Maryland Energy Administration

Larry Hogan, *Governor*
Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*
Mary Beth Tung. *Director*

June 2018 Notice of Grant Availability for the FY19 Parking Lot Solar Photovoltaic Canopy with EV Chargers Grant Program (Grant Program)

Program Description: Grants for parking lot solar photovoltaic (PV) canopy systems with at least four (4) electric vehicle (EV) chargers. The program is commonly referred to as the Solar Canopy Grant Program.

Eligible Entities: Businesses, state and local government agencies, and non-profits

Program Budget: Up to $2,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), subject to funding availability, to cover two different Areas of Interest (AOI):

Area of Interest I (AOI I): Businesses and non-profits

Area of Interest II (AOI II): State agencies and local governments

Type of Grant Program: Competitive

Application Deadline: September 7, 2018

Grant Award Amount: MEA will provide up to $400 per kW (DC) of canopy mounted solar PV per project, with a maximum cap of $200,000 per project.

Application Qualifications: To be considered for an award, a proposed project shall meet the following qualifications:

- Consist of at least 75 kW of solar PV panels mounted on a canopy structure over a parking lot. (AOI I and II)
- Consist of at least **four** (4) new qualified Level II or Level III EV charging stations located in the same parking lot or on the same parking structure as the solar canopy. (The requirement for the location of the chargers may be waived by MEA.) (AOI I and II)
- The applicant must be able to exhibit control of the proposed project site, either as proof that the parking lot is owned or leased (with at least 25 years remaining after the expected completion of the project) by the applicant. (AOI I and II)
- The applicant must be able to exhibit a signed contract with an installing contractor/developer (AOI I or II). However, for state or local government agencies that must use a Request For Proposal, provide a letter of commitment, signed by a senior official from the agency documenting the agency's commitment to the project. (AOI II only)
- The proposed project site shall have a minimum load of 150,000 kWh/year attributed to an on-site State or local government agency electric meter. (AOI II only)
- If a Power Purchase Agreement is being considered, the letter should also include the results of modeling or other actions taken by the government/agency to confirm that an acceptable economic solution is available on the open market. (AOI II only)

Application Evaluation Criteria: MEA will assess qualifying applications for award based on the following competitive

evaluation criteria:

- The total project cost per watt installed in the solar PV canopy system. (AOI I only);
- The number of qualified EV chargers to be installed (AOI I and II);
- Inclusion of an innovative project design and/or use (AOI I and II);
- The geographic diversity of grants awarded (AOI I and II);
- Additional roof or ground mounted capacity installed in conjunction with a canopy system. Please note, however, that MEA will not include roof or ground mounted capacity when determining the grant amount. (AOI I and II)
- Estimated visibility of the proposed carport and EV chargers to the general public. (AOI I and II);
- Estimated accessibility and frequency of use of the proposed carport and the EV chargers; (AOI I and II); and
- The frequency of parking lot use (AOI I and II).

Qualifying applicants that show innovative design/use, install more EV chargers, reduce the cost/watt, or include an innovative element to the project will be looked upon more favorably during the award process. MEA also reserves the right to select applications that allow for a broad diversity in the project portfolio including, but not limited to, geographical diversity.

Additional Project Requirements:

For a grantee to be reimbursed under the Grant Program, the project shall:

- Install at least 75 kW of solar PV panels mounted on a canopy structure over a parking lot.
- Install at least **four (4)** new qualified Level II or Level III EV charging stations which are located in the same parking lot or on the same parking structure as the solar canopy and that are:
  - Certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). A list of NRTL is available on the following website: https://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/nrtllist.html
  - Equipped with a Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J1772 electrical connector for Level II stations, or a DC Fast Charger with a SAE Combo and/or a CHAdeMO standard connector.
- Be installed on a parking lot in Maryland which is accessible for use at least five days a week.
- Be installed and operated in compliance with the requirements of local and county codes, as well as with applicable requirements of the National Electrical Code (NEC).
- Use PV system hardware that is in compliance with all applicable performance and safety standards including: Underwriters Laboratories Standard for Static Inverters and Charge Controllers for Use in Photovoltaic Systems (UL 1741) and Standard for Safety: Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panel (UL 1703).
- Be installed in a manner that is compliant with the net metering regulations outlined in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 20.50.10 et seq., as well as the requirements of the local electric utility and Authority Having Jurisdiction.

NABCEP: PV systems must be installed by an installation contractor who employs at least one staff member with a current North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Solar Installation Certification; or, if the installation contractor employs at least 50 employees, at least one staff member with a NABCEP Installation Certification for every 25 non-administrative employees, unless the installation contractor has not been registered to do business in Maryland for 12 months prior to the submission of the grant application.

Restrictions and Limitations:

- To receive grant funding for a project, the successful applicant must enter into a Grant Agreement with MEA by January 3, 2019 unless an extension is given in writing by MEA.
- A grant award will not be made for any project that starts construction prior to the effective date of the Grant Agreement with MEA.
- Prior to the start of construction, all projects selected for grant award must be reviewed by the Maryland Historic Trust

(MHT) or the qualified historical preservation expert on MEA's staff to ensure that no historical property will be adversely impacted. MEA may require the Grantee to provide additional information concerning the proposed project site, in order to enable the historic preservation review. Any project identified to cause adverse impacts on historical properties shall not be eligible for grant funding under this Program.

- The following steps must be completed by each grantee by November 8, 2019
    - Each project selected for award in Fiscal Year 2019 must be completed and in operation; and,
    - Each Grantee must submit a complete Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant Completion Package consisting of: A Completion Certificate; proof that the project is paid in full; copies of all inspection documents, permits, and licenses that are required to operate the project; project as-built drawings showing final capacity of PV array(s); a copy of the interconnection utility's Acceptance and Final Approval to Operate; and a photograph of the installed and operational project.
- Only net metered projects will be considered for this grant program.
- MEA reserves the right to obligate all or none of the Fiscal Year 2019 Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant Program budget, based on the quality and eligibility of applications submitted to MEA.
- Projects on contiguous parcels of property will be considered one project.
- A project receiving a Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant is ineligible to receive a Solar Commercial Clean Energy Grant or a second Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant.

For more information or assistance, please visit www.energy.maryland.gov or contact:

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Last Modified: June 2018