

EXECUTIVE DOCUMENT SUMMARY

Department: Administration	Submittal Dates
Contact Person: Richard I. Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/> Select Meeting Type: Executive Board
Telephone Number:	Date of Meeting: May 14, 2024
Financial/Source Selection Method	Vendor: N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Select One: Grant	Address/
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Phone:
<input type="checkbox"/> Account No.:	
<input type="checkbox"/> CIP Project?	
<input type="checkbox"/> If Grant, Match Account No.:	Description: Grant Application

Budgeted Amount: TBD	Contracted Amount: TBD
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Document Description

Request to Waive Board Policy on Bid Requirements
 Financial Review Completed
 Department Head/Elected Official Authorization

Please find attached a request and backup material from Mr. Joe DeFors, Chair, Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force (Task Force) to authorize the Task Force to prepare a grant application to EGLE Community Energy Management Grants. The grant would be to cover the cost of a project proposal to the University of Michigan School of Environment and Sustainability as outlined in the Task Force proposal.

Suggested Recommendation:
Move to recommend that the County Board of Commissioners authorize the Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force (Task Force) to prepare a grant application to EGLE Community Energy Management Grants for the UofM SEAS project proposal as outlined in the May 10, 2024 communication from Task Force Chair Joe Defors and to be presented for recommendation at the June 11, 2024 Board of Commissioners Executive Session and possible approval at the June 18, 2024 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

Department Approval: Richard I. Lewis Date: May 13, 2024

Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Pursuant to our mission and goals, the Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force is ready to embark on a new project for the County and seeks the support of the Board of Commissioners.

While we are proud of our accomplishments thus far in our first year, we feel the need to better prepare for future endeavors. Central to ensuring that our work is on target and beneficial to the Leelanau community, we feel the need for a better understanding of the interests, attitudes, fears, concerns and questions our citizens have with respect to energy and environmental issues.

With an approval to move forward on this project, we will have an opportunity to get professional assistance in answering these and other questions. The body of data created will serve not only to inform the future work of the task force, but is likely to be useful in a myriad of other discussions and decisions the county will likely face in the coming years, as energy and environmental issues become ever more critical in our lives, even here in Leelanau.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will really have two major components. In reverse chronological order they are:

1. We intend to submit a project proposal to the University of Michigan, School of Environment and Sustainability seeking the assistance of a graduate level student team to design, conduct and analyze a professional survey of Leelanau County residents. The U of M SEAS program is rated one of the top ten in the United States. If our project is selected, we will enjoy the benefits of some of the best academic minds in the country working on our project, at no cost to the County.

While the student team would ultimately decide the final survey design, it is reasonable to expect that we will be seeking the following categories of data:

- Respondent demographics (income, location, etc)
- Assessment of citizen understanding of modern energy and environmental issues
- Assessment of citizen interests, attitudes, fears, concerns and questions regarding clean energy
- Assessment of local planning and zoning language with regard to clean energy guidance
- Assessment of opportunities and obstacles for the advancement of clean energy in the County

2. We intend to write a grant to support project costs. The EGLE Community Energy Management Program Grants offer a simple application for awards ranging between \$5,000 and \$100,000. Our grant application would be small, probably in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to cover project costs such as:

- Student stipend
- Travel expenses for student visits to the area
- Food and Lodging expenses for student visits
- Survey expenses, as yet to be determined, but perhaps USPS postage, printing fees, paid advertising in local media
- Conference costs for a public/community event to share survey results

The application period for this grant closes on June 30, 2024. It is imperative that we get the necessary County approvals for grant application submission as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted, Joe DeFors
Chair, Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force

Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force

The **Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force** was created at the September 19, 2023 meeting of the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners by unanimous consent.

Mission

To identify opportunities and facilitate implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy in Leelanau County.

Goals

1. Education. Provide the Leelanau County community with accurate and up-to-date information on the need for, and advantages of, energy efficiency and renewable energy.
2. Role Modeling. Look for opportunities in County operations where energy efficiency and clean energy solutions may be employed.
3. Policy. Look for opportunities to develop and advance energy efficiency and renewable energy friendly planning & zoning language throughout Leelanau County.
4. Project Development and Fund Raising. Identify opportunities for new energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the County. Seek (with the support of the County Commission) grants and funding opportunities to support them.
5. Reporting and Recommendations. From time to time bring reports and recommendations on matters of interest, of importance, or opportunities back to the County Commission.