

CEDF FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE

The Department of Public Service is now accepting proposals for the CEDF Grant program, which funds renewable energy and combined heat and power technologies that generate electricity and are grid-connected. The Department expects to award \$2 million in funding for projects in the following categories: Pre-Project Financial Assistance, Small-Scale Systems, Large-Scale Systems, and Special Demonstration Projects. There is a maximum award of \$25,000 for Pre-Project Financial Assistance, \$60,000 for Small-Scale Systems, and \$250,000 for all other projects. Proposals are due on Wednesday, October 1, 2008.

Also available are low-interest loans for renewable electric projects including wind, solar, hydro, farm methane, and combined heat and power systems. Until further notice, the loan interest rate will be 2%. Loans are available to fund up to 90% of an eligible project's cost, for amounts between \$50,000 and \$250,000. Individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities, and others may apply.

The CEDF is also providing Municipal Technical Assistance grants. This funding is designed to help municipalities, public schools, and Vermont State colleges investigate the installation of a wide variety of renewable energy generation technologies and combined heat and power systems. The maximum grant award is \$5,000, and funds can be used to pay for up to 90% of a project's cost; the grantee must match 10% of the project's cost in cash.

Funding is also available through the Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program. This Program provides grants to individuals, businesses, farms, schools, and municipalities for a portion of the cost of installing small-scale solar, wind, and hydropower systems. The CEDF will be providing nearly \$1.5 million over the next two years for these incentives. This will support the installation of approximately 250 renewable energy systems throughout the state, which could generate an estimated 540 MWh of electricity annually. Additional information on the Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program is available at: www.nerc-vt.org/incentives.

Additional information on the CEDF, including the current grant solicitation, loan application, and municipal technical assistance application, is available in the on the DPS website at: http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee_cleanenergyfund.html.

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