

NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

**Overview Workshop
July 23, 2009
NJDEP Headquarters**



**NJDEP Office of Planning and Sustainable Communities
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/opsc/>**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

Today's workshop made possible by RGGI – the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

- 10 Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states will cap and then reduce CO₂ emissions from the power sector 10% by 2018.
- States will sell emission allowances through auctions and invest proceeds in consumer benefits: energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other clean energy technologies.
- Proceeds of the RGGI auctions are to be used in accordance with the January 13, 2008 **NJ Global Warming Solutions Fund Act** (P.L. 2007, Chapter 340; N.J.S.A. 26:2C-50 et seq.)

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Grant Program Objective

One new initiative to move New Jersey closer to attaining its **statewide CO₂ emission limits** established by the 2007 NJ Global Warming Response Act (P.L. 2007, Chapter 112):

- 1990 levels by 2020
- 80 percent below 2006 emissions levels by 2050.

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Funding Purpose

- Defined by NJ Global Warming Solutions Fund Act
- Allocates **10%** of the RGGI proceeds to local government
- **Purpose: Support projects and other actions that result in a measurable reduction of greenhouse gases**

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Remaining Allocations of Global Warming Solutions Fund:

60% → NJ Economic Development Authority -- energy efficiency and renewable energy measures within the commercial and industrial sectors.

20% → NJ Board of Public Utilities -- programs to reduce electricity demand or costs to electricity customers in the low-income and moderate-income residential sector

10% → NJDEP -- support programs that enhance the stewardship and restoration of the State's forests and tidal marshes that provide important opportunities to sequester or reduce greenhouse gases.

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Who is Eligible?

- Eligibility limited to **local government agencies**.
- A local government agency must be a contracting unit under the following:
 - Local Public Contracts Law = **municipalities, counties or local authorities**
 - Public School Contracts Law = **boards of education**
 - County College Contracts Law = **county colleges**

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Funding Level: \$2.5 million is being made available in this funding round.

Funding Limit: The maximum award to one local government agency in the current funding period is **\$300,000**.

Regional projects: Defined as joint applications by two or more local government agencies from different municipalities are capped at **\$700,000**.

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Eligible Projects

- Projects or programs likely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Projects or programs for which funding is limited or non-existent

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Eligible Projects/Programs

Anticipated Project Budget Limit

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| • Greenhouse Gas Action Planning & Implementation | \$10,000 - \$50,000 |
| • Land Use Planning & Transportation | \$25,000 - \$200,000 |
| • Transportation System Efficiency | \$10,000 - \$150,000 |
| • Green Infrastructure, Sequestration & Resource Conservation | \$10,000 - \$75,000 |
| • Strengthening Local Economies | \$ 5,000 - \$50,000 |
| • Outreach & Educational Campaigns | \$ 5,000 - \$50,000 |
| • Other – Highly Warming Gasses, Mini-grants | \$25,000 |



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Greenhouse Gas Action Planning & Implementation

- *Conduct Community-wide Energy Audit*
- *Calculate Carbon Footprint from Local Government Operations (aka GHG Inventory)*
- *Calculate Community-wide Carbon Footprint (aka Community GHG Inventory)*
- *Develop and Implement Community Climate Action Plan (aka Community GHG Reduction Plan)*

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Greenhouse Gas Action Planning & Implementation

REQUIREMENT: All proposals in this category must be accompanied by a Governing Body Resolution stating that the applicant, if awarded funding, commits to implementing at least 50% of the measurable actions identified by the planning activity.

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Land Use Planning And Transportation

- *Amend Master Plan to Establish, Prioritize and Enact Municipal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policies and Actions*
- *Develop and Implement Climate-friendly Subdivision and Site Plan Review Standards*
- *Develop and Implement Climate-friendly Design Guidelines and Zoning Standards*
- *Develop and Implement Integrated Land Use and Circulation Plans Aimed at Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)*

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Land Use Planning And Transportation

- *Implement a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program to Achieve Compact Growth that will Reduce VMT*
- *Promote Non-Vehicular Mobility*
- *Access to the Region's Core (ARC) Program*
- *Regional and County Planning*

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Transportation System Efficiency

- *Develop and Implement “Green Fleet” Policy*
- *Conduct Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program*

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Green Infrastructure, Sequestration and Resource Conservation

- *Building Commissioning or Retro-commissioning*
- *Waste Management*
- *Clean Fuels*
- *Identify Opportunities and Implement Green Design and Infrastructure*
- *Tree, Woodlands and Natural Space Management*
- *Water Conservation*

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Strengthening Local Economies

- *Promote Local Food Production and Gardens*
- *Promote Buy Local Program*

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Outreach And Education Campaigns

- *Implement Green Challenges & Community Programs*
- *School-based Projects with or without Connected Learning Components*

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Other

- *Highly-Warming Gases*
- *Micro-grants*
- *Innovations*

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Funding Rounds

- This is the first round
- It is anticipated that additional funding will become available in approximately eight to ten months.

Existing Actions / On-going Projects

Applications may request funding for proposed project expenses incurred (or committed to be incurred) after the date of this Grant Program Announcement – June 18, 2009.

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Allowable Costs

Eligible costs: equipment, materials, supplies, printing and professional services.

Professional Services: Applicants may contract with private, public and non-profit organizations to obtain relevant professional planning and other technical expertise and assistance

Ineligible costs: costs for acquisition of real property and charges for time spent by local government employees and volunteers.

Supplemental Project Funding

Supplemental funding from other sources must be disclosed, e.g. NJ Clean Energy Program (NJ Board of Public Utilities).

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Application Process **Two Steps**

Step 1 Preliminary Application of Interest (Pre-App)

- Outline of the proposed project.
- One page form plus brief narrative
- Submit original + 1 copy; e-mail or hard copy
- **DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2009**

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Application Process **Two Steps**

Step 2. Full Application

- Projects (Pre-Apps) determined eligible by the Department will be invited to submit a Full Application.
- Anticipated due date: December 11, 2009
- For details, see **Grant Program Guidance Document** at www.nj.gov/dep/opsc/ghggrant.html

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Evaluation Criteria:

- Priority Scoring System established by Rule (N.J.A.C. 7:27D-2.2)
- Detailed scoring system; generally:
 - Measurable reductions in GHG emissions (50 points).
 - Environmental and economic co-benefits (30 points)
 - Additional project strengths, e.g., sole funding; replicability; feasibility; expertise, etc. (20 points)

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Bonus point categories:

- Sustainable Jersey Program registration and governing body resolution
- Regional project between 2 or more local government agencies
- Eligible Urban Aid Municipality and/or disproportionate impact per NJDEP
- Up to 10 points each

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Measuring GHG Reductions

- Challenging!!
- DEP is developing guidance for applicants on how to measure GHG reductions associated with proposed projects.
- Other credible and defensible methods for estimating GHG emission reductions will be acceptable.

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www.nj.gov/dep/opsc/



Grant Program Questions? GHGGrants@dep.state.nj.us
Grant Program Information? www.nj.gov/dep/opsc/ghggrant.html

*“For the first time in history, my community has had to use air conditioners.
Imagine that, air conditioners in the Arctic.”*

- Inuit leader Sheila Watt-Cloutier cited in Sierra Club Currents, Vol VI, #54 6 Mar 07

