

GRANTS CONNECTOR

ENERGY PROJECT GRANTS, INCENTIVES AND OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

May 2012

Grants Connector – May 2012

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Grants Connector –May 2012

\$2.5 Million to Advance Technologies for Clean-Burning, Efficient Biomass Cookstoves

Technology Research, Development, and Tools for Clean Biomass Cookstoves

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0000709

Announcement Type: Initial

CFDA Number: 81.087

Issue Date: 04/12/2012

Application Due Date: 05/23/2012, 5:00 PM Eastern Time

The DOE announced up to \$2.5 million available this year for applied research to advance clean biomass cookstove technologies for use in developing countries. The funding will support the development of innovative cookstove designs that allow users to burn wood or crop residues more efficiently and with less smoke than open fires and traditional third world stoves, helping to save lives and improve livelihoods. The DOE, along with other federal agencies, is a founding partner of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, a public-private partnership to advance cookstove technologies.

DOE encourages organizations, including small businesses, non-profits, universities, and national laboratories, to submit proposals for applied research and development grants to develop clean and efficient cookstoves.

For more information and application requirements for the funding opportunity announcement, please visit the Funding Opportunity Exchange website under Reference Number DE-FOA-0000709. <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

Energy Department Announces up to \$15 Million to Research Biomass-Based Supplements for Traditional Fuels

The DOE announced up to \$15 million available to demonstrate biomass-based oil supplements that can be blended with petroleum. Known as “bio-oils,” these precursors for fully renewable transportation fuels could be integrated into the oil refining processes that make conventional gasoline, diesel and jet fuels without requiring modifications to existing fuel distribution networks or engines.

The DOE expects to fully fund between five to ten projects in fiscal year 2012 to produce bio-oil prototypes that can be tested in oil refineries and used to develop comprehensive technical and economic analyses of how bio-oils could work. The proto-type bio-oils will be produced from a range of feedstocks that could include algae, corn and wheat stovers, dedicated energy crops or wood residues. Domestic industry, universities and laboratories are all eligible to apply.

A description of the funding opportunity, eligibility requirements, and application instructions can be found on the [Funding Opportunity Exchange](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/) website under Reference Number DE-FOA-0000686. <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#1b1e6241-0135-4e0f-8a39-874cfac2566f>. Full application due 5/29/2012.

Energy Department Announces up to \$2.5 Million to Deploy Fuel Cell Powered Baggage Vehicles at Commercial Airports

The DOE announced up to \$2.5 million available this year to demonstrate and deploy fuel cell electric vehicles for transporting passenger baggage at major U.S. airports. The projects selected for funding will demonstrate first-generation, fuel cell powered baggage towing tractors under real-world operating conditions, and collect and analyze data to test their performance and cost-effectiveness. The DOE seeks applicants to demonstrate and test the performance and economic viability of advanced fuel cell systems for up to three years. The 50% cost-shared projects will supply information on fuel cell system operation and data on the economics of these vehicles to the Hydrogen Secure Data Center at the Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for analysis and comparison. Data will be collected from actual airport operations so that engineers and economic analysts can assess the technology's performance, durability, and cost-effectiveness under the real-world conditions of commercial airports. Conclusions will be drawn from the data to evaluate the commercial viability of this fuel cell application, and the data will be shared with fuel cell manufacturers, helping to improve their designs and optimize overall performance and costs.

The Department plans to select up to three projects, which will leverage more than \$2.5 million in additional funding from private and other sources. For more information, including application requirements and instructions, please visit the [Funding Opportunity Exchange](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/default.aspx#b354ca47-7a0c-44b0-b23e-7199c9074aef) website. <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/default.aspx#b354ca47-7a0c-44b0-b23e-7199c9074aef>. Full application deadline 6/11/2012.

Energy Department Offers \$9 Million to Improve Solar Forecasting

The DOE announced that \$9 million is available this year to help utilities and grid operators better forecast when, where, and how much solar power will be produced at U.S. solar energy plants. Enhanced solar forecasting will allow power system operators to integrate more solar energy into the grid and help ensure the economic and reliable delivery of renewable energy. The selected projects, part of DOE's SunShot Initiative, will last up to three years and will require more than 20% of the total funding from private and other sources. Changes in weather conditions can cause variations in solar power production. Improved forecasting technologies will help utilities and power system operators better predict when clouds and other weather-related factors will reduce the intensity of incoming sunlight at solar facilities. This information will allow utilities and operators to more accurately anticipate changes in solar power production and take actions to ensure the stability of the national power grid. This can reduce the cost of integrating solar power plants into the grid.

DOE will competitively select one or two projects for this funding, potentially partnering with national laboratories, universities, and industry. Awardees will strive to improve the accuracy of solar forecasting in the sub-hourly, short-term (1–6 hours), and day-ahead timeframes. The DOE plans to fund projects that could improve advanced weather modeling, find breakthrough methods for accurately predicting solar energy output, work to incorporate solar energy forecasts into power system operations, and demonstrate the economic benefits and improved system reliability from more accurate forecasts. See the full announcement on the Funding Opportunity Exchange <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#79cfa08a-cbc8-4c23-93fb-564080e0b47f> and the SunShot Initiative website.

