

Grants Connector – June 2011 Sample Funding Opportunities

USDA REAP Funding Available

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Rural Business—Cooperative Service is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2010 for the purchase of renewable energy systems and the making of energy efficiency improvements for agriculture producers and rural small businesses in eligible rural areas. Complete applications must be received by the appropriate USDA Rural Development State Office by June 30, 2010 to attention of John F. Sheehan, USDA Rural Development, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, Maine 04402-0405, john.sheehan@me.usda.gov. Additional information at <http://www.naseo.org/news/newsletter/documents/2011-06-09/REAP.pdf>.

Feasibility Studies for Rural Renewables

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Rural Energy for America Program - Feasibility. This program will provide support to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems. \$2 million expected to be available, up to 75 awards anticipated. Responses due 6/30/11. For more info, go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=92533>. Refer to Sol# RDBCP-11-REAP-FEASIBILITY. (Grants.gov 5/9/11)

Rural Energy Audits and Renewable Energy Development

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Rural Energy for America Program - Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance. This program will support energy audits and renewable energy development assistance. \$2.8 million expected to be available, up to 30 awards anticipated. Responses due 6/30/11. For more info, go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=92633>. Refer to Sol# RDBCP-11-REAP-ENERGYAUDIT. (Grants.gov 5/9/11)

Rural Renewable Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Rural Energy for America Program - Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements and Guaranteed Loans. This program will provide grants and loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. More than \$51 million expected to be available, individual awards NTE \$500K. Responses due 6/15/11. For more info, go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=92653>. Refer to Sol# RDBCP-11-REAP-RES-EEI. (Grants.gov 5/9/11)

Efficiency Maine Trust – Maine PACE Financing

Borrow up to \$15,000, at 4.99% for 15 years, for energy efficiency upgrades that make your home more comfortable. Upgrade your heating system, weatherize your home, and make other improvements to cut your heating bills month after month.

Please visit:
<http://www.energymaine.com/pace>.

Find a participating energy advisor at:
http://www.energymaine.com/at-home/hesp_program/find_an_energy_advisor.

Find a registered Maine PACE vendor at:
<http://www.energymaine.com/docs/PACE/DownloadsForms/Maine-PACE-Registered-Vendor-List.pdf>.

Participating towns at:
<http://www.energymaine.com/docs/PACE/DownloadsForms/List-of-PACE-municipalities.pdf>.

APPLY ONLINE at
<https://www.afcfirst.com/application/index.php?programid=642e92efb79421734881b53e1e1b18b6> OR CALL 1-866-ES-MAINE TO APPLY TODAY.

Borrow up to \$15,000, at 4.99% for 15 years, for energy efficiency upgrades that make your home more comfortable. Upgrade your heating system, weatherize your home, and make other improvements to cut your heating bills month after month.

Low Monthly Payments Mean Big Energy Savings!

Months	60	120	180
\$6,500	\$123	\$69	\$51
\$7,500	\$141	\$80	\$59
\$8,500	\$160	\$90	\$67
\$9,500	\$179	\$101	\$75
\$10,500	\$198	\$111	\$83
\$11,500	\$217	\$122	\$91
\$12,500	\$236	\$133	\$99
\$13,500	\$255	\$143	\$107
\$14,500	\$274	\$154	\$115
\$15,000	\$283	\$159	\$119

"Ballpark" payments based on 4.99% APR. Final payment depends on actual loan amount.

DOI Funding Available to Assess, Evaluate & Promote Development of Tribal Energy & Mineral Resources

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Indian Affairs, Division of Energy and Mineral Development is accepting proposals for Tribes to participate in a grant program known as the Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP). This program provides financial assistance to Tribes and Indian allottees in evaluating their energy (conventional and renewable), and mineral resource potential on their lands. In turn, this provides Tribes and allottees with the information they need to promote their lands, negotiate the best agreements with partners or investors, and eventually develop their resources. This year's proposals will be due on June 23 2011.

http://www.naseo.org/news/newsletter/documents/2011-06-09/DOI_Tribes.pdf.

Department of Energy Announces up to \$70 Million to Advance Technology and Reduce Cost of Geothermal Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy announced the availability of up to \$70 million in new funding over three years for technology advancements in geothermal energy to accelerate development of this promising clean energy resource.

The funding will support the Department's continued partnerships with industry, national laboratories, and academia to advance several key research areas:

Advanced Exploratory Drilling Technologies – The projects will focus on reducing the cost of exploratory drilling

Advanced Well Completion Technologies – These projects will focus on lowering the cost of completing geothermal wells

Tools to Isolate Fracture Zones within a Well – These projects will work to control injection and production of water in geothermal systems

Observation Tools and Data Collection System for Reservoir Stimulation – These projects will help to monitor and optimize reservoir creation

Geophysical Exploration Technologies – These projects will include remote sensing, improved data processing and advanced seismic surveying technologies to better locate hidden resources

Geochemistry and Rock-Fluid Interactions – These projects will focus on better characterizing geothermal resources and predicting reservoir temperatures.

