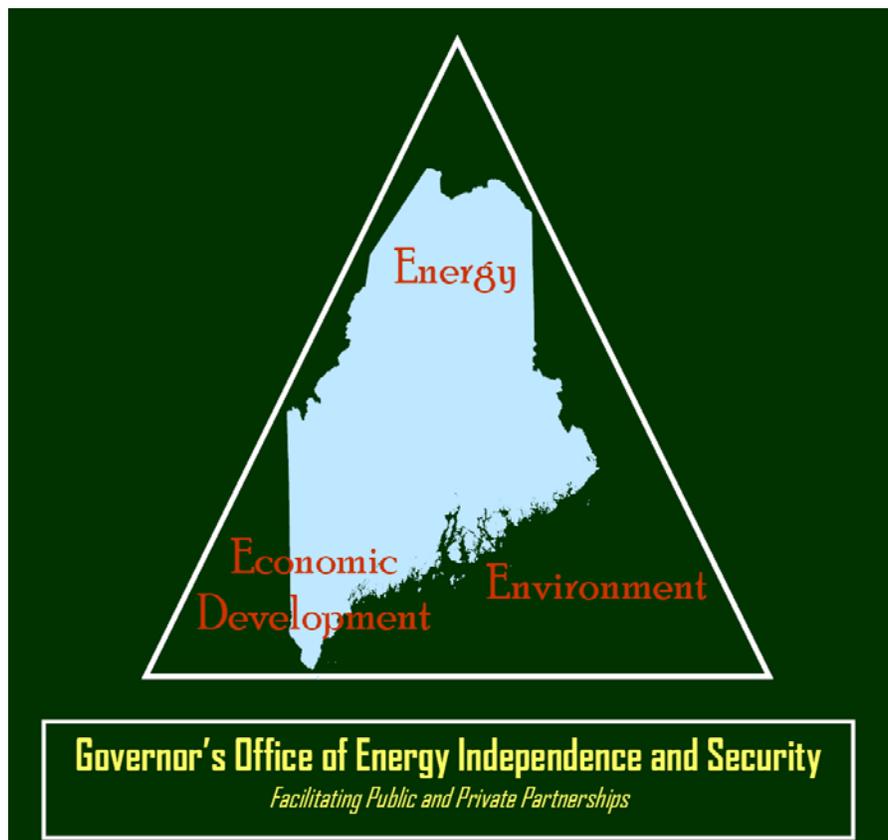


GRANTS CONNECTOR

ENERGY PROJECT GRANTS, INCENTIVES AND OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



March/April 2012

Grants Connector – March/April 2012

Sample Opportunities

- \$ Competitive Incentive Program for Large Electrical Efficiency and Distributed Generation Projects \$100,000 to \$500,000 – Efficiency Maine Trust
- \$ Request for Proposals for Innovation Program – Efficiency Maine Trust
- \$ Ocean Wind Energy
- \$ DOE Offers \$6 Million for Fuel Cell EV Data Collection
- \$ ARPA-E Issues Call for Transformational Energy Technologies
- \$ USDA Seeks Applications for Economic Development Funding to Create Jobs In Rural Areas
- \$ Renewable Energy RFPs
- \$ Funding for Breakthroughs in Natural Gas and Biofuels as Alternative Fuels for Vehicles
- \$ MTI Funding available to build collaborative initiatives & strengthen technology industries
- \$ DOE Launches New Research Program to Advance Solar Technologies
- \$ DOE, Commerce Department Offer \$1.3 Million for Energy Workforce
- \$ Refrigerator Recycling Program – Efficiency Maine
- \$ Energy Department Announces Over \$12 Million to Spur Solar Energy Innovation
- \$ USDA Invites Applications for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects
- \$ Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative: High Operating Temperature Fluids
- \$ \$3 Million to Administer Superior Energy Performance Program
- \$ Efficiency Maine Trust – Maine PACE Financing
- \$ Maine Small Business Credit Initiatives
- \$ Office of Science Financial Assistance Program
- \$ HUD Multifamily Energy Innovation Fund
- \$ Funding for Energy-Saving Lighting Technology Research and Development
- \$ FHA, Fannie Mae Launch Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program
- \$ Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency

Grants Connector – March/April 2012

Competitive Incentive Program for Large Electrical Efficiency and Distributed Generation Projects \$100,000 to \$500,000 – Efficiency Maine Trust

Round 2

RFP EM-001-2012

Date Issued: February 1st, 2012

Closing Date: March 30, 2012

Closing Time: 2:00 PM, EST

Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), the Efficiency Maine Trust (the Trust) is seeking proposals for large electrical efficiency and distributed generation projects from customers within the State of Maine and served by a Maine electric utility. This Competitive Incentive Program is funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and funds from the Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP). Funding from the MPRP will be restricted to projects within Central Maine Power Company's service territory.