Letter of Intent Submission Deadline: 5/16/2012 5:00 PM ET

Full Application Submission Deadline: 6/19/2012 5:00 PM ET

Energy Department Announces Solar "Plug-and-Play" Funding Solar

The DOE announced that up to \$5 million is available this year to develop "plug-and-play" photovoltaic (PV) systems. These are off-the-shelf systems that can be purchased, installed, and operational in one day. This effort is part of the Energy Department's strategy to spur solar power deployment by reducing non-hardware, or "soft" costs, such as installation, permitting, and interconnection, which currently amount to more than half of the total cost of residential systems. The funding, part of the Energy Department's SunShot Initiative, will help drive innovations to fundamentally change the design and installation of residential PV systems, reducing costs for homeowners and simplifying installations and grid connectivity. As the costs of solar PV modules continue to come down, soft costs and other non-module hardware costs, such as electronics and mounting hardware, now account for a majority of the total costs of systems. This offers significant opportunities to bring down costs through more efficient installation and permitting processes or new ways to affordably and effectively connect solar panels to the grid. Plug-and-play solar energy systems will make the process of buying, installing, and connecting solar energy systems faster, easier, and less expensive, potentially unlocking major cost reductions in this area. Plug-and-play PV systems could be installed without special training or tools, and simply plugged into a PV-ready circuit. An automatic detection system would initiate communication between the solar energy system and the utility. Plug-and-play systems are already in wide use in the computer and automotive industries, and DOE believes that similar innovations can be made in the solar energy industry to reduce costs and simplify installations. As part of a planned five-year program, DOE will invest an initial \$5 million this year for two projects that will develop innovative plug-and-play prototypes through partnerships with universities, industry, utilities, and other stakeholders. The Energy Department plans to make an additional request of \$20 million to Congress over the next four years to support these efforts. See the full funding opportunity announcement, and the SunShot Initiative website. <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#bf5631a6-44d3-4d22-9034-9d0dc0bdf3d3>.

Full Application Submission Deadline: 6/18/2012 5:00 PM ET

Small Business Efficiency, Renewable Research Funding

The DOE announced that up to \$9 million is available this year to fund about 50 small businesses to advance innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. This initiative will help businesses with promising ideas that could improve manufacturing processes, boost building efficiency, cut oil reliance, and generate renewable electricity. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is offering the funding through the department's Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs. These allow federal agencies with large research and development budgets to set aside a fraction of their funding for competitions among small businesses. Small businesses that win awards in these programs keep the rights to any technologies they develop and they are encouraged to commercialize them. This broad topic research solicitation gives small business broadly framed problems to work on and goals to achieve, and gives them the freedom to innovate. It also encourages small businesses with groundbreaking concepts to become part of the EERE programs' research teams. The funding opportunity includes 8 broad topics and 30 subtopics in areas including advanced manufacturing, energy-efficient buildings, biomass, hydrogen and fuel cells, solar energy, and wind and waterpower technologies. The Energy Department will fund selected small businesses with one-year awards of up to \$150,000. Awardees with successful projects will have the opportunity to compete for more than \$1 million in follow-on funding. See the [EERE Progress Alert](#) and the [funding opportunity announcement](#) on the Funding Opportunity Exchange website. <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#b3ab7cc1-f5b1-45f2-9f4d-0d5a091f8ef5>.

Full Application Submission Deadline: 7/3/2012 11:59 PM ET

\$20 Million Available for Clean Diesel Projects

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of up to \$20 million in FY 2012 grant funding to establish clean diesel projects aimed at reducing harmful pollution from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines and improving air quality and Americans' health. In addition to these grants, approximately \$9 million will be available through direct state allocations. EPA estimates that for every \$1 spent on clean diesel funding up to \$13 of public health benefit is realized.

This is the first competition since the Diesel Emission Reduction Program, also known as DERA, was reauthorized in 2011. The program cleans up existing diesel vehicles, many of which can be operated for decades, by targeting projects that utilize the most cost-effective clean diesel strategies. By reducing diesel emissions in areas that have significant air quality issues the program can have a direct impact on community health.

States, tribes, local governments, and non-profits are eligible to apply for these grants. Projects can reduce air pollution from older school buses, transit buses, heavy-duty diesel trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and other diesel engines. The closing date for receipt of proposals is June 4, 2012.

DERA was enacted in 2005 and since it was first funded in FY 2008, EPA has awarded over 500 grants nationwide. These projects have reduced hundreds of thousands of tons of air pollution and saved millions of gallons of fuel. As part of EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign, many of these projects fund cleaner diesel engines that operate in economically disadvantaged communities whose residents suffer from higher-than-average instances of respiratory ailments.

Request for Proposals forms and related documents:
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/prgnational.htm>.

Hydropower Gets a \$5 Million Energy Department Opportunity

The DOE announced that up to \$5 million is available this year to assess opportunities to increase power production at up to 40 existing hydropower facilities around the nation. Through this competitive funding opportunity, the Energy Department will work with hydropower professionals to conduct standardized assessments to identify opportunities to increase generation and value at hydropower plants.

