

## NEW IDEAS

A **new idea** is an idea recently submitted and awaiting review for feasibility and relevance within Future Focus.

- **Commissioning of New Buildings:** This idea proposes a pilot program that offers commissioning of new buildings. Energy savings would come from ensuring new buildings are properly commissioned and be in the form of operational energy savings.

## IDEAS IN REVIEW

An **idea in review** is a concept that has been determined feasible and relevant to Future Focus but requires further understanding. Ideas in ideation will be reviewed for how they can fit into the scope of Future Focus, what benefits they provide and the justification to move forward, and who the key stakeholders are in vetting the idea.

- **Building of the Future Demonstration:** This idea proposes installing premium energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy storage technologies at gas stations as a proof of concept to Wisconsin customers.
- **Tenant-Sourced Insulation Project Leads:** This idea seeks to tackle the split incentives of tenants and landlords through targeted marketing by asking tenants in older neighborhoods if their homes are uninsulated and then connecting them to relevant incentives. This idea is in review with subject matter experts.

## IDEAS IN DEVELOPMENT

An **idea in development** is an idea that has been reviewed by subject matter experts and stakeholders and determined feasible within the Future Focus initiative. Ideas in development will receive further review including overall design and delivery.

- **Storage Source Heat Pumps:** this idea proposes using air-source heat pumps, chiller-heaters, and ice storage tanks to heat large buildings. The idea is being reviewed for technical feasibility and energy savings, as well as scalability and other potential benefits.

## ACTIVE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT #1

### Air-to-water Heat Pump (AWHP) Field Study (Demonstration Project)

This project kicked off in Q4 2023. In Q1 2024, the research team began outreach to multifamily properties and explored opportunities to promote a pilot with new home builders and Trade Allies. Although they have leads in the multifamily sector, they have yet to pursue single-family home project participants. Anticipating recruitment challenges, they plan to begin single-family participant recruitment in Q2.

Key accomplishments include:

- Drafted project overviews geared towards recruiting participants, builders, and contractors.
- Finalized a participation agreement and drafted project content for the website.
- Reviewed AWHP products with multiple manufacturers to determine which products will best fit the needs of the study. Products used in the field will be determined based on each site's needs with proper sizing as the key consideration. It is anticipated that products from at least two different manufacturers will be studied in the field.

## ACTIVE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT #2

### Empowering Trade Allies (Environmental and Economic Research and Development Project)

This research project kicked-off in Q4 2023 and focuses on understanding workforce and training needs in Wisconsin. Research includes in-depth interviews of trade allies, training providers and other industry stakeholders. Interviews are in progress and will provide insights on workforce gaps and skillset needs across the HVAC, air-sealing/insulation, and plumbing industries. The project seeks to identify immediate and expected hiring and training needs compared to currently available energy efficiency training and certifications.

Key accomplishments include:

- Interviews took place throughout Q1 with an interim memo completed at the end of Q1. Initial insights include contractors indicating a lack of networking and educational opportunities in the state, challenges hiring and maintaining staff, and confusion with available tax credits and utility programs.
- A final report is currently being drafted and will be available at the end of Q2.

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATOR

The Emerging Technology Accelerator (ETA) reviews technologies targeting residential and small to medium businesses. This effort expands Focus's existing Technology Accelerator efforts which had previously been limited to industrial technologies and/or customers.

Four vendors have been selected to support the effort and contracting is in progress. The effort is expected to launch Q3 2024.

Technologies currently in consideration include:

- Passive thermal storage with phase-change materials.
- Integrated storage source heat pumps.
- Electrostatic motors.

## INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATOR

The Industrial Technology Accelerator (ITA) reviews technologies targeting commercial and industrial businesses. In Q1, the ITA identified eleven new technologies for initial screening. Five of these technologies moved on to comprehensive review.

- Heat of Compression Compressed Air Dryer: this technology is a compressed air dryer which uses the air heated by the compressor to regenerate desiccant. It is the only style of compressed air dryer which does not require energy to operate. This technology was first identified in 2018 and has since undergone comprehensive review and installed at a demonstration site, a paper mill in northeast Wisconsin. Once installation is complete and the equipment is operational, the technology will be reviewed and considered for transition to best practice.

## FUTURE FOCUS: RFCs FOR PITCH DAY 2024 AND EERD 2024

### [Request for Concepts for Pitch Day 2024](#)

The Future Focus team administers Pitch Day. Pitch Day is an opportunity for industry partners and stakeholders to showcase innovative energy efficiency or renewable energy pilot program ideas to a panel of judges in an interactive way. A Request for Concept (RFC) is currently underway with \$1.5 million available for funding. The Future Focus team is coordinating the following:

- Developing project timeline and tasks.
- Establishing administrative processes and drafting communication documents.
- Brainstorming topic ideas with the Focus Programs Team.
- Establishing a scoring process and scoring criteria.
- Coordinating review of ideas, final selection, and procurement of vendors.
- Project oversight.



### [Request for Concepts for the Environmental & Economic Research and Development Program 2024](#)

The Future Focus team administers Focus on Energy's Environmental & Economic Research and Development Program. EERD research projects allow Wisconsin to further its efforts towards reducing energy waste, costs, and environmental impacts. A Request for Concept (RFC) is currently underway with \$1 million available for funding. The Future Focus team is coordinating the following:

- Developing project timeline and tasks.
- Establishing administrative processes and drafting communication documents.
- Brainstorming topic ideas with the Focus Programs Team including ideas that further QIV directives.
- Establishing a scoring process and scoring criteria.
- Coordinating review of ideas, final selection, and procurement of vendors.
- Project oversight.



The Requests for Concepts for [EERD](#) and [Pitch Day](#) will follow the timeline below:

- April 22: RFC announcement.
- May 22: RFC release announcement.
- June 20: Submissions due.
- June 20-July 19: Review, scoring, and selection.
- August 14: PITCH DAY 2024!
- ~August 16: EERD final selection.

