

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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March 15, 2024

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (NHDOE) NEWSLETTER

NHDOE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, NEWS, AND UPDATES

SEED Grant Program: Solicitation of Written Comment

NHDOE is requesting written comment from public schools, energy companies, and the public on ways to improve the SEED Grant Program. This federally funded competitive grant program offers a one-time grant to a public school for energy efficiency projects. Written comments are encouraged to be submitted by **March 19**, though written comments will be accepted after that date.

Find the solicitation notice and instructions [here](#). NHDOE will hold a stakeholder session via Microsoft Teams on **March 20**, to discuss the comments NHDOE received and collect any additional feedback from interested parties. To learn more about the SEED Grant Program, click [here](#).

SAVE-THE-DATE: 13th State Energy Conference (SEC)

Registration is Now Open for the 13th State Energy Conference (SEC), **Wednesday, April 10th** -- Join your peers and colleagues for this 1-day conference that is **FREE** and open to all state employees (with their supervisor's approval) and members of the General Court. Event takeaways will include useful approaches, tools, and resources for attendees to help their agencies and organizations reach their energy goals.

The SEC supports and spotlights New Hampshire state government's efforts to manage its overall energy and material consumption to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels in state properties, facilities, and fleets. The conference is intended to be inspirational and useful for those already engaged in energy and management, and those interested in getting more involved.

Join us at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke for all or part of the day-long program:

- Continental breakfast, coffee, and lunch will be provided;
- Keynote speakers, panel discussions, and case studies are all on the agenda;
- Vendor hall to highlight energy efficient products and technology; and
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride & Drive Event: kick the tires, look under the "frunk," and test drive an array of EVs, many of which are listed for procurement on the State Vehicle Contract.

Click [here](#) to register! Please direct any interested vendors to Christopher.P.Moore@das.nh.gov.

Municipal Solar Grant Program

NHDOE's application for EECBG Program funding remains under review with USDOE.

The following are some program highlights to give municipalities a sense of program expectations:

- Municipalities must wholly own the project buildings & site location.
- Proposed projects must have at least 80% insulation.
- The Municipal Solar Grant Program will not cover costs unrelated to the direct material, equipment, or labor costs related to the design, construction, and installation of the solar system.
- Municipalities seeking to expand existing solar facilities or have projects that are fully funded through other means are not eligible.

Visit NHDOE's Municipal Solar Grant Program for more information [here](#).

New Hampshire Fuel Assistance Program

Known in Washington as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP, the Fuel Assistance Program aids New Hampshire families and seniors whose annual household income is at or below 60% of the State Median Income, the highest amount allowed by federal statute.

For a **family of four** this year, that means an annual maximum income of \$80,069.

For a **single person household**, the maximum income is \$41,635.

"The Fuel Assistance Program benefit helps eligible Granite Staters supplement the cost of heating regardless of how the household pays for heat, and benefits range from \$242 to \$2,419," said Jared Chicoine, NH Department of Energy Commissioner. "Whether a household heats with electric, natural gas, propane, wood, oil, kerosene, or even has heat included in their rent, anyone in need of assistance with home energy costs is encouraged to apply."

A nationwide '**Do I Qualify?**' eligibility tool is available at energyhelp.us.

To learn more about the Fuel Assistance Program, visit our webpage [here](#).

To apply to the program before April 30, NH residents should contact their local Community Action Program (CAP). Information about New Hampshire's five CAP Agencies, including locations and contact information, visit www.capnh.org.

US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (USDOE) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, NEWS AND UPDATES

Office Hours: IRS on Elective Pay Registration

The IRS is offering office hours through Microsoft Teams to help entities with pre-filing registration process on the new IRA/CHIPS Pre-filing Registration Tool. See dates and registration links for the remaining office hours below.

March 20, 2024	1-2:30 PM EDT	Register Here
March 27, 2024	1-2:30 PM EDT	Register Here
April 3, 2024	1-2:30 PM EDT	Register Here
April 10, 2024	1-2:30 PM EDT	Register Here
April 17, 2024	1-2:30 PM EDT	Register Here
April 24, 2024	1-2:30 PM EDT	Register Here

To register for elective payments or transfer of credits [here](#).