As much of America's aging hydropower infrastructure is more than 50 years old, this effort could help accelerate the deployment of upgrades at existing hydropower facilities, creating jobs and increasing the supply of renewable energy to American families and businesses. Conventional hydropower already supplies more than 6% of the nation's electricity. The assessments to be completed through this solicitation are part of the Energy Department's larger Hydropower Advancement Project, which seeks to accelerate the improvement and expansion of U.S. hydropower plants. See the [DOE Progress Alert and Funding Opportunity Announcement](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#5a485f59-64c8-42b8-b2c0-dfa7eff7466e). <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#5a485f59-64c8-42b8-b2c0-dfa7eff7466e>.

Also, the Energy Department on April 17 released a report detailing the potential to develop electric power generation at existing U.S. dams that aren't equipped to produce power. The renewable assessment estimates that without building a single new dam, the available hydropower resources could provide more than 12 gigawatts (GW) if fully developed. That total would be roughly 15% of current U.S. hydropower capacity. The report, titled *An Assessment of Energy Potential at Non-Powered Dams in the United States*, analyzes more than 54,000 sites that could be developed to generate power. The results indicate that the non-powered dams could provide enough energy to power over four million households. The greatest hydropower potential was found at locks and dams on the Ohio, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas rivers in facilities owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The top ten sites alone have the potential to provide approximately 3 GW of generating capacity, while the top 100 sites together could potentially provide 8 GW. Many of these dams could also likely be converted to power-generating facilities with minimal impact to critical species, habitats, parks, or wilderness areas.

The assessment by DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in partnership with Idaho National Laboratory also concludes that many potential hydropower sites are in areas

with fewer wind or solar resources. And because hydropower provides reliable baseload power day and night, developing existing dams could also provide flexibility to the electric grid, and allow utilities to integrate other renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

Full Application Submission Deadline: 6/14/2012 5:00 PM ET

Energy Department to Back \$30 Million Storage Competition

The DOE announced a \$30 million research competition for improving the performance and safety of energy storage devices, including hybrid energy storage modules being developed by the U.S. Department of Defense for military applications. DOE, through its Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E), is funding the Advanced Management and Protection of Energy-storage Devices (AMPED) program. It is designed to seek out transformational, breakthrough energy storage technologies that are too risky for private-sector investment. Specifically, AMPED technologies have the potential to create a new generation of electric and hybrid-electric vehicles; increase the fuel efficiency of military generators to help reduce the need for fuel convoys on the battlefield; improve the reliability of military aircraft generators to help to reduce operation and maintenance costs; enable next-generation high-power weapons systems and fuel-efficient operations for U.S. Navy ships; and enhance the efficiency and reliability of the U.S. electricity grid. See [ARPA-E website](https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/) for funding details. <https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/>.

Notice of Intent Deadline: 5/14/2012 5:00 PM ET

Full Application Submission Deadline: 5/23/2012 5:00 PM ET

Energy Department Announces Up to \$4 Million to Develop Wireless Chargers for Electric Vehicles

Up to \$4 million available this year to accelerate the development and deployment of wireless charging systems for electric vehicles (EVs). Developing wireless charging systems for light-duty EVs could accelerate the adoption of these energy efficient vehicles by making them more convenient to charge, both at home and away. Wireless charging technology has the potential to significantly increase the attractiveness and convenience of all-electric vehicles to consumers. In the near term, this funding will accelerate the development of wireless charging technology to provide hands-free, automated charging of parked vehicles. Static wireless charging—or wireless charging when the vehicle is parked—can ensure easy and efficient vehicle charging. Future wireless charging could extend EV range by enabling a driver to charge up during a trip when the vehicle is not in motion, such as when stopped at traffic lights. Wireless charging has the potential to reduce the total energy storage requirements of EVs, unlocking the benefits of lighter and smaller battery packs, lighter vehicles, higher efficiency and longer ranges.

Through this funding opportunity, the Department intends to select up to four projects to research and develop a wireless charging system, integrate it into a production vehicle, and test it in real-world operating conditions. Vehicles equipped with this technology could reach the market this decade. As part of a planned three-year initiative, the Department will make up to \$4 million available in fiscal year 2012 for awards under this funding opportunity. Pending successful completion of project milestones, the Energy Department plans to make additional requests totaling \$8 million from Congress, resulting in a total value of up to \$12 million over three years for selected projects. More information, including application and cost-share requirements, is available on the Department's [Funding Opportunity Exchange website](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/) and applications must be submitted through that website to be considered for award. The Department expects to announce selections by summer 2012. <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>

Letter of Intent Deadline: 5/31/2012 5:00 PM ET

Full Application Submission Deadline: 5/31/2012 8:00 PM ET

2012 Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives for Businesses

Certain business tax incentives can help organizations reduce the cost of energy efficiency. Although the deadline to claim 2011 energy-saving commercial tax incentives was last week, you may already be thinking about making your company more energy efficient in 2012. Several energy efficiency tax incentives for companies have expired, but two are available for 2012: one for buildings and one for electric vehicles.

Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Deduction

If you make your building more energy efficient, you can claim the [energy-efficient commercial buildings deduction](#). This tax deduction is available for businesses that improve the performance of:

- Lighting
- Building envelope
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems

The deduction is worth \$1.80 per square foot of the building for retrofits that address all three of the above areas, and \$0.60 per square foot for retrofits that address one of these areas. To qualify for the full \$1.80 deduction, the retrofit must bring the building to performance levels at least 50% better than certain standards set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) in the three categories.

Resources for the Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Deduction:

For more information on the energy-efficient commercial buildings deduction, check out:

- The buildings section in the Alliance to Save Energy overview of Commercial and Manufacturing Tax Incentives for Energy Efficiency resource at <http://ase.org/resources/commercial-and-manufacturing-tax-incentives-energy-efficiency>.
- New guidance on the 179D commercial buildings deduction
- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Energy Savings Modeling and Inspection Guidelines for Commercial Building Federal Tax Deductions on requirements for building retrofits
- IRS notices 2006-52 (http://www.irs.gov/irb/2006-26_IRB/ar11.html) and 2008-40 (http://www.irs.gov/irb/2008-14_IRB/ar12.html).
- The Department of Energy's Building Technologies Program information web page (http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/tax_commercial.html) and Tax Deductions for Commercial Buildings flyer

Electric Vehicles & Refueling Property Tax Credit

Several electric cars and other electric vehicles are eligible for a tax credit. If you or your company bought a battery-powered, plug-in car that can drive on the highway anytime after 2009, you can get a tax credit of up to \$7,500.

Resources for the Electric Vehicle Tax Credit

For more information on the electric vehicles and refueling property tax credit, check out:

- The vehicle section of the Alliance to Save Energy Commercial and Manufacturing Tax Incentives for Energy Efficiency resource (<http://ase.org/resources/commercial-and-manufacturing-tax-incentives-energy-efficiency#30D>)
- The IRS's resource on credit amounts for qualified vehicles bought after Dec. 31, 2009 (<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/article/0,,id=219867,00.html>)
- The FuelEconomy.gov web page on federal tax credits for electric vehicles purchased after 2010 (<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml>)
- The IRS web page on the Plug-In Electric Vehicle Credit (IRC 30 and IRC 30D) (<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/article/0,,id=214841,00.html>)

\$14.2 Million in New Funding to Develop Lightweight Materials for Advanced Vehicles

\$14.2 million to accelerate the development and deployment of stronger and lighter materials for advanced vehicles. This funding will support the development of high-strength, lightweight carbon fiber composites and advanced steels and alloys that will help vehicle manufacturers improve the fuel economy of cars and trucks while maintaining and improving safety and performance.

The Energy Department intends to fund projects across three major areas of materials research and development, including developing modeling tools to deliver higher performing carbon fiber composites and advanced steels, as well as researching new

lightweight, high-strength alloys for energy-efficient vehicle and truck engines. The specific research areas include:

- Predictive modeling of carbon fiber composites: Carbon fiber composites are capable of reducing vehicle component weight by up to 50 percent over conventional automotive steel structures. Projects selected in this area will validate modeling tools to optimize the performance and cost-effectiveness of carbon fiber composite materials for vehicle body, chassis, and interior uses.
- Predictive modeling of advanced steels: Advanced high strength steels are capable of reducing vehicle component weight by more than 25 percent. Projects selected in this area will develop modeling tools to optimize the performance and cost-effectiveness of third-generation high strength steels for the vehicle body and chassis.
- Advanced alloy development for automotive and heavy-duty engines: As manufacturers continue to push the limits of engine efficiency, cast engine components must be strong enough to withstand higher cylinder pressures. Projects selected in this area will develop low-cost, high-strength alloys for automotive and heavy duty engine blocks and cylinder heads.

The Energy Department will make up to \$8.2 million available in fiscal year 2012 for selection under this funding opportunity announcement, and subject to congressional appropriations, the Department plans to make an additional \$6 million available in fiscal year 2013 to fully fund these advanced materials projects, which will take 2-4 years to complete.

The Department will accept applications from industry, national laboratories, and university led-teams to address these challenges and enable technologies that will drive innovation in vehicle design. Applications for the solicitation are due May 7, 2012.

For more information and application requirements, please visit <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

RFP: Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



To assist the Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council (EISPC) Members with Identification of State-by-State Existing and Potential for **Clean Energy Zones Study**

Request for proposals for a Whitepaper on the Co-Optimization of Transmission and other Supply Resources. Responses by 5/19/2012

Please visit <http://communities.nrri.org/web/eispc/community-home-and-charter> for links to the RFPs.

\$10 Million to Promote Zero Emission Cargo Transport Vehicles

Up to \$10 million available this year to demonstrate and deploy electric transportation technologies for cargo in severe nonattainment areas. The Department of Energy seeks applicants for this funding to demonstrate cost-effective zero emission cargo transport systems and collect detailed performance and cost data to analyze the benefits and viability of this approach to freight transportation.

This funding opportunity is open to local governments and private companies, with federal funds matched in a 50% cost share. Detailed application instructions, including eligibility, can be found on [DOE's Funding Opportunity Exchange](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/default.aspx#97e671e8-6b9a-4fd9-89c2-23b19f813709) website under Reference Number DE-FOA-0000669 <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/default.aspx#97e671e8-6b9a-4fd9-89c2-23b19f813709>. . Applications will be accepted until 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 15, 2012. DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for award by the end of July 2012, and making at least one award by September 30, 2012.

