon Management

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RFI Questions

EJ, Engagement & Workforce

Environmental justice (EJ), engagement, and workforce development (non-project specific) topics covered:

- Potential project impacts (benefits and negative impacts)
- Components of effective engagement
- Equitable access to funding mechanisms
- Workforce development opportunities

RFI Questions

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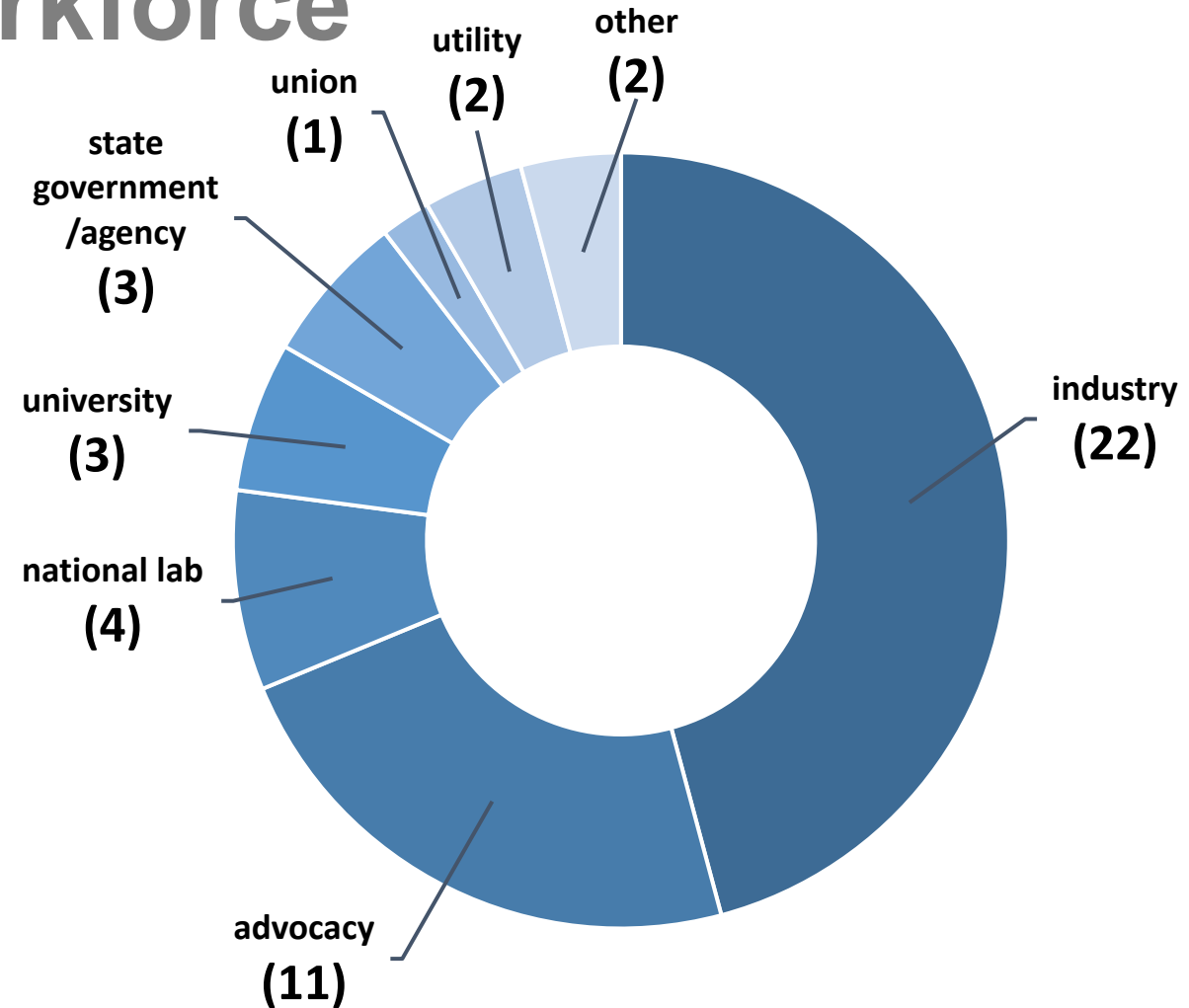
DOE recognizes the limitations of an RFI to capture a broad spectrum of views—especially important for topics of justice, engagement, and workforce—and will continue to gather input through other mechanisms