Pursuant to this competitive incentive program, the Trust is seeking proposals for large electrical efficiency and distributed generation projects with the goal of reducing kilowatt hour (kWh) consumption from businesses that use electricity delivered through Maine's electrical grid.

Incentive awards are anticipated to be from \$100,000 to \$500,000 per facility.

The Trust's designated contact for this RFP is as follows:

Ian Burnes, Business Program Manager

Efficiency Maine Trust

151 Capitol Street, Suite 1

Augusta, ME 04330-6262

ianburnes@efficiencymaine.com

207-213-4149

All information at <http://www.efficiencymaine.com/opportunities>.

Request for Proposals for Innovation Program – Efficiency Maine Trust

RFP EM-003-2012

Date Issued: February 29, 2012

Closing Date: April 11, 2012

Closing Time: 3:00 PM

Efficiency Maine's Innovation Program aims to support pilot programs for commercialized energy efficiency products or new ways of delivering cost-effective measures. Through the Innovation Program, Efficiency Maine is particularly interested in

demonstration projects for technologies or program designs that, if they were deployed at scale, could show substantial energy cost savings opportunities for the state, as well as reducing greenhouse gases in the event Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds are utilized. The purpose of this RFP is to encourage the development, review, and eventual implementation of successful new ideas.

Designated Contact Person for this Solicitation:

Tim Vrabel, Strategic Initiatives Specialist
Efficiency Maine Trust
Physical delivery: 151 Capitol Street, Suite 1, Augusta, Maine 04330-6262
Mail delivery: 151 Capitol Street, Suite 1, Augusta, Maine, 04330-6262
Email: timothy.j.vrabel@efficiencymaine.com
Phone: (207) 213-4161

More information at <http://www.efficiencymaine.com/opportunities>.

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>.

DOE Offers \$6 Million for Fuel Cell EV Data Collection

DOE announced on March 1 that up to \$6 million will be available this year to collect and analyze valuable performance and durability data for light-duty fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs). Projects selected will gather data from next-generation FCEVs as they are operated in real-world conditions. The goal is to identify ways to lower costs, improve fuel cell durability, and increase overall vehicle performance.

DOE seeks applicants to design and implement projects to monitor the performance and durability of advanced FCEVs for up to five years. The projects—which share costs equally—will supply information on fuel cell system operation and other vehicle data to the Hydrogen Secure Data Center at DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for analysis and comparison. Data will be collected from various makes and models of FCEVs so that engineers and scientists can measure the performance and technical progress of a range of fuel cell systems. The conclusions drawn from the data by NREL will help identify and focus future research and development efforts and gauge progress toward fuel cell performance and cost targets.

Additional information at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#8cb62689-d772-4fad-b990-1889cdda0b96>. Application deadline is April 30, 2012.

ARPA-E Issues Call for Transformational Energy Technologies

DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) issued a \$150 million funding opportunity on March 2 that is open to all transformational energy technologies. This Open Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is a call to scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to propose early-stage research projects that would not otherwise be able to attract private investment. Such projects could lead to breakthrough energy technologies. This is the second Open FOA released under ARPA-E.

The open call includes electricity generation by renewable means; electricity transmission, storage, and distribution; energy efficiency for buildings, manufacturing and commerce, and personal use; and all aspects of transportation, including the production and distribution of renewable fuels, electrification, and energy efficiency in

transportation. Individual awards under the Open FOA will range between \$250,000 and \$10 million.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov For questions regarding Funding Opportunity Announcements
 - Every Friday, ARPA-E will post responses to any questions that were received by Wednesday at 12 PM ET. (Questions received after Wednesday at 12 PM ET will be answered the following week). Responses are posted to "Frequently Asked Questions" (see hyperlink below).
 - ARPA-E will cease to accept questions 96 hours in advance of the applicable deadline. Responses to the last questions will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the applicable deadline. ARPA-E may consolidate similar questions for administrative purposes.
- ExchangeHelp@hq.doe.gov For questions regarding ARPA-E's online application portal, ARPA-E eXCHANGE

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- Letter of Intent Submission Deadline: 3/30/2012 5:00 PM ET
- Concept Paper Submission Deadline: 4/12/2012 5:00 PM ET
- Full Application Submission Deadline: TBD

Additional information at <https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/>.

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>.

Renewable Energy RFPs

Deadline: March 12, 2012

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) RFP (Bid #11PS5002) seeking bids for a five-year contract to assist staff to evaluate the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) program.