Army Plans \$7 Billion in Industry Partnerships for Renewables

The U.S. Army reported on March 19 that it will partner with industry to invest up to \$7 billion over the next 10 years in renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy. The military department has released a draft request for proposal (RFP) that could allow multiple projects to begin nationwide. The draft RFP indicates that the Army intends to primarily purchase renewable-generated electricity through power purchase agreements with the project developers.

The investment will help the Army reach its goal of having 25% of its estimated 2.5 million megawatt hours come from renewable sources by 2025. In addition to energy conservation, installations will strive to establish alternative forms of energy that will allow them to "island" or continue to operate should the power grid fail.

The Army's Energy Initiatives Task Force (EITF) serves as the central managing office to plan and execute large-scale renewable energy projects of greater than 10 megawatts (roughly enough to power 30,000 homes) on Army installations, which will be accomplished by leveraging private-sector financing. A renewable-energy project guide will be issued for comment later in the spring.

The task force has been working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a request for proposal under the Multiple Award Order Contract (MATOC). The MATOC provides a two-step process. In the first step, companies submit initial proposals and qualifications that are not project-specific. The draft RFP for the MATOC is available at https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=6af3d8417865b78eff12c717e293ea0f&tab=core&_cview=1. The EITF plans to have a summit in May to meet with industry and discuss the renewable-energy development guide as well as specific projects.

\$15 Million Multi-Agency Challenge To Foster Job Creation and Business Innovation in Rural Communities Nationwide

\$15 million multi-agency Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator challenge to spur job creation and economic growth in distressed rural communities. This competition, which is being funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), was designed by the Taskforce for the Advancement of Regional Innovation Clusters and the White House Rural Council.

The national effort will support rural partnerships by identifying and leveraging local assets and strengthening linkages to industry clusters. Strong industry clusters promote robust economic ecosystems and the development of a skilled workforce, both of which are critical to long-term regional success in rural areas. Last year's 20 challenge winners—both rural and urban public-private partnerships—generated millions in matching funds and their projects are expected to help create hundreds of new businesses and thousands of new jobs.

The Rural Jobs Accelerator Challenge is expected to give out approximately 20 awards, depending on the number of eligible applications. To be eligible for an award, projects must benefit rural communities, but the applicant is not required to be located in a rural area. Nonprofits, higher education institutions, tribes and state and local governments can collaborate to apply for funding. Although businesses are not eligible to apply directly, applicants can also partner with the private sector on implementation.

The deadline for applications is May 9, 2012 and guidelines for submissions are accessible at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RuralJobsAccelerator.html>. In addition to the four funding partners the initiative is supported by nine other Federal agencies: Commerce's U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership; Denali Commission; U.S. Department of Education; U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration; U.S. Department of Energy; Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and the Small Business Administration.

Up to \$9 Million Available for Clean Energy Startups

DOE's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs announced up to \$9 million in total funding to be distributed among as many as 50 U.S. companies. This opportunity targets small businesses with breakthrough solar cost-reduction proposals or transformational manufacturing and materials technologies. The SBIR and STTR programs allow federal agencies to set aside a fraction of their research and development budgets to serve as seed capital for early stage research and development (R&D) efforts. These awards strive to foster

participation in the marketplace by socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses.

To qualify for either program, a business must be for-profit, at least 51% U.S.-owned, and have 500 or fewer employees in the United States. Under an STTR award, the company must collaborate with a non-profit research institution. The company is required to perform the majority of the R&D in the SBIR program, but collaboration is optional. Both programs take a phased R&D approach with three funding levels: feasibility demonstration (Phase I), prototype development (Phase II), and commercialization (Phase III). The applicants selected for Phase I grants under this opportunity may receive up to \$150,000 for a 9-month project. If successful, awardees may be eligible for continued funding in Phase II.

This opportunity targets four solar research areas in line with SunShot Initiative goals: Photovoltaic module cost reductions that can achieve an installed system cost of \$0.50/W by 2020. Power electronics (inverters, DC/DC converters, plug-and-play innovations, etc.) cost reductions that can achieve an installed system price of \$0.10/W by 2020 or hardware (racking systems, BIPV designs, wire management, etc.) balance-of-system cost reductions that permit an installed system price of \$0.18/W by 2020 Non-hardware balance-of-system (customer acquisition, permitting, installation, inspection, interconnection, etc.) cost reductions that can achieve an installed system price of \$0.22/W by 2020

Concentrating solar power (heliostat, trough, molten salt, power cycle, materials reduction, etc.) breakthroughs that can achieve a levelized cost of electricity of \$0.05–0.06 kWh.

In addition, the opportunity extends to small businesses with transformational manufacturing processes and materials that can reduce primary energy use in manufacturing by 50% without sacrificing product quality, production throughput, or life cycle cost.

Pre-applications are due on May 1, 2012, and full applications must be submitted by July 3, 2012. For additional details, read the [DOE press release](#) or see application requirements on [EERE's funding opportunity exchange](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#b3ab7cc1-f5b1-45f2-9f4d-0d5a091f8ef5). <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#b3ab7cc1-f5b1-45f2-9f4d-0d5a091f8ef5>.