Webinar: Loan Strategies – Energy Improvements for Schools: Part 1

The USDOE’s Renew America’s Schools Program and Loan Programs Office (LPO) are offering a webinar focused on schools on **Wednesday, March 20 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.** State and local leaders, school champions and partners, and organizations interested in learning more about LPO are invited to tune in for this info session.

Through the State Energy Financing Institution (SEFI)-Supported category of the Title 17 Clean Energy Financing Program, LPO can augment state-administered clean energy programs, providing additional financial support to projects that align federal energy priorities with those of U.S. states. SEFI-Supported projects do not have a technology innovation requirement, so the authority expands eligibility for LPO financing to include certain projects that incorporate commercial technologies, or aggregate technology-diverse projects, and that receive meaningful financial support or credit enhancements from a SEFI. LPO can provide loan guarantees for clean energy deployment projects, including renewables and efficiency, as well as clean transportation.

Click [here](#) to register.

Funding Opportunity and Webinar: USDOE Launches \$5 Million Prize to Create Solar Manufacturing Training Programs

USDOE launched a new competition aimed at strengthening the solar manufacturing workforce. The \$5 million American-Made Upskill Prize for the Solar Manufacturing Workforce (Upskill Prize) is designed to bolster U.S. competitiveness in the solar supply chain and create high-quality jobs for U.S. workers.

Teams of U.S. solar manufacturers and training organizations such as community colleges or unions will propose plans to upskill current employees or attract and train new employees including through pre-certification programs, specialized equipment training, or recruitment efforts. Winning teams will receive up to \$500,000 each in support of their proposals.

By encouraging partnerships between manufacturers and training organizations, USDOE aims to ensure the long-term growth and resilience of a solar manufacturing workforce that can meet the needs of the domestic solar industry, while enabling individuals from low-income and disadvantaged communities to enter the clean energy workforce. Through the prize, USDOE aims to train workers in common solar manufacturing jobs including semiconductor processors, manufacturing equipment technicians, and operators. The anticipated outcome of the training will be successful trainees working for the local solar manufacturer.

Interested competitors can apply through **May 21**. USDOE will review submissions and select winners on a rolling basis.

Register for an informational webinar on **Wednesday, March 20 at 1 p.m.** [here](#).

Read more about SETO's solar workforce development [here](#) and PV manufacturing efforts [here](#).

Webinar and Funding Opportunity: Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE)

USDOE is launching a new annual program with applications now open for an \$18 million funding opportunity. C-SITE, supported through USDOE's [Local Government Energy Program](#), provides direct funding and technical assistance to Tribes, disadvantaged communities, energy communities, and small-to-medium-sized jurisdictions to implement municipally- or Tribal-led high-impact clean energy projects.

C-SITE aims to fund high-impact clean energy projects that deliver local benefits, spark additional investments, and advance community-identified energy priorities. Successful projects will also build local capacity and partnerships within communities through in-depth technical assistance.

USDOE will prioritize projects with clear demonstrated support from local community partners and relevant decision-makers, as well as projects proposing significant benefits to workers and local residents, and the ability to spur economic development or community revitalization, utilize existing community assets or transform liabilities into assets, and spark additional investments.

One webinar remaining to provide more information on this funding opportunity:

- **Thursday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m.** Join [here](#).

For more information on the application process, click [here](#). Full applications are due by **May 31**.

Funding Opportunity: American-Made SOLVE IT Prize

USDOE's American-Made Challenge, Solutions for Lasting, Viable Energy Infrastructure Technologies (SOLVE IT) Prize is now accepting submissions. Applications are due **April 12**.

The SOLVE IT Prize offers \$5 million to support communities as they identify and work to implement innovative clean energy solutions in a way that works best to address their unique needs and challenges. An estimate of 25 winners will receive \$80,000 each in cash prizes in Phase 1 and be able to compete for \$150,000 and \$500,000 each in subsequent phases.

The competition is open to individuals or entities that work collaboratively with communities to develop and carry out projects that benefit communities and reflect their priorities. This includes nonprofits, consortia, academic institutions, labor unions, nongovernmental organizations, and others.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunity: \$18 Million for Flexible Innovative Transformer Technologies

USDOE is offering \$18 million in funding for Flexible Innovative Transformer Technologies. USDOE will select up to nine awardees who can research, develop, and demonstrate advanced distribution and transmission transformers. Transformers regulate voltage levels as power enters

our homes and businesses. Advanced transformers will enable grid operators to immediately address grid issues, ensuring a more resilient and reliable grid.

