



Memorandum

To: Maine Municipal Officials
From: Michael Stoddard, Executive Director
Re: Second Round of EECBG Grants from Efficiency Maine Trust to Municipalities
Date: June 4, 2010

Dear Maine Municipal Official:

You may recall that Efficiency Maine awarded approximately \$4.8 million in the first round of EECBG grants to municipalities in February, 2010. Efficiency Maine reserved an additional \$1.3 million in funding to be awarded in a second round.

The Efficiency Maine Trust is now requesting that municipalities submit a Statement of Interest for the second round of EECBG grants. **Please note that the ten largest municipalities in Maine are not eligible for EECBG grants from Efficiency Maine pursuant to federal law. Also note that the total award to any municipality in the second round may not exceed \$85,000. Depending on the response, awards may be significantly less, since it is our intent to award funding for all eligible towns submitting a Statement of Request. Measures implemented by the towns under these grants must meet the cost-effectiveness test whereby total financial benefits are shown to exceed total costs, and shall not be inconsistent with the standards and criteria of existing Efficiency Maine programs. Towns must provide a minimum 10% match (cash /in-kind). Preference will be given to towns that were awarded Template planning grants pursuant to the September 2009 RFA #200909521 and towns that were not awarded Custom Projects grants under the September RFA.**

All municipalities interested in being considered for the second round of funding **must submit a Statement of Interest (Attachment A) no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, June 24th**. Efficiency Maine Trust will review those submissions and solicit full proposals from municipalities that have submitted a Statement of Interest. We hope to be able to fund most or all of the projects submitted, but Efficiency Maine Trust reserves the right to exclude projects that do not meet EECBG criteria, to limit the number of awards, or to award less than the amount requested as necessary depending on funding available.

Towns should provide the information requested below and send electronically to the following email address: Michael.Barden@maine.gov or via postal delivery at Efficiency Maine Trust, State House Station 19, Augusta, ME 04333-0019.

We acknowledge that the EECBG Second Round is being launched sooner than we originally anticipated, and we apologize for any inconvenience. Conducting the Second Round at this time has become necessary due to Department of Energy requirements that all remaining EECBG funding provided through the Recovery Act be committed as quickly as possible.

Purpose of This Request

The Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program was established under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). The purpose of the EECBG program is to assist eligible entities in creating and implementing strategies to accomplish three basic goals: (a) to reduce eligible entities' total energy use; (b) to improve energy efficiency in building, transportation, and other appropriate sectors; and (c) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and that maximizes the benefits for local and regional communities.

The EECBG program was funded for the first time in 2009 by ARRA. Guidance from the United States Department of Energy (DOE) indicates that EECBG projects may address one or more of the purposes listed above. Further, DOE encourages new and innovative approaches to accomplish these purposes. **All applications must demonstrate that EECBG funds will be used in a cost-effective way to generate ongoing benefits in energy efficiency and emissions reductions.**

The DOE has identified the following core principles to guide project planning:

- Prioritize energy efficiency and conservation first as the cheapest, cleanest, and fastest way to meet energy demand.
- Maximize benefits over the longest possible term and link energy efficiency efforts to long-term priorities (especially community economic development, community stabilization and poverty reduction efforts).
- Invest funds in programs and projects that create and/or retain jobs and stimulate the economy while meeting long term energy goals.
- Target programs and projects that will provide substantial, sustainable and measurable energy savings, job creation, and economic stimulus effects.
- Give priority to programs and projects that leverage federal funds with other public and private resources, including coordinated efforts involving other federal programs targeting community development funded through the ARRA such as the Community Development Block Grant program, HOME, and job training programs.
- To the extent possible, develop programs and strategies that will continue beyond the funding period.
- Ensure oversight, transparency, and accountability for all program activities.
- Enact policies that transform markets, increase investments, and support program goals.
- Develop comprehensive plans that benchmark current performance and set aggressive goals.

Thank you and we look forward to the Statements of Interest from eligible municipalities.

Attachment A – Statement of Interest

Town _____

Contact _____

Name / Telephone / e-mail

Requested Grant Amount _____ Match _____

DUNS Number _____

(For more information on DUNS registration: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/>)

Project Description (Attach additional pages or information if desired; only a summary is necessary at this time).

Cost-effective measures to be employed include (check all that apply):

Energy Efficiency Retrofit

Building Energy Audits

Renewable

Material Conservation Projects

Reduction/Capture of Methane and GHG

Street Lighting

Other Appropriate Activity

Because this opportunity is funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, special terms and conditions will apply and will be included in a contractual agreement with Efficiency Maine Trust (Trust) and the towns. All awarded applicants must be willing to gather and report project costs and energy savings data from the project and to allow the Trust or any entity designated by the Trust to evaluate their project or program.