



**Maryland**  
Energy  
Administration

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA)**  
**FY18 ANIMAL WASTE TO ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM**  
**September 2017**

## **I. General Overview and Purpose**

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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 FY18 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, auditing requirements, and third party monitoring for up to three years.

For more information please visit:

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

## **II. Grant Eligibility**

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- 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, reduce the volume of animal waste, and address the fate of the byproduct.
- 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.
- Note: Grants issued by the State of Maryland may be taxable. As the Maryland Energy Administration is unable to give tax advice, any tax-related questions should be directed toward a qualified tax professional

### III. Grant Amount

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The total amount available for the AWE Grant Program for State Fiscal Year 2018 is \$3,500,000 dollars. Two **Areas of Interest (AOI)** will be made available in FY18. **Area of Interest One (AOI I)** will target pilot or on-farm scale projects with capacities of less than 2MW. \$2,500,000 will be made available for AOI I with a 40 percent cost-share required by the applicant. **Area of Interest Two (AOI II)** will target community or regional scale projects with capacities of greater than 2MW. \$1,000,000 will be made available for AOI II with a 50 percent cost-share required by the applicant. The AWE Grant Program does not have a per project cap. All grant awards are made at the sole discretion of MEA and MEA reserves the right to shift funding allocations from one Area of Interest to another.

### IV. Application and Award Deadlines

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- September 2017 - Issuance of Funding Opportunity Announcement
- February 28, 2018 - Application Deadline
- June 30, 2020 – System must be fully commissioned

### V. Criteria for Award Determinations

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An evaluation team will be composed of MEA staff members and 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;
- Quantity of animal waste and co-digestion material (food or other organic materials) that can be processed by project (project must include at least 51 percent animal waste).
- Effectiveness of project at reducing waste volume and addressing the remaining byproducts;
- The ability of the project to eliminate/reduce nutrients from the waste stream;

- 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 byproducts from the animal waste that can be beneficially reused;
- Whether any contracts have been secured for electricity generated from the project;
- Economic impacts on the host site and local and regional economies;
- Qualifications and experience of the project team.

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

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### Required Application Materials

1. Completed FY 18 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 40 percent required for AOI I and 50 percent for AOI II), 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 any grant funding;
    - 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. In addition, supporting documentation related to the evaluation criteria should be included. These can and should where appropriate, include the experience of the project team, successful deployment examples and performance results of the proposed technology, letters of commitment and support, evidence of availability of financing and matching funds, animal waste transportation and/or supply contracts, permitting requirement outline and plan, etc. 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, 2018**. Applications should be addressed to:

FY 18 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](mailto:chris.clark1@maryland.gov)**

## **VII. Questions**

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Grant application questions may be submitted via email to [chris.clark@maryland.gov](mailto:chris.clark@maryland.gov).