Renewable Energy RFPs

This update contains solicitations for renewable energy generation, renewable energy certificates, and green power as a courtesy to our subscribers. Unless otherwise noted, these requests for proposals and solicitations are neither supported nor endorsed by the U.S. Department of Energy, [Green Power Network](#).

Deadline: May 29, 2012

[U.S. Department of Energy Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\) \(DE-FOA-0000651\)](#) seeking applications for the development of solar hardware and solar non-hardware solutions for the SunShot Incubator Program. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: photovoltaics, balance of systems, power electronics, concentrating solar power, tools to address non-hardware costs of solar energy, plug-and-play wiring and

installation techniques and energy storage.

Contact: SunShot.Incubator@ee.doe.gov

Deadline: June 5, 2012

New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) RFP seeking proposals from qualified contractors to develop facilities demonstrating the application of new and emerging technology in the processing of DSNY managed waste. Eligible proposers must demonstrate a proven, reliable, cost-effective, sustainable and environmentally sound conversion technology that uses waste collected by DSNY as a feedstock for generating renewable energy.

Contact: Kathleen Feeley, 212-437-5057

A complete list of active RFPs can found at <http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/financial/>.

Up to \$2 Million to Collect Data from Hydrogen Fueling Stations and Demonstrate Innovations in Hydrogen Infrastructure Technologies

The Energy Department announced up to \$2 million available this year to collect and analyze performance data for hydrogen fueling stations and advanced refueling components. By collecting data from advanced hydrogen fueling stations, the Energy Department will track the performance and technical progress of innovative refueling systems operating in real-world environments to find ways to lower costs and improve operation. Many automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have announced production plans for fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) for retail sale or lease as early as 2015 in the U.S. and other countries, and some states are investing in hydrogen fuel infrastructure to accommodate these vehicles. The funding announced will support projects to monitor the performance of multiple hydrogen fueling stations and advanced components for up to five years to demonstrate technology innovations, gauge progress toward technical targets, and help identify and focus future research and development efforts. The data and resulting analyses from this initiative will also help hydrogen fueling equipment manufacturers improve the designs of existing systems to optimize performance and test new system components.

The department seeks applicants to this funding opportunity to test new refueling component technologies that could substantially reduce the cost of hydrogen. These include, but are not limited to, advanced compressor designs that could reduce the number or size of compressors required at commercial refueling sites; hydrogen delivery tanks with higher capacity and optimal tank pressure—which could reduce the need for compressors and the frequency of deliveries at refueling sites; and advanced electrolyzers that can produce hydrogen at higher pressures, potentially lowering the cost of hydrogen by reducing the amount of post-production compression required.

As part of a planned two-year initiative, the Energy Department will make up to \$2 million available in fiscal year 2012. The department plans to make an additional request for \$2.2 million to Congress next year to support these innovative hydrogen fueling technologies. For more information, including application requirements and instructions,

please visit the Funding Opportunity Exchange website at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/default.aspx#905c617f-ed00-4bf8-a111-4e4c340e9a27>. Responses are due by Friday, May 11.

Ocean Wind Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced six-year, \$180 million initiative to support up to four innovative offshore wind energy installations. An initial \$20 million will be available this year.

The demonstration projects are intended to address key challenges associated with installing utility-scale offshore wind turbines, connecting offshore turbines to the power grid, and navigating new permitting and approval processes. In addition to the new funding, DOE is continuing to work with partners across the federal government to implement a comprehensive offshore wind energy strategy, conduct resource assessments, and streamline siting and permitting processes.

Applicants to the competitive solicitation are expected to form consortia of energy project developers, equipment suppliers, research institutions, and marine-installation specialists. DOE funds may be used to cover up to 80% of a project's design costs and 50% of the hardware and installation costs. Applications are due on May 31, 2012.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- oswdemo@go.doe.gov

For questions regarding the content of the announcement. All questions must be submitted at least 3 business days prior to each submission deadline.

- EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov

For questions regarding the submission of applications through EERE Exchange. All questions must be submitted at least 3 business days prior to each submission deadline.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- Letter of Intent Submission Deadline: 3/30/2012 11:59 PM ET
- Full Application Submission Deadline: 5/31/2012 11:59 PM ET

Funding opportunity details at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#5bfa6fc8-0b9b-4983-868d-5ec8537a585a>.

USDA Seeks Applications for Economic Development Funding to Create Jobs In Rural Areas

The USDA is seeking applications for loans and grants to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic development. The funding is being provided under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. Eligible recipients are USDA rural utilities program borrowers. Those recipients pass the funds to local organizations. The funding is leveraged to create projects that retain or create jobs and upgrade public infrastructure. The maximum amount of funding for any one project is \$1 million for loans and \$300,000 for grants.

