

Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is offering grant funding for clean, alternative fuel projects in Pennsylvania, and investment in Pennsylvania's energy sector. The primary goals of the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) Program are to improve Pennsylvania's air quality and reduce consumption of imported oil through the use of homegrown alternative fuels that will help the state's economy and environment. DEP is seeking applications for innovative, advanced fuel and vehicle technology projects resulting in cleaner transportation within the state. The AFIG Fund was established under Act 166 and is administered by DEP through its Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance.

Funding Authorized

- Approximately \$10 million will be available to fund alternative fuel projects in funding year 2013-14. Funding is available in two categories: vehicle purchase and retrofit; and innovative technology projects.

An eligible applicant includes any of the following: School districts, municipal authorities, political subdivisions, incorporated nonprofit entities, corporations, and limited liability companies or partnerships incorporated or registered in the state.

Eligible Project Categories include the following:

- **Vehicle Purchase or Retrofit** - The incremental cost of retrofit of new or existing vehicles to operate on alternative fuels. Eligible vehicles include, but are not limited to:
 - dedicated, bi-fuel, and dual-fuel LNG or CNG vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) less than 14,000 lbs., and
 - vehicles with no weight limit operating on dedicated liquid propane gas, alcohol, hydrogen, hythane (any combination of CNG and hydrogen), biofuel (B100 or straight vegetable oil) or electricity.
- **Innovative Technology** - Projects that include research, training, development and demonstration of new applications or next phase technology related to alternative transportation fuels and alternative fuel vehicles. Alternative fuel refueling equipment and electric vehicle charging infrastructure will be considered under this category.
 - Innovative Technology Project Limitation: AFIG will only consider innovative technology and advanced research and development projects that are reasonably expected to directly result in commercial application. These include demonstration and pilot projects which would be the first deployment of this type of technology in Pennsylvania and which have not had significant commercial success elsewhere.

General Program Requirements - All Projects

- The application, project description and budget sheets must be complete and include a project description as well as all applicable items contained in the application instructions.
- Applicants must provide documentation supporting the anticipated types and amounts of fossil fuel displaced.
- Applicants must describe any other public funding included in the project.
- Applicants must provide letters documenting the financial commitment for any match claimed from any entity other than the applicant; these letters of commitment must include clear documentation of amounts from each source (including the applicant).
- Grant recipients must comply with federal/state safety rules, including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules.

Specific Program Requirements: Vehicle Retrofit and Purchase

- A project must propose to receive funding for five or more eligible alternative fuel vehicles.
- A project submitted by an eligible applicant may aggregate vehicles registered in Pennsylvania by other entities ("project partners") as a part of one grant application. The other project partners must meet the criterion of an eligible applicant.
- The vehicles utilizing incremental purchase or retrofit cost funding must be registered in Pennsylvania.

- Each grant will cover no more than 50 percent of the incremental purchase or retrofit cost, or more than \$25,000 for each eligible alternative fuel vehicle. The total dollar amount of awards to a single grantee under this category may not exceed \$250,000.
- The applicant and all project partners must maintain operations in the state for no less than six years.
- Vehicle purchasers/owners/lessees may be eligible to receive a grant.
- Applicants must provide documentation confirming the existence of fueling infrastructure available to supply eligible vehicles to be supported with grant funds; the public accessibility of the primary fueling facility to be used, and documentation stating that the fueling station is or will be capable of supporting the projected fuel consumption within the grant period of performance.

Specific Application Requirements - Innovation

- All innovation projects must include at least a 50 percent cost share. Personnel costs may not exceed 50 percent of the total grant funding requested.
- Retrofits or expansions of existing biofuel or alternative fuels facilities which supply the transportation sector will only be considered if the equipment or expansion of the facility tests or demonstrates an innovative technology in Pennsylvania; projects must ultimately result in a significant increase in effectiveness or efficiency of production and commercial success of alternative fuels or alternative fuel vehicles

Definitions

Alternative Fuel – Any transportation fuel other than the conventional fuels gasoline and diesel. This includes, but is not limited to: CNG, propane, hydrogen, electricity, biodiesel, ethanol and other advanced biofuels.

Alternative Fuel Vehicle – A self-propelled vehicle operating on an alternative fuel designed for transporting persons or property. This term includes bi-fuel, dual fuel, hybrid, electric and other dedicated alternative fuel vehicles.

Retrofitted Vehicle – A vehicle that has had a conversion system (the addition of a new item, modification or removal of an existing item of equipment beyond that of regular maintenance, on an automobile after its initial manufacture) installed which is in compliance with all federal and state safety requirements including rules and regulations promulgated by the EPA and has been installed by a trained or approved installer of the conversion technology manufacturer.

The deadline to submit an application is July 26, 2013 at 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click on the Natural Gas Vehicle Program button.

Natural Gas Vehicle Program Regional Contacts

North-central Region: Michele Ferguson – 570-327-3636 (Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union counties).

Northeast Region: Janet Warnick – 570-826-2511 (Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties).

Northwest Region: Geoff Bristow – 814-332-6681 (Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties).

South-central Region: Mark Hand – 717-705-4703 (Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York counties).

Southeast Region: Heather Cowley – 484-250-5900 (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties).

Southwest Region: Maggie Hall – 412-442-4137 (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland counties).

For Statewide Projects: Project-Related Inquiries (Central Office), David Althoff – 717-783-8411

Grants Processing, Application Submission and Deadlines: eGrants Help Desk – 800-326-7734 or dcnr-grants@state.pa.us. Questions regarding the online eGrants application system, or for assistance troubleshooting issues with the system, please contact the eGrants Help Desk. Questions regarding the grant program may be directed to the Grants Center at 717-705-5400, or by email at RA-EPAFIGINFO@pa.gov.