



# Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grants Program

## ***Construction of Sweet Sorghum to Ethanol Advanced Biorefinery***

**Recipient:** Southeast Renewable Fuels, LLC  
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**Location:** Hendry County, near Clewiston, Florida

**Grant Funds Requested:** \$2,500,000  
**Grant Funds Awarded:** \$2,500,000  
**Cost Share Amount:** \$72,500,000

**Project Objective:** The recipient will build a 20 million gallons per year, sweet sorghum-to-ethanol advanced bio-refinery in Hendry County, with a business plan to expand to 100 million gallons per year capacity over a 5-7 year period. The recipient will use locally-grown sweet sorghum as its feedstock, and will also use steam produced from combusting the sweet sorghum bagasse to produce the steam and electricity required to operate the facility.

In addition, approximately 10 megawatts of excess “green” electrical power will be produced and sold to local utilities, helping meet the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals. The company will also capture, recover and sell the carbon dioxide produced as a by-product of the alcohol fermentation process.

The recipient intends to market the fuel ethanol as both a blending agent or oxygenate for regular gasoline, and as E85, a substitute for gasoline. The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition estimates that there are more than 7 million “Flex Fuel” vehicles, capable of burning E85 without modification. The automobile industry has made a commitment to dramatically increase the number of Flex Fuel vehicles offered for sale.

**Energy Potential:** Once complete, the project will establish a 20 million gallons per year, ethanol production facility, with the potential for the company to expand. Another 10 megawatts of electrical power will be produced and sold to local utilities.

**Economic Development:** The project will stimulate Florida’s economy by creating employment opportunities for approximately 100 full time craft workers, as well as equipment providers, two engineering firms, a general contractor. In addition, upon completion the facility will employ approximately 47 full time workers.

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