



Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

**FY17 ANIMAL WASTE
TO ENERGY
GRANT PROGRAM**

November 2017

I. General Overview and Purpose

The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote affordable, reliable, clean energy. MEA's programs and policies help lower energy bills, fuel the creation of green collar jobs, address environmental and climate impacts, and promote energy independence. Among other things, MEA provides technical and financial assistance to Maryland's residents, businesses, and State and local government partners to encourage the development of innovative and alternative energy resources in the State.

As part of its mission, MEA is announcing the FY17 Animal Waste to Energy Grant Program (AWE Grant Program). The purpose of the Program is to make investments in projects that will use animal waste to generate electricity while reducing the environmental impacts that animal wastes can have on Maryland's valuable natural resources.

This is a competitive grant program. All eligibility and grant award determinations are made at the sole discretion of MEA, in accordance with grant criteria. All grant awards are contingent upon funding availability and the grantee agreeing to all terms and conditions required by MEA in a written grant agreement to be provided by MEA as part of award acceptance. Grant funds are to be used to reimburse the grantee for eligible costs. Grantees will be required to comply with certain reporting and auditing requirements.

For more information please visit:

<http://energy.maryland.gov/business/Pages/incentives/awe.aspx>.

II. Grant Eligibility

- Maryland businesses and non-profit entities incorporated or registered and in good standing to do business in Maryland, and State and local government entities, are eligible to receive funding under the AWE Grant Program.
- Eligible projects must use animal waste, through any proven process, to generate electricity while reducing nutrient loading to the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.
- Eligible projects must be located in the State of Maryland.
- Eligible applicants (including any officers or directors of Applicant and any person substantially involved in the contracting or fund-raising activities of the Applicant) must not be suspended or debarred from contracting with the State of Maryland or any other public entity at the time of application.
- Entities may only qualify for one award per project.

- Eligible applicants must not be in default on any financial obligation to the State of Maryland at the time of application.

III. Grant Amount

The total amount available for the AWE Grant Program for State Fiscal Year 2017 is \$2,000,000 dollars. The AWE Grant Program does not have a per project cap but will require at least a 50 percent cost share provided by the applicant. All grant awards are made at the sole discretion of MEA.

IV. Application and Award Deadlines

- November 2016 - Issuance of Funding Opportunity Announcement
- February 28, 2017 - Application Deadline
- June 30, 2019 – System must be functional

V. Criteria for Award Determinations

An evaluation team will be composed of MEA staff members and possibly staff and/or consultants from other government agencies and other institutions or organizations. The evaluation team will make award recommendations to the Director of MEA for final determination. In developing award recommendations, the evaluation team will consider the following criteria:

- Grant Eligibility Requirements Set Forth Above
- Capacity and efficiency of the project in producing electric energy
- Effectiveness of project at reducing or eliminating nutrients (particularly phosphorus and nitrogen) from Animal Waste and preventing them from entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries
- Quantity of Animal Waste that can be processed by project to eliminate/reduce nutrients
- Ability to beneficially use any by-products generated by project and potential market opportunities for such byproducts
- Amount of public and/or private funds secured and/or already invested in the project (including by the applicant itself), including public investments from other Maryland State and local agencies or institutions
- Appropriateness of identified project site, including environmental and socio-economic considerations as well as proximity to fuel sources, ability to utilize electricity generated from project on-site or otherwise
- Whether any contracts have been secured for purchase of any by-products from the animal waste
- Whether any contracts have been secured for electricity generated from the project

- Whether any contracts have been secured for any other by-product from the project that can be beneficially reused
- Economic impacts on the host site and local and regional economies
- Qualifications and experience of the project team
- Project may be on-farm, community, or regional in scale

The evaluation team may ask applicants to submit additional information in writing during the review process and may invite applicants to present their applications to the review team in person.

VI. Application Requirements

Required Application Materials

1. Completed FY 17 AWE Grant Program Application Form;
2. Certificate of status from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation;
3. Site map with location of the proposed renewable energy system components;
4. System diagram;
5. Financial pro-forma for the project including total project cost, component costs, revenue streams, and relevant assumptions. Include a discussion of any values that cannot be quantified. **Note:** this pro-forma will remain confidential and should be labeled accordingly by the applicant;
6. A narrative of no more than 20 8½ by 11-inch pages, which includes the following sections:
 - *Project description.* This section should give the review team a detailed overview of the project and should address evaluation criteria set forth in Section V above;
 - *Project timeline and key internal milestones;*
 - *Project budget and grant request.* This section should include details on cost-share (minimum 50 percent required), total project costs, and intended use of grant funds. It should include, at minimum, the following:
 - i. A description of how the applicant intends to use grant funds;
 - ii. The total project budget with line items for equipment, labor, personnel, permitting/inspections, and administrative expenses (this can reference the pro-forma); and
 - iii. Other sources of leveraged funds to be used in the project, including cash, other grants, or in-kind services.
7. Any supporting documentation related to the evaluation criteria (e.g., letters of commitment, evidence of availability of financing, poultry litter transportation and/or supply contracts). Please note that supporting documentation does not count toward the 20-page limit.

Confidentiality

Please mark or otherwise indicate any portion of your application that you consider confidential. Any documents provided to MEA must be treated by MEA in accordance with the protection and disclosure requirements of Maryland's Public Information Act. If disclosure is required of a document marked as "confidential," MEA will provide the applicant notice prior to disclosure.

Application Submission

Applications must be received by MEA not later than **February 28, 2017**. Applications should be addressed to:

FY 17 Animal Waste to Energy Grant Program
Maryland Energy Administration
1800 Washington Blvd. Suite 755
Baltimore, MD 21230

You may also submit your application via email to chris.clark1@maryland.gov

VII. Questions

Grant application questions may be submitted via email to chris.clark@maryland.gov.