

PA TO DEVELOP CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES, BUILD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ECONOMY WITH HELP OF FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS

PEDA to Support Job-Creating, Advanced Energy Projects; Grant Applications Due May 29

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania’s efforts to build a green economy and attract businesses that create jobs and develop advanced energy technologies are getting a boost from federal stimulus dollars, acting Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger said today as he announced that Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority grant applications are now available.

“This is the right time for Pennsylvania to make needed investments in our energy future and support projects that put our people to work in good, green collar jobs,” Hanger said. “The federal stimulus package has nearly doubled the funds available to help us develop new renewable energy technologies and support projects that will reduce our energy consumption, lower energy bills, and speed up our economic recovery.

“We’ve already seen the opportunities these funds can create,” said Hanger. “Last month, PEDA invested \$3.8 million from the stimulus package in five projects that will attract another \$19 million from private sources and put 155 people to work installing energy efficient equipment and money-saving solar systems. As Governor Rendell has said many times, we’re committed to doing everything possible to ensure Pennsylvania makes the most of this federal recovery program for the sake of our families and businesses.”

The \$21 million that is available through PEDA includes \$9 million in state funds and \$10 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Another \$2 million is available to municipalities, local government authorities, and first responders in Duquesne Light Company’s electric service territory and immediately adjacent areas to help these entities cope with high energy costs and ensure they have a secure energy supply that is needed for critical operations.

Grants of up to \$1.5 million are available for a wide variety of projects, Hanger noted, including solar, wind, waste recovery, and alternative fuels for transportation.

Governor Edward G. Rendell revived PEDA after years of inactivity to help spark innovation and economic development in Pennsylvania’s energy industry. Since 2005, PEDA has approved 110 grants and loans totaling nearly \$50 million for clean energy projects that are leveraging an estimated \$953 million in other investments.

Grant applications will be accepted through May 29. This is a competitive solicitation and funding will be determined by a vote of a board of directors.

Guidelines and applications are available at www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: PEDDA. See below for introduction, conditions & eligibility.

GUIDELINES INTRODUCTION, CONDITIONS & ELIGIBILITY

The Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA) is offering funding for innovative, advanced energy projects, and for businesses interested in locating or expanding their alternative energy manufacturing or production operations in the commonwealth. PEDDA will consider projects such as the manufacturing of alternative energy or energy efficiency equipment or materials; the development of innovative new alternative energy or energy efficiency technologies; the generation of alternative energy or the production of alternative fuels; or the implementation of energy efficiency/demand side projects.

Section II - General Application Conditions

Projects receiving funding through the ARRA must commence work within 120 days of the date a Grant Agreement is fully executed and must be completed within 18 months. There will be no extensions.

All projects must include a research component.

All projects must be in compliance with all applicable laws.

Applicants must not have any outstanding obligations to the commonwealth, including payment of all state and local taxes, and must not have any unresolved environmental violations.

Projects that support revitalization by reusing or redeveloping brownfields and previously developed sites in urban, suburban and rural communities are preferred.

PEDA will consider grant applications for amounts up to \$1.5 million. A total of \$21 million is available under this solicitation. Proposals requesting substantial amounts must demonstrate benefits commensurate with the funding level requested.

In order to maximize the number of grants awarded, proposals with scopes pertaining to other commonwealth programs may be referred to those programs for consideration, if authorized by the applicant.

The activities funded must be conducted entirely or largely in Pennsylvania and the use of Pennsylvania contractors, suppliers, labor and products is preferred.

Construction projects receiving state grant funds and having a cost in excess of \$25,000 may be subject to Pennsylvania's Prevailing Wage Act requirements. For information about the applicability of Prevailing Wage, applicants should contact the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry at (717) 705-7256 or (800) 932-0665 or visit the Web site at www.dli.state.pa.us. It is solely the responsibility of a grant recipient to ensure the Act is followed if applicable.

Construction projects receiving Federal grant funds may be subject to Federal laws governing wages. Information about these requirements will be coming out soon and will be made available to any grant recipients receiving funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

PEDA encourages minority and women-owned businesses to apply for program funding.

PEDA encourages firefighters, police and other first responders to seek funding for alternative energy projects to provide backup power for critical operations.

PEDA reserves the right to inspect any project financed with PEDA funds and to audit or require a third-party audit of any project's financial transactions or compliance with agreement terms.

PEDA grant proposals and information concerning the project evaluation are public information and subject to disclosure to the public upon request. Any information included in the grant proposal that the applicant wishes the commonwealth to consider as proprietary must be on a separate sheet of paper and must be clearly marked as proprietary.

The commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all applications received as a result of this request.

Section III - Eligibility

A. Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible to apply for grants under this solicitation:

- Corporations, partnerships, associations and other legal business entities;
- Non-profit corporations;
- Pennsylvania colleges and universities; and
- Any Pennsylvania municipality and any public corporation, authority or body whatsoever.

B. Eligible Projects

For purposes of this financial assistance, alternative energy projects means projects involving any of the following: solar energy; wind; low-impact hydropower; geothermal; biologically derived methane gas, including landfill gas; biomass; fuel cells; coal-mine methane; waste coal; integrated gasification combined cycle; demand management measures, including recycled energy and energy recovery, energy efficiency and load management.

With respect to solar energy, residential solar projects of any size and small business projects of 200 kW or less are not eligible for this solicitation, but are eligible for the Pennsylvania Sunshine Solar Program which will be available later this spring. A small business is defined as a for-profit enterprise with 100 or fewer employees. Other solar projects may apply under this solicitation.

With respect to alternative fuels, projects involving construction of new facilities for clean, alternative fuels for transportation are eligible for assistance under this solicitation. Clean, alternative fuels projects involving the expansion of an existing facility or any other aspect of alternative fuels are encouraged to apply for assistance through the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Fund, which may be found at www.depweb.state.pa.us under "Energy Topics."

All proposed projects must include a research component directly related to alternative energy resources to be eligible for this solicitation.

C. Eligible Uses of Funds

Funding under this solicitation may be used by the applicant for some or all of the following types of project costs:

Purchase and installation of equipment used for the manufacturing of alternative energy or energy efficiency equipment or materials;

The purchase and installation of energy facilities or equipment for the generation, production or distribution of alternative energy or alternative fuels;

Design, construction or renovation of a building that will be used to manufacture alternative energy or energy efficiency equipment or materials;

Design, construction or renovation of a building that will be used to produce alternative fuels; and

Design, construction or renovation of a facility that will be used for research and development related to innovative new alternative energy or energy efficiency technologies.

Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to, administrative costs, permit fees, legal fees, travel expenses, food or entertainment costs and costs incurred prior to the board's approval of the application.

Please note that funding under this solicitation is drawn from three different sources, each having specific requirements as to its eligible costs. Therefore, certain grant agreement terms will differ depending upon which funding authority is applicable.