



Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership

Trevor Reuschel
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture

What is the Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP)?

- BIP offers competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to state-led efforts to test and evaluate innovative and comprehensive approaches to marketing higher biofuel blends, such as E15 and E85.
- By increasing the availability of higher biofuel blends, the program will increase renewable energy use and support farmers and domestic jobs while reducing the demand for foreign oil.

Why is BIP needed?

- Infrastructure constraints and other barriers currently limit the market for biofuels and thereby the commodities used to produce them, contributing to lower commodity prices.
- The nation's fueling infrastructure is not sufficiently flexible to accommodate large additional quantities of higher ethanol blends that could enable biofuels to fill a significantly greater portion of the nation's fuel supply.
- Most vehicle fueling pumps can deliver only one type of fuel – E10, which contains a maximum of 10 percent ethanol. Higher ethanol blends, such as E15 and E85, offer significant potential for using more ethanol in the U.S. vehicle fuel supply chain.
- The USDA effort is intended to drive innovative public-private partnerships to have more comprehensive approaches to marketing higher ethanol blends, with the federal funds used to support the infrastructure and state/private resources used for other elements.

What can BIP funds be used for?

- Federal funds made available under the partnership may only be used for infrastructure to support higher ethanol blend utilization, including:
 - Blender pumps that can dispense a range of ethanol blends including E85, capped at 75% CCC share;
 - Dedicated E15 or E85 pumps, capped at 75% CCC share; and
 - New storage tanks & related equipment, capped at 25% CCC share.
- The non-federal matching contributions may be used for these items or for related costs such as additional infrastructure to support pumps, marketing, education, data collection, program evaluation and administrative costs.

How much money is available for BIP, and what is the funding authority?

- \$100 million has been awarded to 21 states.
- Those funds will be matched with about \$110 million in state and private funding.
- Funding is being provided under Section 5(e) of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act.
- The Farm Service Agency is administering the grants.

Release No. 0300.15

Contact:

Kent Politsch (202) 720-7163

 [Printable version](#)

 [Email this page](#)



USDA Announces \$210 Million to be Invested in Renewable Energy Infrastructure through the Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership

21 States and Private Partners Match Federal Funds to Expand Infrastructure and Increase Fuel Options for Consumers

KISSIMMEE, Fla., Oct. 28, 2015 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is partnering with 21 states through the Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP) to nearly double the number of fueling pumps nationwide that supply renewable fuels to American motorists. In May 2015, USDA announced the availability of [\\$100 million in grants through the BIP](#), and that to apply states and private partners match the federal funding by a 1:1 ratio. USDA received applications requesting over \$130 million, outpacing the \$100 million that is available. With the matching commitments by state and private entities, the BIP is investing a total of \$210 million to strengthen the rural economy.

"This major investment in renewable energy infrastructure will give Americans more options that not only will suit their pocketbooks, but also will reduce our country's environmental impact and bolster our rural economy," said Vilsack. "The Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership is one more example of how federal funds can be leveraged by state and private partners to deliver better and farther reaching outcomes for taxpayers. The volume and diverse geographic locations of partners willing to support this infrastructure demonstrate the demand across the country for lower cost, cleaner, American-made fuels. Consumers will begin to see more of these pumps in a matter of months."

| State | Primary Responsible State Agency/Office | BIP Federal Funding Amount | Proposed Stations | Proposed Pumps | Proposed Tanks |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Colorado | Colorado Department of Agriculture | \$ 600,000.00 | 7 | 28 | 7 |
| Florida | Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services | \$ 15,997,792.68 | 130 | 892 | 70 |
| Illinois | Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity | \$ 11,979,912.75 | 65 | 428 | 54 |
| Indiana | Indiana Office of Energy Development | \$ 895,000.00 | 110 | 110 | 0 |
| Iowa | Iowa Department of Transportation | \$ 5,000,000.00 | 100 | 187 | 25 |
| Kansas | Kansas Department of Agriculture | \$ 1,300,000.00 | 170 | 174 | 0 |
| Louisiana | Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry | \$ 1,699,974.66 | 11 | 110 | 11 |
| Michigan | Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development | \$ 3,000,000.00 | 16 | 89 | 20 |
| Minnesota | Minnesota Department of Agriculture | \$ 8,000,000.00 | 165 | 620 | 92 |
| Missouri | Missouri Department of Agriculture | \$ 2,875,284.00 | 166 | 171 | 41 |
| Nebraska | Nebraska Energy Office | \$ 2,285,000.00 | 32 | 80 | 20 |
| North Carolina | North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services | \$ 5,000,000.00 | 37 | 190 | 0 |
| North Dakota | North Dakota Department of Commerce | \$ 1,200,000.00 | 12 | 90 | 12 |
| Ohio | Ohio Department of Agriculture | \$ 3,388,036.07 | 41 | 148 | 4 |
| Pennsylvania | Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture | \$ 7,000,000.00 | 79 | 308 | 0 |
| South Dakota | South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development | \$ 1,500,000.00 | 34 | 74 | 0 |
| Texas | Texas Department of Agriculture | \$ 17,000,000.00 | 148 | 763 | 39 |
| Virginia-Maryland | Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy | \$ 4,998,108.20 | 41 | 191 | 20 |
| West Virginia | West Virginia Division of Energy | \$ 2,500,000.00 | 22 | 107 | 0 |
| Wisconsin | Public Service Commission of Wisconsin | \$ 3,700,000.00 | 100 | 120 | 100 |
| TOTAL | | \$ 99,919,108.36 | 1,486 | 4,880 | 515 |

Who was able to compete for BIP grants?

- Through BIP, USDA awarded competitive grants, matched by states, to expand the infrastructure for distribution of higher blends of renewable fuel.
- These competitive grants were available to assist states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. with infrastructure funding.

Who are the ultimate recipients?

- Recipients of federal funds will typically include
 - service/convenience stations and hypermarket fueling stations
 - may also include state or local governments or private entities for purposes of providing higher blends to fleet vehicles

What was the timeline for implementing BIP?

Schedule:

- **June 15, 2015-** Issued (NOFA) and Request for Applications (RFA)
- **July 15, 2015-** Applications due from states
- **July-August 2015-** Review of applications; negotiations with applicants
- **September 2015-** Finalists were announced and agreements were finalized
- **October 2015-** Final award amounts were announced