



**GUIDELINES FOR THE BIOENERGY ROADMAP PROGRAM
COMPRISING
BIOENERGY CONNECT AND BIOENERGY FEASIBILITY FUND**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
Bioenergy Connect Program:	2
Bioenergy Feasibility Fund:	2
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES	2
ELIGIBILITY	3
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:	4
MERIT CRITERIA:	4
PAYMENTS:	4
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	5
Confidentiality:	5

BIOENERGY ROADMAP PROGRAM - GUIDELINES

These guidelines set out the criteria for the Bioenergy Roadmap Program. Intending proponents should read these guidelines and related documents before lodging a proposal. Please note these guidelines may be subject to change. Any such change will be advised on the RenewablesSA website.

Introduction

On 24th November 2015, the South Australian Government announced the first stage of the Bioenergy Roadmap for South Australia. Stage 2 of this Roadmap focuses on hot-spot areas and laying the groundwork for new bioenergy projects in South Australia. This led to the establishment by the State Government of the Bioenergy Roadmap Programs (BRP), a \$150,000 initiative which provides assistance with pre-feasibility and feasibility funding as well as establishing a regional point of contact for mentoring and information sharing.

The Bioenergy Roadmap Program includes two components:

- Bioenergy Connect Program, *and the*
- Bioenergy Feasibility Fund

Bioenergy Connect Program:

Successful applicants will have access to an approved bioenergy mentor for up to two days, to guide them through the conceptual stages of developing a project. The mentor will develop a high level estimation of the benefits of the bioenergy technology to the business, and therefore defining the value proposition for the applicant. This will be in the form of a pre-feasibility report.

It is expected that up to approximately 20 pre-feasibility studies across the state can be achieved with the available Bioenergy Connect funds.

Bioenergy Feasibility Fund:

The Bioenergy Feasibility Fund provides financial assistance and may compliment the (above) Bioenergy Connect Program, contributing funds towards a detailed feasibility assessment for a bioenergy projects, on a '\$' for '\$' matched basis.

It is expected that up to approximately 5 feasibility studies across the state will be achieved with the available funds for the Bioenergy Feasibility Fund.

Program Objectives

The BRP has been developed to unlock bioenergy resources and stimulate investment in South Australia. The Roadmap aims to break through barriers to investment, and lay the groundwork for new projects by providing:

- information to increase understanding of the value of the resource
- discovering new feedstocks for bioenergy production
- collaborating with local community and industry on the potential
- and ultimately making it easier to develop biomass generation and biofuel projects in South Australia

The BRP centres on facilitating investment in hot-spot areas through industry and community collaboration, and providing grant funding to support projects in their early stages.

The State Government and Regional Development Australia (RDA) have worked closely together to provide awareness and information to progress investment in bioenergy in South Australia.

Regional Development Australia – Limestone Coast (RDALC) are administering the BRP on a statewide basis on behalf of the State Government. The RDA has an ability to do this efficiently and expediently in the regions as it has industry and regional contacts, local knowledge and networks and is on the ground to assist proponents with the application process.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for assistance under the BRP, an applicant must:

For Bioenergy Connect:

- Conduct business in South Australia.
- Be willing to provide relevant information via the application process which will be made available to a Bioenergy Mentor.
- provide any additional information and/or input that may be relevant to their request (i.e. any social, environmental or economic impacts to the region as a result of the applicant/application)

For Bioenergy Feasibility Fund:

- Conduct business in South Australia.
- Be a solvent business able to enter into a legally binding funding agreement with the South Australian Government.
- Willing to enter into a funding agreement with the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy.
- Be willing to provide reports, information and data, including financial information as required.
- Commit to any required financial co-contribution, exclusive of in-kind contributions.
- Have an ABN and be registered for GST.
- Provide any additional information and/or input that may be relevant to their request (i.e. any social, environmental or economic impacts to the region as a result of the applicant/application)

Please note that if an application is not supported by the relevant RDA, the application will not progress to the Assessment Panel for consideration.

Eligible projects will:

- Utilise a waste or residual resource to provide an energy solution e.g. electricity, gas, biofuels and/or heat

Projects that will not be supported include:

- Non-commercial technology options

Each successful applicant is limited to receive one grant from each program within the BRP.

Assessment Criteria:

- All applications will be assessed on a competitive basis relative to the merit of other applications received against the program eligibility and merit criteria.
- Applications for the Bioenergy Feasibility Fund who have not accessed Bioenergy Connect will be required to provide a suitable degree of information as would be output from a pre-feasibility study.
- Applicants should note that irrespective of eligibility and merit, there is no guarantee that an offer of funding support will be made.

A Bioenergy Feasibility Fund grant will only be provided to cover expenditure incurred on or after the date of the application submitted to RDALC.

Applicants who choose to commence their project prior to being awarded a grant or entering into a funding agreement do so at their own risk, as no grant funding will be provided until an application is approved and a funding agreement is in place.

Retrospective funding is not available.

Merit Criteria:

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The anticipated environmental benefits the project will deliver to South Australia
- Anticipated economic and social benefits the project will deliver to South Australia
- The value for money offered by the project
- Any negative impact on existing utilisation of feedstock/s identified for the project
- Applicant's capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project

The Assessment Panel may take into account other aspects of the proposal it regards as relevant, when assessing applications.

Payments:

Grants for the Bioenergy Feasibility Fund will be paid to successful applicants within 30 days of receiving:

- A final copy of the completed feasibility assessment report, acceptable to the RDALC
- Confirmation of payment (in-full) of Consultants fee for the feasibility assessment report.

Additional Information:

Confidentiality:

There will be provisions to provide confidentiality around the information contained in Applications and Reports resulting from pre-feasibility and feasibility studies.

Please note, however, the outcomes of these activities may be very useful for research into similar projects and may have a positive impact on the uptake of bioenergy projects going forward.

Apply now:

Both Bioenergy Connect and Bioenergy Feasibility Fund applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis, subject to the availability of grant funds. The Bioenergy Roadmap Program will be open for applications commencing 1st June 2017 through to 30th June 2018, or until the funds are expended, with applications assessed as they are received. It is therefore advised that that proponents apply early rather than wait until the end of the application period.

Applicants will be required to submit the application forms available at:

www.rdalimestonecoast.org.au

Queries relating to the BRP may be directed to the;

Senior Project Officer

Regional Development Australia – Limestone Coast

P: (08) 87231057

E: info@rdalc.org.au