Deadline: March 12, 2012

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) RFP (Bid #11PS5003) seeking qualified bidders for a four-year term to assist and provide the CPUC Energy Division staff with technical economic and engineering expertise in evaluating the costs and benefits of different renewable distributed generation (DG) technologies.

Deadline: March 12, 2012

PPL Electric RFP seeking to procure over 850,000 MWh of eligible Alternative Energy Credits (AECs) for PPL Electric Utilities Corporation to meet the Pennsylvania Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards through a multi-solicitation process.

Qualifications are due by noon on Monday, March 12, 2012.

NERA Contact: Ben Chee, 215-568-0200/914-473-8870

Deadline: March 21, 2012

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) RFP (Bid #11PS5007) seeking a contract for a second biennial Impacts of Distributed Generation Study to evaluate the impact of distributed generations policies and programs in California. Pursuant to AB 578, the study will answer questions posed by AB 578 and report to the state legislature a report on the impacts and costs associated with integration of renewables into the investor-owned utilities (IOU) portfolios through utility and customer-side generation.

Deadline: March 23, 2012

San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) RFP (RFP 12142) seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide solar power site assessments and economic feasibility and financing analysis of candidate solar power sites.

Contact: Duane Baker

Deadline: March 23, 2012

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers RFI (Sol. #W912DY11R0036) seeking comments on a draft RFP for large-scale renewable and alternative energy power production for Army installations.

Contacts:

Tonju Butler, 256-895-1166

Sarah Tierney, 256-895-1219

Deadline: March 28, 2012

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) RFP (No. SPE600-12-R-0410) seeking renewable energy certificates (RECs) for ultimate transfer to various Federal civilian agencies. Contract(s) will total 198 million kWh, which are anticipated to be one-time deliveries starting on May 15, 2012.

Contacts:

Bryan Simmons, 703-767-8531

Chris Boeding, 703-767-9651

Cindy Ralph, 703-767-8566

Deadline: March 29, 2012

The Department of Defense (DoD) through the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) is seeking proposals for demonstrations of energy technologies, including On-Site Distributed Generation, on DoD installations as candidates for funding in Fiscal Year 2013.

Contact: Jon Bunger, 703-696-2126

Deadline: March 30, 2012

Duke Energy Indiana (DEI) RFP seeking proposals for up to 400 megawatts (MW) of intermediate and/or peaking power for delivery between 2014 and 2017, to meet its MISO Planning Reserve Margin Requirements (PRMR). Proposals (including renewables) must be for a minimum block of 50 megawatts (MW) unforced capacity. DEI does not desire to purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) at this time.

Contact: DukeEnergyIndianaRFP@burnsmcd.com

Deadline: April 1, 2012

Innovative Solar Systems, LLC RFP offering long-term contract bids for 1,100 MWh blocks of North Carolina Solar Renewable Energy Certificates.

Contact: Richard Green, 828-777-0052

Deadline: April 20, 2012

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) RFP seeks Federal agencies interested in meeting their renewable energy goals and mandates, improving the environment and supporting nation energy security to join the 2012 renewable energy certificate (REC) solicitation. WAPA will competitively procure RECs with the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Emergency Management Program (FEMP), covering the administrative cost of the solicitation, a savings that will accrue to the participants. WAPA is hosting a webinar on March 14 at 10 a.m. MST to cover the key requirements and steps involved. To register, go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/487739473>.

Contact: Randy Manion, 720-962-7423

Deadline: November 30, 2012

Southern California Public Power Authority RFP ([PDF 52 KB](#)) seeking proposals for renewable energy projects that can deliver 2,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) per year in 2014 and an additional combination of projects able to deliver another 3,000 GWh per year beginning in 2017, for a total addition of approximately 5,000 (GWh) per year by 2020.

Contact: Julie Filipe, 626-793-9364

Funding for Breakthroughs in Natural Gas and Biofuels as Alternative Fuels for Vehicles

\$30 Million Will Fund Breakthrough Natural Gas Vehicles Technologies, \$14 Million to Support Development of Transportation Fuels from Algae

New funding to catalyze breakthrough technologies for two key alternative fuels—natural gas and biofuels. Through its Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E), the Energy Department will make \$30 million available for a new research competition in the coming months that will engage our country's brightest scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to find ways to harness our abundant supplies of domestic natural gas for vehicles. The Department of Energy will also make \$14 million available to support research and development into biofuels from algae.