RFI Respondents

EJ, Engagement & Workforce

- ~50 responses to non-project specific EJ, engagement, and workforce questions
- Majority of responses from industry and NGOs/advocacy groups

Limited # of responses from tribes & Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), EJ organizations & frontline communities, and labor—additional engagement is needed to gather this expertise



RFI Key Themes – Project Impacts

EJ, Engagement & Workforce

General

- Additional research is needed to understand potential impacts
- Impacts must be assessed for the entire lifecycle & specifically for disadvantaged communities
- Remediation of prior and ongoing harms

Suggestions to DOE to maximize benefits and minimize negative impacts

- Require detailed evaluation of cumulative benefits and negative impacts in funding applications
- Prioritize projects with Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs)
- Provide clear guidance and tools related to equity and justice
- Establish monitoring, permitting, and remediation requirements
- Support research into potential impacts
- Prioritize renewables & deep decarbonization

Potential Negative Impacts Raised by Respondents

- Health and safety concerns related to CO₂ & other process materials
- Fossil fuel entrenchment
- Land, water, energy use impacts
- Risk to taxpayer/high cost

Potential Benefits Raised by Respondents

- Job creation & economic benefits, especially for fossil energy communities
- Decentralized economic opportunities
- Reduction in air pollution
- Remediation of pollution
- Utilization of waste streams

RFI Key Themes – Engagement EJ, Engagement & Workforce

General

- Prioritize engagement with fenceline/frontline communities, disadvantaged communities, tribes/ANCs and labor throughout all stages of the project
- EJ communities consistently ask for early engagement in project decisions
- Provide remuneration for engagement
- Trusted intermediaries/partners are critical
- Both DOE and project performers should engage

Suggestions to DOE to support effective engagement

- Require detailed engagement plans in funding applications
- Allow engagement activities as an eligible use of funds
- Create community engagement advisory committees/project oversight boards

Necessary components of community engagement

- Impact on decision-making
- Early and frequent
- Transparent, inclusive, and accessible
- Understand the community
- Project impacts match community priorities

RFI Key Themes – Equitable Funding EJ, Engagement & Workforce

General

- Cost share can present barriers for small businesses and disadvantaged and rural communities
- Prize funding is more accessible
- Both are important for carbon management technologies
- Regardless of type, the funding application itself is a barrier for small or under-resourced entities

Suggestions to DOE to support equitable funding opportunities

- Foster collaboration between more resourced and less resourced entities in funding applications
- Provide more technical assistance
- Partner with organizations focused on reaching underrepresented innovators & entrepreneurs
- Provide information via multiple channels including direct communication with communities and innovators

RFI Key Themes – Workforce Development EJ, Engagement & Workforce

General suggestions to enhance workforce development

- Leverage existing programs & educational institutions
- Provide competitive pay
- Prioritize job retention and robust labor standards
- Target diversification of the workforce
- Leverage unique state and local policies

Suggestions to DOE on workforce development

- Prioritize proposals with project labor agreements (PLAs), prevailing wages, “Made in America” standards, labor unions, community benefit agreements (CBAs)
- Increase activities and partnerships with Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)
- Require project performers to partner with education institutions, including MSIs
- Create carbon-management specific training, including at MSIs
- Coordinate with the Department of Labor
- Clearly define terminology

Barriers

- lack of trust from disadvantaged communities
- confusing and inconsistent terminology
- lack of awareness of opportunities
- work location
- pay