These projects will also address transformer supply chain constraints. Transformer manufacturers cite materials, equipment, and labor shortages as the reasons for long procurement lead times. New flexible, adaptable, and modular transformers can improve long-term replacement needs. USDOE's Office of Electricity and the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response are co-funding this opportunity, contributing \$16 million and \$2 million, respectively. Applications are due **Friday, April 12**. USDOE expects to announce the selectees in late summer. Interested parties may apply for this funding [here](#).

Funding Opportunity: Hydroelectric Production Incentive Program

USDOE announced the opening of the application period for the Hydroelectric Production Incentive Program. This program provides payments for energy generated and sold during a calendar year at qualified facilities that either added generation equipment to dams and other water infrastructure or are constructed in an area with inadequate electric service.

Hydroelectric Production Incentive Program applications for electricity generated and sold in year 2023 are due by 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 23**.

Review the [application guidance](#) to apply. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.

Anticipated Funding Opportunity: Concentrating Solar Flux to Heat and Power

USDOE announced its intention to issue a funding opportunity titled Concentrating Solar Flux to Heat and Power. This potential funding opportunity will award up to \$30 million for research, development, and demonstration projects that accelerate the large-scale development and deployment of concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) technology.

CSP technologies offer unique value as a renewable energy resource that can readily deliver high-temperature heat and incorporate energy storage for on-demand solar power. Each of the three (3) topic area (collectors, turbomachinery, and receivers and reactors) solicits proposals to respond to one of three tiers aimed at broadly de-risking concepts at an appropriate technology readiness level (TRL) and preparing the concepts for the next appropriate development effort:

- **Tier 1:** Subcomponent R&D. Maximum project funding: \$3 million. TRL 3-5
- **Tier 2:** Component R&D. Maximum project funding: \$5 million. TRL 5-6
- **Tier 3:** Integrated System RD&D. Maximum project funding: \$10 million. TRL 6-7

To learn more, click [here](#).

ADDITIONAL NHDOE RESOURCE LINKS

If you'd like to request a letter of support from NHDOE for a funding opportunity, please e-mail newsletter@energy.nh.gov.

Follow NHDOE on X ! [HERE](#).

- **ENERGY AND UTILITY BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** Consumers may access several financial assistance programs for their energy and utility bills.
- **REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFPs) CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** This webpage is updated frequently with RFPs for competitive funding opportunities and consultant needs.
- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** This webpage is continually updated with revised information and funding opportunities. This resource will detail state programs directly overseen by NHDOE. These programs may be of interest to residents, businesses, and local governments looking to implement energy efficiency or clean energy projects.
- **RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND GRANTS WEBPAGE CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** This resource is helpful for those interested in state grant funding for renewable energy projects in the nonresidential sector or low-moderate income community solar projects.
- **RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND REBATES WEBPAGE CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** This resource is helpful for residential and commercial property owners interested in state rebate funding for renewable electric generation resources or wood pellet heating systems.

ADDITIONAL USDOE RESOURCE LINKS

- **FEDERAL ENERGY FUNDING FOR RURAL & REMOTE AREAS GUIDE FOR COMMUNITIES [HERE](#).** This new guide is for people who live or work in rural and remote areas and who are looking to plan or build clean energy projects in their communities. The guide can help you find, get ready for, and apply to federal funding and programs for clean energy.
- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (FOAs) CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** This resource is helpful for those interested in learning about the many US Department of Energy funding opportunities from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.
- **CONSUMER ENERGY SAVINGS HUB CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** This resource is helpful for homeowners, renters, and drivers to gain information on federal energy rebates and tax incentives made available for various appliances, electric vehicles, and home improvements.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE LINKS

- **NHSAVES PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** NH's electric and natural gas utilities manage a suite of incentive programs for residential and commercial energy efficiency projects.
- **USDA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENERGY PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).** This resource is helpful for rural small businesses and agricultural producers to get loans, grants, and technical assistance for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.