**Dairy Digester Enhancement Grant Program (DDE) 2019
Questions and Answers**

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 *All questions related to the DDE competitive process are required to be in writing to* *cef@commerce.wa.gov* *to ensure an equitable process.*

*If a question is posted, but not a response, the response is pending.*

*Some edits may have been made to avoid project-specific details in the original question, but otherwise, questions are presented as submitted.*

*The most current questions and answers are at the beginning of the document in* ***BLUE****.
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**January 29, 2020**

1. **No additioan questions submitted**

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**January 21, 2020**

1. **In the RFP, it states that “COMMERCE intends to award three to six projects ranging from $30,000 to $300,000” and that grants exceeding the maximum allowed project amount will not be considered. Is this amount the total project cost of the award including required match, or the award before match is applied?**
	1. ***The maximum award of $300,000 is the total amount of allowable award prior to including match. If an applicant is awarded $300,000, then with the required match, the project total would be $600,000.***
2. **If providing self-match, do we draft a letter to ourselves on our letterhead? If working a partner dairy, do they do a letter to commit to work with us or does this form accomplish that?**
	1. ***The template is just a suggestion. If your organization is providing matching funds, the letter would be to Commerce on applicant letterhead to include the dollar amount being committed as matching funds. If awarded, Commerce may be periodically asking for documentation regarding the application of matching funds. Also, regarding the dairy, the agreement to work on the project would be between the applicant and the dairy. If the dairy is providing matching funds for non-grant cost share, then they would need to provide a letter stating such.***

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**January 16, 2020**

1. **Can previously developed technology be applied as match for this project?**
	1. ***Any technology related to the proposed project with the intent to be applied as match needs to be developed during the same timeframe as the project performance period. (Reminder: match can also be secured via investment partners, self-provided, or bank loans. Email inquiries for process related questions to*** ***cef@commerce.wa.gov******)***

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**January 9, 2020**

1. **No additional questions submitted.**

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**January 2, 2020**

1. **No additional questions submitted.**

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**December 26, 2019**

1. **No additional questions submitted.**

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**December 19, 2019**

1. **No additional questions submitted.**

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**December 17, 2019**

1. **Just making you aware that the application word template has a due date of December 31st, 2019. Was wondering if we are to use that template or a new template will be loaded on to web page for people to use with the January date?**
	1. ***January 31, 2020 is the due date for the applications. The application is being revised and reposted.***

**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------****December 12, 2019**

1. **No additional questions submitted.**

*----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------***December 10, 2019**

1. **Q. Does “future dairy digester” mean a digester that is already in the development stage in Washington? Could this future dairy digester be associated with a technology that is not yet in Washington?**
	1. ***Yes, “future” assumes a new digester is in active development, as evidenced by funding commitments, site development, permitting or other activities. An applicant requesting funds to support a “future” digester would need to document this level of activity to be considered.***
2. **Q. Is the project required to be behind an existing dairy digester in WA? We only count 6 that are operational.**
	1. ***Yes, the project would need to be associated with an existing or future (see above) digester. Our understanding is there are currently nine dairy digesters in the state, with a tenth in development. Some of these are not currently operating for various reasons, so any project associated with a dormant digester would need to be part of an effort to restart digester operations.***
3. **Q. Depending on how you answer the above question, I think there is only the Deruyter digester in Eastern WA. Would that end up as the only E WA project potential?**
	1. ***Yes, at present the DeRuyter digester near Yakima is the only one east of the Cascade Mountains.***

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**December 6, 2019**

1. **Q. Is the match required to be in-kind or cash**
	1. ***This can be either as long as there is documentation for the cost, such as engineering payroll, etc.***
2. **Q. In the RFP under budget identification of costs, there is only a section for a narrative. Do you want a table or other information?**
	1. ***In response to item #10 in the application, you can either insert a table or provide a narrative with specific costs.***
3. **Q. Does the term “digester” mean only biotic processes, or do other ways other converting biological waste qualify as well?**
	1. ***The proviso language in the state budget specifies on-farm dairy digesters, which by definition in state law means an anaerobic digestion vessel and associated equipment. Distillation and other processes used to sterilize or otherwise process biological waste would not qualify.***
4. **Q. Must the funding be used for projects at existing digesters, or could be for components to be used at future digesters?**
	1. ***The program is designed to address existing digesters, which might include digesters under development, but not theoretical future digesters. We have a technical advisory committee, but since this***
5. **Q. Do we have a list of dairies that currently have digesters?**
	1. ***Yes, to our knowledge there are eight currently in operation and a ninth in development. We will post the list at the program website.***
6. **Q. Will there be any details about the digesters currently in Washington?**
	1. ***We do not have specific technical details about the current digesters.***