Funding Breakthroughs in Natural Gas Vehicles

ARPA-E's \$30 million funding announcement for natural gas breakthroughs. ARPA-E's projects under this new program, titled Methane Opportunities for Vehicular Energy—or "MOVE"—will focus on overcoming these barriers by developing innovative, low-cost natural gas storage technologies and methods to lower pressure in vehicle tanks that will help enable the widespread adoption of natural gas vehicles.

Specifically, ARPA-E seeks to fund projects that will develop lightweight tanks for cars that can run on natural gas and fit into modern passenger vehicles. This approach includes developing affordable natural gas compressors that can efficiently fuel a natural gas vehicle at home. ARPA-E also seeks to fund projects that will develop absorbing materials that are able to hold gas, similar to how a sponge holds water. These materials could lower pressure in vehicle tanks that hold and release natural gas, making them safer and more affordable for American consumers.

For more information and application requirements for the Funding Opportunity Announcement, please visit the [ARPA-E Funding Opportunity Exchange website](https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/) at <https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/>.

Funding to Develop Homegrown Transportation Fuels from Algae

The Energy Department's \$14 million funding announcement to develop transportation fuels from algae builds on an Administration-wide commitment to biofuels research, development, and demonstration that includes support for the construction of commercial-scale, next-generation biorefineries. Part of the Department's sustained investment in biofuels technologies focuses on unlocking the potential for homegrown transportation fuels from algae, which have the potential to replace up to 17% of the United States' imported oil for transportation. In addition, algae feedstocks offer additional benefits, such as an ability to be grown in ponds near industrial facilities where algae can feed off the carbon emissions from power plants or digest nitrogen and phosphorous from municipal waste water. Through the new funding announcement, the

Department will seek proposals from small businesses, universities, and national laboratories to modify existing facilities for long-term algae research and test new production processes that could lead to commercial biofuels made from algae. Specifically, the new projects will establish and operate research "test beds" for algal biofuels that can facilitate development, test new approaches to algae production, and discover innovative ways to minimize the water and nutrients needed to mass produce algae for commercial biofuels. These advanced research projects will aim to significantly improve the sustainability of algae-based biofuels and accelerate technological breakthroughs. These awards represent the first phase in a total \$30 million investment in algal biofuels in fiscal year 2012.

The competitively selected projects will receive up to \$14.3 million in fiscal year 2012 funds, with an additional \$6.7 million available in fiscal year 2014 funding, subject to Congressional appropriations, for projects that meet rigorous performance criteria. Applications are due on April 18, 2012. For more information and application requirements for the Funding Opportunity Announcement, please visit the [Funding Opportunity Exchange website](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/) at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

MTI Funding available to build collaborative initiatives & strengthen technology industries

The Maine Technology Institute invites proposals for collaborative, industry-led activities designed to help Maine's technology-intensive industries grow and create good jobs across the state.

Proposed initiatives are encouraged to identify ways for businesses to learn from and work with each other, to boost innovation and jobs, and tackle challenges while pursuing new opportunities for industry growth. Eligible applicants include businesses, trade associations, universities and non-profit research institutions across Maine. Two types of awards are available:

- **MTI's Cluster Initiative Program** awards up to \$500,000 for multi-year initiatives seeking to boost the strength and scale of Maine's high-potential technology clusters. Eligible applicants include businesses, trade associations, universities and nonprofit research institutions across Maine. Program and application requirement information can be found [online](#). Applications for this round are due by March 26, 2012
- **Applications for cluster feasibility and planning** awards of up to \$50,000 may be submitted at any time and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

All Cluster Initiative awards require at least 1:1 in matching funding.

Visit <http://www.mainetechnology.org/> for more information.

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>.

DOE, Commerce Department Offer \$1.3 Million for Energy Workforce

DOE and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program announced on February 16 up to \$1.3 million for training programs. The programs provide commercial building professionals with critical skills needed to optimize building efficiency, reduce waste, and save money. The programs will help reach the Better Buildings Initiative goal of improving energy efficiency nationwide in commercial and industrial buildings by 20% by 2020, reducing energy costs by nearly \$40 billion, and creating jobs.

The funding announced will support training centers targeted at improving energy performance in commercial buildings and manufacturing plants. To compete for the funding, universities, community and technical colleges, and trade associations across the country will partner with NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers to create robust building efficiency training programs that leverage MEP's efforts to help businesses create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save time and money. Training will be tailored to building operators, building managers, and energy service providers, and it will provide energy performance solutions that can save businesses 5%-20% on their energy bills. Applications are due March 30.

See the [DOE press release](#), the [funding opportunity information](#), and the [Energy Education and Workforce Development website](#). <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-and-department-commerce-announce-13-million-clean-energy-workforce>.

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>.

