

Notice of Grant Availability Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16)
Wood Energy Grant Program

- Program Description:** Grants to help conduct feasibility studies for wood energy systems at governmental, institutional, commercial and industrial facilities (e.g., schools, hospitals, campuses, commercial buildings) located in Maryland.
- Program Budget:** Up to \$150,000 in FY 16 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)
- Eligible Entities:** Businesses, government agencies, and non-profits
- Type of Grant Program:** Competitive
- Grant Evaluation Criteria:** MEA will evaluate applications competitively based on the following criteria, which are divided into three categories:
- Category I - Proposed Feasibility Study:
- Extent of engineering firm's experience with similar feasibility studies and wood energy conversion projects
 - Cost of feasibility study relative to its scope of work
 - Cost share - MEA requires the applicant to provide at least 25% of the cost of the study; however, a greater applicant cost share will be looked upon favorably by the evaluation committee.
- Category II - Likelihood that a future project will arise as a result of the Study:
- While not required, if the results of a recent (within two years) energy audit informed the decision to consider a wood energy conversion system, this may cause MEA to look more favorably upon the application;
 - Evidence of a potential future wood energy project's ability to obtain financing in the form of a letter of intent to self-finance, including supporting financial documents or in the form of a letter of intent to provide financing from a financial partner;
 - Evidence of commitment to a potential wood energy project in the form of a letter of support to conduct a feasibility study from a representative with authority to act on behalf of the organization;
 - Plan or strategy for moving a potential project forward, should the study return positive results;
 - Extent to which the applicant has engaged with a potential project developer(s);
 - Potential source(s) of feedstock identified, by type and by location; and,
 - Space for feedstock storage identified

Category III - Diversity of Awards:

- Geographic diversity; and,
- Industry sector diversity

Grant Funding:

MEA will provide a feasibility study grant award of up to \$15k per project to selected applicants to be used to conduct the wood energy feasibility study. MEA's cost share will be up to 75% of the cost of the feasibility study, after the consideration of other grants or incentives; however, greater funding leverage will enhance an application's likelihood of receiving funding.

Application Deadline:

March 30, 2016

Restrictions and Limitations:

- The Wood Energy Program is only open to applicants that do not have access to natural gas.
- To receive grant funding for a project, the successful applicant must enter into a Grant Agreement with MEA by no later than May 30, 2016.
- A grant award will not be made for any application whose feasibility study commences prior to the effective date of the Grant Agreement with MEA.
- The following steps must be completed by each grantee by May 30, 2017:
 - All applicants selected to receive fiscal year 2016 Wood Energy Program grant award must complete their feasibility studies;
 - Each Grantee must submit a complete Wood Energy Grant Program Completion Package. The Wood Energy Grant Program Completion Package consists of the Wood Energy Grant Program Completion Certificate; proof of payment in full for the feasibility study; a copy of the feasibility study, including an executive summary which covers the technical and financial assessment of the potential project; and
 - An explanation of the grantee's decision to deploy or not to deploy a wood energy conversion system.
- MEA reserves the right to obligate all or none (\$0) of the fiscal year 2016 Wood Energy Grant Program budget, based on the quality and eligibility of applications submitted to MEA.

Program documents, including the Wood Energy Grant Program Application, can be found on MEA's website at energy.maryland.gov/business/Pages/incentives/woodenergygrant.aspx. Additional program requirements, including information regarding required documents, can be found on the Wood Energy Grant Application.

Last modified: January 2016