



Propane Challenge

Funding ideas. Fueling innovation.

Propane Challenge is an open innovation initiative designed by the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) to encourage talented researchers and manufacturers to think about new ways to deliver and use propane. The best technology-based ideas received through Propane Challenge will earn funding as well as a chance to win the propane industry's highest award for innovation, the PROPANE Exceptional Energy® award.

What is PERC?

PERC is the propane industry's premier research and development organization. Since its formation in 1997, PERC has awarded more than \$81.3 million for research and development of groundbreaking propane technologies through dozens of partnerships with top companies, universities, and national laboratories. PERC is committed to taking leading ideas for new propane technologies from research and development to market.

Why do you want my ideas?

PERC believes true breakthrough innovation often occurs across disciplines and industries. You may not know that the current research, concept, or project you are working on could use propane or enhance an application that already uses propane. You may also have a new idea that can help address the breakthrough innovation opportunities that PERC has identified on the back page of this fact sheet.

Who should apply?

Anyone can submit an idea to Propane Challenge. In particular, PERC encourages companies and manufacturers that offer aligned end-user products, research labs, and universities with an R&D focus to participate.

How do I submit my idea?

Interested researchers can submit ideas through the Propane Challenge website, which explains the submission and evaluation processes and provides more information about breakthrough innovation opportunities.

Visit www.propanechallenge.com to learn more and submit your ideas today.

PROPANE
EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY®



Breakthrough Innovation Opportunities

PERC has identified 13 opportunities with the greatest potential to grow the propane industry and its offerings. While ideas that address the following opportunities will receive priority consideration, PERC encourages all idea submissions and will regularly update the breakthrough innovation plan to reflect new opportunities:

- » Create lightweight propane storage vessels.
- » Improve consumer-level dispensing of liquid propane.
- » Use propane as a source of thermal energy for heating, cleaning, and disinfecting.
- » Develop an economically viable small combined heat and power system that incorporates cooling.
- » Develop an integrated “energy pad” that provides all of the energy requirements for a residential or commercial building in a single system installed outside the building structure.
- » Develop energy-efficient space cooling systems fueled by propane.
- » Create ventless propane utilization system to expand use of propane in enclosed spaces.
- » Develop a renewable, domestic source of propane.
- » Develop an aftermarket kit to convert fuel oil boilers to propane.
- » Develop high-efficiency propane engine technologies that rival or exceed the efficiency of other engine systems.
- » Create formable (non-cylindrical) propane storage vessels for fixed and mobile applications.
- » Develop cost-effective residential piping and a quick connection system to create multiple distribution points inside and outside the home.
- » Develop a propane-fueled turbine to replace internal combustion engines for stationary applications.

About PERC

The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) promotes the safe, efficient use of propane as a preferred energy source. PERC is funded by an assessment or “checkoff” on each gallon of odorized propane gas sold in the United States. Through PERC, the propane industry has undertaken a multidisciplinary effort to improve consumer and employee safety and fund research and development of new and more efficient propane equipment.

For more information

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