



Industrial Demonstrations Program – “Right Way” Next Generation Melt Project

The Industrial Demonstrations Program, managed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), aims to accelerate decarbonization projects in energy-intensive industries and provide American manufacturers a competitive advantage in the race to lead the world in low- and net-zero emissions manufacturing. To advance industrial decarbonization, OCED sought applications for up to \$6 billion in funding to support the demonstration of transformational technologies necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. industrial sector. Following negotiations, in November 2024, OCED awarded the “Right Way” Next Generation Melt Project with more than \$4.2 million to begin Phase 1 of the project, located in Birmingham, AL.



Awardee Fact Sheet Industrial Demonstrations Program: “Right Way” Next Generation Melt Project

Project at a Glance – Phase 1

- » **Total OCED Cost Share:** Up to \$75 million
- » **Phase 1 Total Project Amount:** \$15,886,316*
- » **Phase 1 OCED Award Amount:** \$4,204,348**
- » **Phase 1 Scope of Work:** Permitting, community engagement, and other development activities
- » **Phase 1 Timeline:** 6 months
- » **Recipient:** AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company produces fire hydrants, valves, ductile iron pipe, spiral-welded steel pipe, and other products for various industries
- » **Project Location:** Birmingham, AL
- » **Start Date:** November 2024

*Represents the total project cost for Phase 1

**Represents OCED's cost share for Phase 1. Additional funding for this project is subject to future award negotiations at the end of each project

About This Project

AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company aims to electrify its current process by replacing a cupola furnace with four induction furnaces, eliminating coke (derived from coal) combustion, and reducing melt process carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 95% at its Birmingham, AL, facility. These upgrades could be replicated throughout the ductile iron pipe industry to provide lower-carbon footprint piping for municipal water systems to replace America's aging water infrastructure, and support new industries, including chip and battery manufacturing plants. This project would also contribute to reductions in criteria and other relevant air pollutants.

During Phase 1 of the project, AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company will complete the specifications for

the new furnace, major equipment, and layout, provide documentation and reports necessary to assist OCED in its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, and carry out preliminary meetings with workforce and community groups in the area.

OCED will provide oversight of the “Right Way” Next Generation Melt Project by evaluating the status and quality of implementation at each phase of the project. Through its phased approach to project management oversight, OCED will review and evaluate the project's progress—including community benefits—which impact OCED's decision to continue to provide federal funding and allow a project to progress to the following phase.

“Right Way” Next Generation Melt Project

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Project Site

The “Right Way” Next Generation Melt Project would be located at AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company's facility in Birmingham, AL, in the central part of the state.

Community Benefits Commitments

Community benefits commitments are a key component of the “Right Way” Next Generation Melt Project. The commitments are informed and developed—in consultation with local communities—to mitigate potential negative impacts of this project and maximize local community benefits. AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company plans to implement these commitments through:

- Continuing to work with the Wallace State Community College's Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) program to **facilitate community upskilling**.
- Developing and **negotiating community agreements** with impacted stakeholders and communities.
- Providing access to **professional and personal development opportunities** for all jobs created by the project.
- **Working toward** the development of negotiated agreements to ensure a sufficiently skilled and trained workforce for construction and providing evidence of discussions with relevant labor unions.
- Establishing a **Community and Labor Engagement Taskforce** and a **Community Engagement Council** to keep stakeholders informed, obtain feedback, and track the status of their community benefits commitments.
- Quantifying **air quality impacts** for any relevant air pollutants emitted, or expected to be emitted, from the project.
- **Sharing project information** publicly to support engagement, accountability, and transparency.

More details on the “Right Way” Next Generation Melt Project community benefits commitments can be found in the [Community Benefits Commitments Summary](#).



AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company's Next Generation Melt Project will replace its current single cupola furnace with four coreless induction furnaces, as shown in this rendering

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Industrial Demonstrations Program Goals

U.S. industry is a backbone of the nation's economy, producing the goods critical to everyday life, employing millions of Americans in high-quality jobs, and providing an economic anchor for thousands of communities. Yet the sector's energy- and carbon-intensity contributes to nearly one third of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions, representing a unique and complex challenge to achieving a carbon-free economy. Decarbonizing the U.S. industrial sector will require equally unique and innovative technological solutions that leverage multiple pathways, including energy efficiency, electrification, and alternative fuels and feedstocks such as clean hydrogen. The Industrial Demonstrations Program includes new, emerging technologies that aim to help produce clean steel, cement, chemicals, and other materials used in our nation's roads, bridges, transmission lines, electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbines, and everyday lives, which in turn, benefit every American.



A truck carrying AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company pipes

Contact

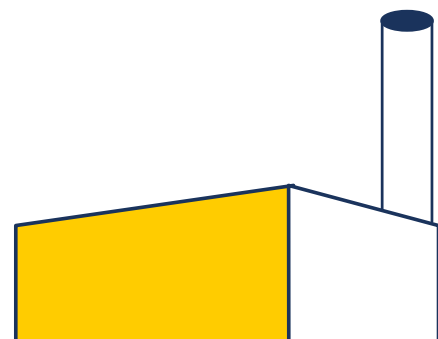
Program Email: engage_industrialdemos@hq.doe.gov

OCED Media Email: OCEDNewsroom@hq.doe.gov

More Resources

Website: energy.gov/oced/IDP

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations: energy.gov/oced



The U.S. Department of Energy established OCED to help scale the emerging technologies needed to tackle our most pressing climate challenges and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. OCED's mission is to deliver clean energy demonstration projects at scale in partnership with the private sector to accelerate deployment, market adoption, and the equitable transition to a decarbonized energy system.