

CLEAN ENERGY STIMULUS FUNDING

Opportunities in the Gulf Coast Region

Qualified clean energy projects can still take advantage of federal stimulus (and hurricane recovery) funding opportunities -- although deadlines are fast approaching in some cases. Administered at all levels of government, funding for clean energy applications through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is available via competitive and formulaic funds in the forms of grants and low-interest loans.

Stimulus funding allocation is primarily handled at the state and regional levels, typically conducted over several rounds. Clean energy projects qualify under several funding categories and thus under the purview of multiple state and federal agencies, in addition to Councils of Government (COGs) and other local government units. Some Gulf Coast COGs are also in the process of deciding how to disseminate Hurricane Ike, Gustav, and Dolly recovery funds for public



facilities and infrastructure improvement, pending HUD approval.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently issued its competitive funding opportunity announcement for the \$3.2 billion the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, which provides funds to state and local governments to improve energy efficiency in all sectors. EECBG funds have been allocated to Texas (State Energy Conservation Office), Louisiana (Department of Natural Resources), and Oklahoma (State Energy Office) for distribution over multiple rounds.

Funding preference is generally given to “shovel-ready” projects that have the requisite approvals and permits in place. Funding may even apply retroactively to projects that have already begun construction.

FUNDING SOURCES

The following list of state and federal funding programs with respect to energy-related projects is not necessarily comprehensive. Many of these entities allocate funds to COGs and regional government units for ultimate distribution.

Department of Energy (US)

Of the total \$3.2 billion EECBG program, the DOE is currently accepting applications from states and units of local government for up to \$454 million in competitive grants. Apply at Grants.gov.

- **11/19/09** - EECBG Program Deadline for Letter of Intent to Apply (not mandatory but recommended)
- **12/14/09** - EECBG Deadline for applications.

Housing and Urban Development (US)

HUD was allotted \$6 billion in 2008 in hurricane recovery funds to assist states with long-term recovery needs for public facilities and infrastructure improvements, primarily through the Community Development Block Grant (\$1.7 billion for Texas, \$620 million for Louisiana). State agencies in the gulf coast tasked with overseeing recovery from Hurricanes Ike and Gustav include the Texas Department of Rural Affairs and Louisiana Recovery Authority, which continue to allocate funds to COGs for funding distribution.

Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development (US)

The USDA's Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Programs provide funds for the development of multi-family housing and essential community facilities. Grant funds are available to units of local government and non-profit organizations for facilities pertaining to health care, public safety, and community and public services. See your regional Rural Area Development Office for application details.

State Energy Conservation Office (TX)

Clean Energy projects fall under both EECBG and its \$157.7 million Building Energy Retrofit Program (BERP), part of SECO's State Energy Program.

- **11/06/09** - EECBG Deadline for Notifications of Intent to Apply (not mandatory)
- **11/06/09** - BERP Deadline for Letter of Intent to Apply (not mandatory)
- **11/06/09** - BERP Deadline for Submission of Questions

(Continued on reverse side)



FUNDING SOURCES (CONTINUED)

- **11/13/09** - BERP Release of Official Response to Questions
- **11/22/09** - EECBG Deadline for resolutions
- **11/30/09** - EECBG Final allocation amount and application form sent to city/county designees
- **12/22/09** - EECBG Deadline for applications
- **12/30/09** - BERP Deadline for Submission of Applications
- **02/01/10** - BERP Loan Agreement Execution/ Commencement of Project Activities

Department of Rural Affairs (TX)

Non-housing stimulus funds have now been distributed by the TDRA to COGs at the regional level for allocation to impacted cities and counties. COGs are currently developing methods to distribute these funds as well as hurricane recovery assistance for infrastructure and economic development. The TDRA was also designated as the lead state agency to administer a second round (\$1.7 billion) of federal funds from HUD to COGs for recovery from Hurricanes Ike and Dolly. COGs will begin making decisions on disseminating these funds pending HUD's imminent review of TDRA's proposal.

Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs (TX)

The TDHCA's ARRA funds have all been obligated and passed along to non-profits and regional government units (cities and counties) for ultimate distribution, earmarked for residential housing (including multi-family units). The TDHCA also provides hurricane recovery assistance for housing activities, administered through COGs.

DNR (LA)

Louisiana's State Energy Program will use up to \$71 million in grants for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies through the "Lead by Example" Energy Efficiency Program for State Buildings, Residential/Commercial Energy Efficiency Program, and other programs. Half of the SEP funds have been approved by the federal government for allocation already, with another round to be determined in the future. Local governments and COGs will also receive portions of the state's \$13.8 million EECBG.

DOC (OK)

The state is awaiting federal approval of OK's funding proposals through its State Energy Program and Local Energy Assurance Planning Initiative. The DOC will then provide sub-grants to local government, non-profits, and businesses.

OWRB (OK)

\$62 million in federal funds supplement two existing revolving loan programs (Clean Water State and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds) for shovel-ready water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

For more information on stimulus funding opportunities and public policy developments in the Gulf Coast, contact:

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TEXAS

State Comptroller • www.window.state.tx.us/recovery
State Energy Conservation Office • www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/arra
TDHCA/TDRA Hurricane Recovery • www.txtdra.org
Department of Housing and Community Affairs • www.tdhca.state.tx.us/recovery/index.htm
TX COGs • www.puc.state.tx.us/emr/cog_info.cfm

LOUISIANA

State Government • www.stimulus.la.gov
Department of Natural Resources • dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/techasmt/programs/ARRA_2009
Louisiana Recovery Authority • www.lra.louisiana.gov
LA COGs • www.abag.ca.gov/abag/other_gov/rcg.html

OKLAHOMA

State Government • www.ok.gov/recovery
Department of Commerce, State Energy Office • www.okcommerce.gov/recovery/?page_id=67
Water Resources Board • www.owrb.ok.gov/recovery.php
OK COGs • www.otrd.state.ok.us/rd/Links%20main.htm

FEDERAL

Recovery.gov • www.recovery.gov
Department of Energy • www.energy.gov/recovery
EPA • www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/recovery.html
DOE EERE (EECBG) • www.eecbg.energy.gov/about/competitive_grants.html
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development • www.rurdev.usda.gov/recovery.html
Housing and Urban Development • portal.hud.gov
FEMA (Hurricane Ike recovery) • <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/2008/ike/>