Energy Department Announces Over \$12 Million to Spur Solar Energy Innovation

The U.S. Department of Energy announced over \$12 million to speed solar energy innovation from the lab to the marketplace through the Energy Department's SunShot Incubator program. The funding will accelerate American innovation in solar energy and manufacturing by supporting advancements in hardware, reductions in soft costs, and the development of pilot manufacturing and production projects.

The SunShot Incubator program helps launch new startups and business units within existing companies to accelerate the innovative solar technology development. Since 2007, DOE has invested \$60 million through the Incubator in promising technologies as they are brought from the lab to the marketplace. These investments have catalyzed \$1.6 billion in private sector support. The federal investment in these projects has been leveraged at a rate of more than 26-to-1.

The SunShot Incubator funding will support innovations in the development of hardware and non-hardware approaches from the proof-of-concept stage to prototype demonstration, including advances in photovoltaics, concentrating solar power and power electronics, as well as streamlined permitting, inspection and financing approaches, and to shorten the timeline for awardees to transition innovative prototypes produced at lab-scale into pilot and eventually full-scale manufacturing, production, or deployment. Each of the investments will require significant cost-share commitments from the awardees.

Applications are due on April 9, 2012. For more information and application requirements for the Funding Opportunity Announcement, please visit the [Funding Opportunity Exchange website](#) at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

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 grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications until March 30, 2012;
- renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications on a continuous basis up to June 29, 2012;
- renewable energy system feasibility study applications through March 30, 2012; and,
- energy audits and renewable energy development assistance applications through February 21, 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,

Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative: High Operating Temperature Fluids

The objective of the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI): High Operating Temperature Fluids (“HOT Fluids”) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support research into fluid materials development that will enable Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) systems to integrate with energy conversion devices capable of thermal to electric conversion efficiencies greater than 50%. DOE anticipates providing up to \$10M in funding for up to 2 awardees to accomplish the goals of this funding opportunity. This FOA directly supports the goals of the Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Solar Energy Technologies Program and the SunShot Initiative.

Full Application Submission Deadline: 4/19/2012 5:00 PM ET

More information at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#3dd3ebbe-c301-48b3-9b51-4c5d7151acdf>

\$3 Million to Administer Superior Energy Performance Program

The Department of Energy (DOE) has announced up to \$3 million to help American manufacturers leverage energy efficiency as a path to increased competitiveness. Provided by the Advanced Manufacturing Office and the Building Technologies Program, the funding will support a Program Administrator whose role will be to promote and operate the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) – accredited Superior Energy Performance (SEP) program. Once launched, SEP will provide a clear roadmap to help industrial and commercial facilities achieve continual improvements in energy efficiency. The program also promises to tackle a potential barrier to otherwise profitable energy efficiency investments by providing a transparent, globally accepted system for companies to validate improvements in their energy performance.

The funding is expected to be awarded to at least one entity over a period of up to three years subject to an annual performance review to determine if acceptable progress is being made toward meeting program goals and deliverables. Eligible applicants for this funding opportunity include U.S. domestic entities or consortia composed of: 1) academic institutions; and 2) non-profit [except 501(c)(4) non-profits] and for-profit private entities.

For more information and application requirements for this Funding Opportunity Announcement, please visit the Funding Opportunity Exchange website at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. Letters of Intent in connection with this opportunity are due February 21, 2012. Applications will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 21, 2012. DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for awards by May 2012 and making awards by June 2012.

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

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.

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/> 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	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 Credit includes installation costs.	Learn more about geothermal heat pumps , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of geothermal heat pumps • Efficiency ratings of geothermal heat pumps All ENERGY STAR geothermal heat pumps qualify.

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 <u>Solar Rating and Certification Corporation</u> (SRCC).</p> <p>Credit includes installation costs.</p>	<p>Learn more about <u>solar water heaters</u>. All <u>ENERGY STAR solar water heaters</u> 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 property, not the entire water heating system of the household.</p>
Photovoltaic Systems (Solar Electric Property)	<p>Photovoltaic systems must provide electricity for the residence and must meet applicable fire and electrical code requirement.</p>	<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	Nameplate capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts. Credit includes installation costs.	Learn more about: <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
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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
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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
Plug-in electric and small neighborhood electric vehicles	Credit: Up to \$7,500, based on capacity of the battery system.	<p>The first 200,000 vehicles sold get the full tax credit before the credit begins phasing out. Use IRS Form 8936 .</p> <p>See Fueleconomy.gov to find out which vehicles qualify for the credit.</p> <p>See the IRS information on the Plug-in Electric Vehicle Credit.</p> <p>Also see credits for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property.</p>