Organizations use REDLG funds to create jobs and improve services. For example, the Utilities District of Western Indiana received a REDLG loan and grant in 2011 to construct an elevated water storage tank and supply lines. The project will serve a technology park and two communities, creating nearly 400 jobs. USDA plans to award up to \$79 million in loan and \$10 million in grants through the program. The deadline for submitting applications is the last business day of each month through September 30th of 2012. Applications must be submitted to the Rural Development state office where the project will be located. A list of these offices is available on the USDA Rural Development web site, <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/StateOfficeAddresses.html>, or on page 12792 of the March 2 Federal Register, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-02/pdf/2012-5043.pdf>.

DOE Launches New Research Program to Advance Solar Technologies

DOE announced on February 23 that \$3 million is available this year to support research to significantly lower the cost of solar energy. The Bridging Research Interactions through Collaborative Development Grants in Energy (BRIDGE) funding will enable collaborative research teams from industry, universities, and national laboratories to work together in DOE's research centers. The research teams will support the goal of DOE's SunShot Initiative to make solar energy cost competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade.

The BRIDGE funding will enable researchers to leverage the tools and expertise of scientists at DOE research facilities so that fundamental scientific discoveries can be rapidly transitioned to existing product lines and projects. The BRIDGE program is the first to provide engineers and scientists developing photovoltaic and concentrating solar power technologies with the tools and expertise of DOE's research facilities. Those will include major facilities for x-ray and neutron scattering, nanoscale science, advanced microcharacterization, environmental molecular sciences, and advanced scientific computing. This collaborative approach will accelerate innovations to lower the cost of photovoltaic and concentrating solar power technologies. Full applications are due May 21, 2012.

See the [DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy progress alert](#), the [Funding Opportunity Exchange Web page](#) for details, and the [SunShot Initiative website](#). <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#15a78564-c474-4af1-a25b-6ba0a0f627f5>.

Refrigerator Recycling Program – Efficiency Maine

It's called The Refrigerator Recycling Program and it's simple:

- Let us recycle your old, working, full-sized refrigerator or freezer.
- We'll pick it up for free.
- We'll send you a \$50 rebate.
- You'll save up to \$250/yr in electricity.

You can schedule a free pickup on the Efficiency Maine website:

<http://www.energymaine.com/at-home/refrigerator-recycling-program>.

USDA Invites Applications for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the availability of funding from the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). REAP is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the Nation's critical energy needs. For 2012, USDA has approximately \$25.4 million budget authority available to fund REAP activities, which will support at least \$12.5 million in grant and approximately \$48.5 million in guaranteed loan program level awards. USDA is accepting the following applications:

- renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications on a continuous basis up to June 29, 2012;

More information on how to apply for funding is available in the January 20, 2012 Federal Register, pages 2948 through 2954.

Maine Rural Energy Development Coordinator

Beverly Stone, USDA Rural
Development, 967 Illinois Avenue,
Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME
04402-0405, (207) 990-9125,

Efficiency Maine Trust – Maine PACE Financing

Low Monthly Payments Mean Big Energy Savings!
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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.

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.

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.

Maine Small Business Credit Initiatives

On September 16, 2011, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Maine Governor Paul LePage announced the approval of Maine’s State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) application (see Governor’s press release at <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Portal+News&id=304431&v=Article-2008>). The \$13.2 million in funds will help create new private sector jobs and spur more than \$132 million in additional small-businesses lending in that state. The funding will take place in three stages, with the first allocation of \$4.3 million now taking place.

The SSBCI funds will be used to recapitalize three existing, successful programs:

1. \$7 million will be available to a group of 15 regional economic development agencies to make loans to businesses in their area. See FAME's Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program.
2. \$3.2 million will be allocated to FAME for the Economic Recovery Loan Program – loans of up to \$1 million that meet the program's underwriting requirements, which can be used statewide;
3. \$3 million will be allocated to the Small Enterprise Growth Fund – Maine's state-run venture capital fund.

For more information, please contact FAME's Bob Corey at (207) 620-3524.

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Energy announces its continuing interest in receiving applications for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: Basic Energy Sciences and Biological and Environmental Research, and Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists. Subtopics include Solar Photochemistry Research, and Climate Sciences. \$400 million expected to be available, multiple awards anticipated. Responses due 9/30/12. For more info, contact Kimberlie Laing at kim.laing@science.doe.gov or go to: <https://www.fedconnect.net/fedconnect/?doc=DE-FOA-0000660&agency=DOE>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000600.

HUD Multifamily Energy Innovation Fund

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Affordable Housing Preservation (OAHP) is issuing a notice of fund availability (NOFA) for the Multifamily Energy Innovation Fund. This fund provides a total of \$25 million in grants to be used for the purpose of energy efficiency upgrades at multifamily properties. The goals of this NOFA are to:

1. Demonstrate solutions to the primary and longstanding challenges to implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements, in existing affordable multifamily properties.
2. Leverage private capital and additional public funding to demonstrate "proof of concept" of specific models.
3. Conduct applied research to document and disseminate mainstream, scalable approaches to retrofitting affordable multifamily properties.

The overall objective of the Energy Innovation Fund is to help catalyze a home energy retrofit market in the United States by accelerating private investment in cost-saving energy efficiency retrofits in the residential sector. Innovative and replicable strategies to improve the usefulness of existing HUD programs--as well as developing new financing

tools--will lead to significant reductions in energy consumption, operating costs, and the carbon footprint of both affordable and market-rate housing. More information can be found here: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa10/grpeif.cfm>.

