



CanGEOA members,

On August 2, 2018, the CanGEOA Policy Team attended the **Emissions Reduction Alberta: BEST Challenge webinar**. The BEST Challenge is a recently announced funding stream that will focus on ready to deploy technologies. Applicable focus technologies of interest to CanGEOA members will most likely be:

- Novel low- or non-emitting electricity generation technologies
- Innovation to reduce cost and increase effectiveness of renewable electricity generation
- Electricity system innovation related to optimization of distribution, transmission, or utilization
- Technologies to enable high proportions of intermittent and variable renewable electricity on the grid and to create a zero-emissions electricity system for the future
- Novel low- or non-emitting electricity generation technologies
- Innovation to reduce cost and increase effectiveness of renewable electricity generation
- Electricity system innovation related to optimization of distribution, transmission, or utilization
- Technologies to enable high proportions of intermittent and variable renewable electricity on the grid and to create a zero-emissions electricity system for the future

**During the question period, we asked the following questions:**

Q: What about technologies like geothermal? Which are proven and deployed in other jurisdictions but not yet used here in Alberta?

A: Geothermal is a widely used technology but is not yet deployed in Alberta, because of this it is characterized as a 1<sup>st</sup> of kind project. 1<sup>st</sup> of kind projects are of significant interest so long as the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is acceptable; however, project specifics would need to be addressed on an individual basis and they encouraged additional eligibility questions to be sent to [applications@ERA.ca](mailto:applications@ERA.ca)

Q: What about technologies that address more than one focus group? (ie. low carbon heat and low emitting electricity dual impact projects) would these be given more interest than projects that are singularly focused?

A: The more impact potential a project has, the higher chance it will have in being reviewed further. Business as usual projects are not the focus of this funding stream.

### **Content:**

While the targeted area for deployment and implementation of technology and projects will be Alberta, applicants outside of the Alberta jurisdiction are welcome to apply. However, the project itself must be deployed within Alberta to benefit Alberta. In addition to the jurisdictional

Canadian Geothermal Energy Association  
P. O. Box 1462 St. M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6, Canada  
info@cangea.ca - www.cangea.ca



requirement, applicants were encouraged to seek out partnership opportunities and this is especially true of applicants that are not incorporated within Alberta.

Interested members are encouraged to seek out partnerships that will allow for the best understanding of the Alberta market, and the challenges and opportunities the project may face because of jurisdictional factors. Furthermore, applicants were encouraged to include letters of support from partners, municipalities, not-for-profit groups, etc. The inclusion of additional letters would not count towards the submission page limit and would be highly beneficial for applicants looking to strengthen their submission package.

**Funding:**

ERA funding must be matched at a 1:1 ratio and while some interprovincial and governmental funding is acceptable, project funds matching is expected to contain significant private investment. Private investment of funds is a heavy weighed consideration, private sector investment signals market interest and with market interest, an elevated chance of project success and overall positive impact. ERA funding will be capped at \$10 million/project and it is expected that 1/10 projects will progress through the evaluation phase, and as such, it is imperative that members put forward a strong application.

**Closing Remarks:**

The submission deadline for the BEST Challenge is September 13, 2018 at 5PM MDT. Interested members should review the guidelines for the BEST Challenge and to review the FAQ section prior to submission. As this will be a highly competitive submission, we encourage interested members to get started on the application process right away. We also encourage members to consider letting us know if you are planning on submitting, as we would be happy to write a letter of support towards your submission, as well as to help interested members identify possible partnership opportunities within the association.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out the CanGEOA Policy Team at [powEARTHful@cangea.ca](mailto:powEARTHful@cangea.ca).

Sincerely,

---

Kayla Wilson-Layton  
Policy Analyst  
Canadian Geothermal Energy Association (CanGEOA)

---

The Canadian Geothermal Energy Association (CanGEOA) is the collective voice of Canada's geothermal energy industry. As a non-profit industry association, we represent the interests of our member companies with the primary goal of unlocking the country's tremendous geothermal energy potential. Geothermal energy can provide competitively priced, renewable, round-the-clock energy to the Canadian and U.S. markets.