A description of the solicitation, eligibility requirements, and application instructions can be found at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

DOE Offers \$27 Million to Reduce Costs of Solar Energy Projects

DOE announced on June 1 the availability of more than \$27 million in new funding that will reduce the non-hardware costs of solar energy projects as part of its SunShot Initiative. The funding will support a \$12.5 million Rooftop Solar challenge to encourage cities and counties to compete to streamline and digitize permitting processes.

Application deadline is August 31 for this program. New funding will also include \$15 million for advancing innovations in information technology systems, local zoning and building codes and regulations, and more. Described as removing market barriers, these process improvements and innovations will help increase U.S. competitiveness in the global solar industry. Application deadline is June 23 for this opportunity.

Both funding opportunities focus on reducing "non-hardware balance-of-system" costs, which generally refer to the costs of installing solar systems that are not associated with the solar panels, mounting hardware, electronics, and other hardware. These "soft costs," including the capital required to pay for siting, permitting, and installing a solar energy system, as well as the cost of connecting it to the grid, can represent up to 40% of the total cost of the system. Funded projects will help standardize some processes, cut upfront fees and paperwork, and reduce the overall costs associated with permitting and installation, making it easier and less expensive for homeowners, businesses, and their local communities to deploy solar energy. <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/> and <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/sunshot/>.

FHA, Fannie Mae Launch Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) announced on May 31 its Green Refinance Plus, a program between HUD's Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Fannie Mae to boost energy efficiency in older affordable housing. The program will allow owners of existing affordable rental housing properties to refinance into new mortgages that include funding for energy- and water-saving upgrades, along with other needed property renovations.

Under the program, FHA and Fannie Mae will share the risk on loans to refinance existing rent-restricted projects while permitting owners to borrow additional funds to make energy-saving improvements to their properties. Owners of existing multifamily affordable properties typically refinance their mortgages every 10 to 15 years. In older apartment buildings, however, owners are often hard-pressed to find additional financing to maintain or improve the physical condition of their properties, including making energy-efficient upgrades. Soon, Fannie Mae and its participating lenders will begin accepting applications to refinance owners' debt and improve the energy efficiency of their properties.

The initiative is intended to refinance the expiring mortgages of Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties, and other affordable projects, and to lower annual operating costs

by reducing energy consumption. Fannie Mae and HUD anticipate approximately \$100 million in initial refinance volume with an average loan amount of \$3.5 to \$5 million.

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-106.

DOE Fellowships Supporting Next Generation of American Innovators

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced in March two new fellowship programs — the Postdoctoral Fellowships Program and the SunShot Initiative Fellowships Program — to support student participation in research and development (R&D) of advanced clean energy technologies. The programs are designed to increase American competitiveness in clean energy innovation and encourage job growth by supporting science, technology, engineering, and math education.

The SunShot Initiative Fellowships Program will support recent master's or Ph.D. graduates to work in DOE's Solar Energy Technologies Program (Solar Program or SETP). These fellows will engage in developing innovations and new R&D programs that will help drive the solar energy cost reduction goals of the SunShot Initiative. The SunShot Initiative Fellowships Program will include three levels of fellows, broadening the levels of knowledge and experience that will be integrated into the Solar Program's R&D activities. Applications for the SunShot Initiative are accepted on a rolling basis. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) will provide support over a two-year period, to up to 20 postdoctoral fellows for R&D of breakthrough technologies through the EERE Postdoctoral Fellowships Program. The program is intended for fellows whose academic research focuses on specific clean energy and energy efficiency technology areas, including solar. Fellows will select specific project areas when applying and will be encouraged to pursue independent projects. Applications are due by June 30, 2011, and fellowships will begin in November. For more about SunShot, including the full fellowships announcement, visit <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/sunshot/>.

Solar Energy Technologies Program

The Solar Energy Technologies Program conducts a range of research and development activities along the solar pipeline. Funding opportunities are available for photovoltaics, concentrating solar power, systems integration, and market transformation activities. The Solar Program provides opportunities for both financial and technical assistance. To view all current funding opportunities, visit www.solar.energy.gov/financial_opportunities.html.

Clean Cities - Plug-In Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-In Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure. This RFP will serve as a pilot program to stimulate community based electric vehicle

infrastructure readiness planning and implementation activities in anticipation of larger electric vehicle deployment efforts in the future. \$5 million expected to be available, up to 15 awards anticipated. Responses due 6/13/11. For more info, contact Sue Miltenberger at susan.miltenberger@netl.doe.gov or go to: <https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/?doc=DE-FOA-0000451&agency=DOE>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000451. (Grants.gov 4/19/11)

Open Manufacturing

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency requests proposals for Open Manufacturing. This program supports the development and demonstration of technologies that reduce impediments to the efficient manufacturing of affordable, competitive products that rapidly enter into service at low fiscal and environmental costs. Responses due 6/23/11. For more info, go to: http://www.darpa.mil/Opportunities/Solicitations/DSO_Solicitations.aspx. Refer to Sol# DARPA-BAA-11-54. (Grants.gov 5/5/11)