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.

Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency **(<http://www.energysavers.gov/financial/70010.html>)**

If you purchase an energy-efficient product or renewable energy system for your home, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit. Below is an overview of the federal tax credits for energy efficiency that are currently available.

Some energy efficiency tax credits are available through 2016 as noted below.

How to Claim Your Tax Credit

- Visit the [IRS website](http://www.irs.gov/) <http://www.irs.gov/> to obtain the correct forms for the tax year you are filing.
- Use the following forms:

- For renewable and efficiency credits: [IRS Form 5695](#) 
- For alternative motor vehicle credits: IRS Form 8910. Also download instructions for form 8910.
- For qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle credits: [IRS Form 8936](#) 
- Save your receipts, or make copies of them, and the Manufacturer Certification Statement for your records.
- NOTE: The credits are nonrefundable—in other words, the credits are only available to the extent you have a tax liability. The credits for home energy improvement products eligible through 2011 may be limited if you are subject to the AMT.
- Tax credits can only be claimed once, and are limited to the year in which they are purchased: If you claimed a home energy improvement tax credit on your 2010 taxes, you cannot take an additional credit for the same purchase on your 2011 taxes.
- There is a \$500 lifetime limit on the federal tax credits that expire in December 2011 (not those that expire in 2016). If you have received a total of \$500 or more in these tax credits from 2006-2010, you are not eligible for any more.

Products Eligible for Tax Credits Through 2011 **Products Eligible for Tax Credits Through 2016**

Tax credits for these products are available at 30% of the cost, with no upper limit, through 2016 (Select "See Details" for more information on each product, or see the [printable version](#)).

Geothermal Heat Pump



Credit: Bruce Green

Credit: 30% of cost, with no upper limit

When and Where:

- Must be "placed in service" by Dec. 31, 2016
- Available on principal home or second home.
- New and existing homes

- See details

[Product](#)

[Requirements](#)

[More Information](#)

Geothermal Heat Pump	<p>Closed Loop: EER \geq 14.1; COP \geq 3.3 Open Loop: EER \geq 16.2; COP \geq 3.6 Direct Expansion: EER \geq 15; COP \geq 3.5</p> <p>Credit includes installation costs.</p>	<p>Learn more about geothermal heat pumps, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of geothermal heat pumps • Efficiency ratings of geothermal heat pumps <p>All ENERGY STAR geothermal heat pumps qualify.</p>
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Solar Energy Systems



Credit: Cheryl Unger

Credit: 30% of cost, with no upper limit

When and Where:

- Must be "placed in service" by Dec. 31, 2016
- Available on principal home or second home.
- New and existing homes

- See details

Product	Requirements	More Information
Solar Water Heating Property	<p>At least half of the energy generated by the "qualifying property" must come from the sun.</p> <p>The system must be certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC).</p> <p>Credit includes installation costs.</p>	<p>Learn more about solar water heaters. All ENERGY STAR solar water heaters qualify.</p> <p>The water must be used in the dwelling. The credit is not available for expenses for swimming pools or hot tubs.</p> <p>Tax credits are only available for the solar water heating system</p>

		property, not the entire water heating system of the household.
Photovoltaic Systems (Solar Electric Property)	Photovoltaic systems must provide electricity for the residence and must meet applicable fire and electrical code requirement.	<p>Learn more about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Small solar electric systems</u> • Things to consider when <u>making your own electricity</u> with renewable energy systems

Wind Energy Systems



Credit: Bergey WindPower

Credit: 30% of cost, with no upper limit

When and Where:

- Must be "placed in service" by Dec. 31, 2016
- Available on principal home or second home.
- New and existing homes

- See details

Product	Requirements	More Information
Residential Small Wind Turbines	<p>Nameplate capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts.</p> <p>Credit includes installation costs.</p>	<p>Learn more about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Small wind electric systems</u> • Things to consider when <u>making your own electricity</u> with renewable energy systems

Fuel Cells



Credit: Capstone Turbine Corporation

Credit: 30% of cost, up to \$500 per .5 kW of power capacity

When and Where:

- Must be "placed in service" by Dec. 31, 2016
- Primary residence
- New and existing homes

- See details

Product	Requirements	More Information
Residential Fuel Cell Systems	Efficiency of at least 30% and must have a capacity of at least 0.5 kW. Credit includes installation costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn more about fuel cells

Vehicle Tax Credits

Tax credits are also available for some vehicles (Select "See Details" for more information on each product, or see the [printable version](#)).

Plug-In Electric Vehicles



Credit: ©iStockphoto.com

Credit: Varies, see below.

When:

- See below; credits phased-out after certain number of vehicles are sold.

- See details

Product	Requirements	More Information
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Plug-in electric and small neighborhood electric vehicles

Credit: Up to \$7,500, based on capacity of the battery system.

The first 200,000 vehicles sold get the full tax credit before the credit begins phasing out. Use IRS Form 8936 .

See Fueleconomy.gov to find out which vehicles qualify for the credit.

See the IRS information on the Plug-in Electric Vehicle Credit.

Also see credits for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property.