**ENERGY PILOT PROJECT FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

**USAID Securing Georgia’s Energy Future Program – Energy Pilot Project Contest for University Students**

**Publication date:** July 11, 2024

**Status:** Open

**Deadline:** August 7, 2024

**Short Description:** Within the framework of USAID Securing Georgia’s Energy Future Program, two pilot projects for university students will be implemented that are related to the development of energy efficient (EE) measures, demand side management (DSM), energy management systems (EMS), and the development of diversified, sustainable, renewable energy (RE) sources.

Pilot project contest is announced withing the framework of the USAID Securing Georgia’s Energy Future Program.

The Program aims to identify and implement 2 of pilot projects from the contest.

The innovative pilot project should consider the main areas of the Program, such as **energy efficiency**, **demand-side management**, **energy management systems** and **diversified, sustainable, renewable energy sources**. It may also include micro-projects, wind, solar and hydropower technologies.

The Program will provide material and/or technical advisory assistance by contributing to each Pilot Project (maximum of 25,000 USD for each), depending on specific needs. These contributions may be of various forms, including in-kind support, e.g., technical advisory assistance and/or material contributions by procuring equipment or materials. As the Program is not involved with grants under contract, direct cash contributions are not considered in the Program’s support. Pilot Projects may include micro-sized projects, small- and medium-sized wind, solar and hydropower technologies, or other renewable energy projects, EE implementation, DSM, and EMS. Further, contributions to project implementation may include the use of innovative financing approaches and/or business model designs.

This specific pilot project for university students is a part of the planned 30 Pilot Projects and will help the students with "active" status, to implement new ideas using innovative approaches and technologies.

*\*Innovation refers to pilot projects that seek to uncover new opportunities, address existing challenges, and boost efficiency or effectiveness. It encompasses projects that experiment with new ideas, technologies, or processes on a small scale before they are implemented on a larger scale*

The Purpose of the competition is to generate new ideas, technologies, and policies that improve the availability and efficient use of energy. This initiative will also contribute to:

* Support student initiative in energy, climate, and society
* Advance learning through experience
* Inspire creativity; and
* Directly involve students in accelerating transition toward socially and environmentally sustainable energy future

The USAID Securing Georgia’s Energy Future Program aims to improve Georgia's energy security by reducing the sector’s susceptibility to malign influence through (i) sound long-term policymaking and governance, (ii) increased private-sector investment in renewable energy production (including wind, solar and hydropower), (iii) building the capacity of Georgian institutions to effectively and sustainably manage domestic energy markets, and (iv) improved energy sector resilience to cyber threats.

**Qualification Criteria**

**The Main Direction of the Pilot Project:** renewable energy / energy efficiency / demand side management / energy management systems, innovative business solutions

**Implementation Period:** less than one year

**The USAID Securing Georgia’s Energy Future Program contribution:** The Program provides material and/or consulting assistance for each pilot project (maximum USD 25,000 equivalent in GEL for each) in accordance with specific needs.

**Replicability:** The pilot project should be easily replicated by other similar entities.

**Ecofriendly:** The pilot project must have a positive and tangible impact on climate change by reducing or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

**Innovative Approaches / Technologies:** Innovative approaches related to technology, business models and funding schemes can be used. An innovation may also include a project that has not yet been implemented in Georgia but has proven effective in other developed countries. Innovation refers to pilot projects that seek to identify new opportunities, address existing challenges, and increase efficiency or effectiveness. It includes projects that test new ideas, technologies or processes on a small scale before they can be implemented on a larger scale.

The proposal should be sent to the provided email adress below in accordance with the attached [**form**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LeBSr5T0iR9j2v7KZfFJHpL914MAYS9_/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=111368669687410578476&rtpof=true&sd=true) no later than 7 August 2024:**info@sgef.ge**

**Contact information:**

**Addressee:** Tornike Kazarashvili

**E-mail:** **info@sgef.ge**

**Phone:** (+995) 599 870 603

**Questions and Answers**

* **Method:** Answers to the questions and clarifications submitted by the applicants only in written form will be provided, sent to the e-mail indicated above
* **Explanatory meeting:** For additional clarifications regarding the competition, an online meeting with potential applicants will be held on July 25, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the following [**link**](https://deloitte.zoom.us/j/94509470945?pwd=TbFqwxMeaZM0mYkZSWwovVX63mWwfd.1)
* **Date for submitting questions / clarifications:** all questions or clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than August 7, 2024

*Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

[**Details related to the pilot projects**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yycK1zUT6GPPhSWu31aUPxc75NrsN1FW?usp=drive_link)