



Project Summary

Principal Investigator – **Mr. K.C. Kuykendall**

Applicant - Vista Engineering Technologies, LLC
1355 Columbia Park Trail
Richland WA 99352

Project Title: Columbia Basin Electric Transportation Planning and Policy Development

Vista Engineering Technologies, LLC, submits this application for funding in accordance with FOA: DE-FOA-0000451 *Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure*. Vista Engineering is leading the Columbia Basin Electric Transportation Planning and Policy development effort in preparation and promotion of a region-wide transition towards the electrification of transportation. The Columbia-basin proposal team is a collaboration of both private and public entities including Vista Engineering Technologies, Brightworks Sustainability Advisors, SiteStory LLC, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Benton-Franklin Transit, Tri-Cities Economic Development Council, the cities of Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, as well as the Ports of Benton, Kennewick, and Pasco.

Proposal key-contributors are currently involved in two of the nation's largest and most strategic forward-looking planning and development efforts targeting Smartgrid (Pacific NW Smartgrid Demonstration Project) and Electrification of Transportation (The EV Project). Located just 2-3 hours east of the I-5 corridor, a region that is receiving a large amount of federal and private sector EV investment, the Tri-Cities is well positioned to further leverage the emphasis currently focused on coastal Pacific NW.

The funding sought from this opportunity will assist in the formation of the Columbia Basin Electric Transportation (CBET) Task Force. This task force will engage in participatory planning and policy development with the named cities and regional stakeholders. Current efforts include benchmarking national EV readiness best practices, including Rocky Mountain Institute's *Project Get Ready*, Oregon's *minor label program*, San Francisco's *9-step EV Readiness plan*, and others. The go-forward approach includes the completion of best practices benchmarking, conducting a local electric transportation needs assessment, and the review/adaptation of Washington state model ordinances for electric vehicle infrastructure development. The team will then extend the existing infrastructure planning and policy processes to include electric transportation in accordance with WA HB1481 and RCW's, *Washington Growth Management Act*, and in coordination with WA-DOT transportation modeling and funding process. Community education and awareness will be supported through the development of a CBET web-portal, providing valuable two-way web-enabled communication.

The results of this effort will better enable and equip local governments to prepare and promote policy that encourages electrification of transportation, as well as incent the consumer and EVSE industry through a mature EV infrastructure expansion plan. There is a need for additional funding in order to further leverage federal investment in EVSE charging infrastructure along the I-5 corridor and to mature the moderate level of preliminary EV readiness planning that has already been undertaken locally. The commitment letters from all three neighboring city managers/mayors combined with letters from the RTPO, RTA, and Port Authorities demonstrate a unanimous commitment to the development of electric transportation in the Columbia-basin region.