



Funding Opportunity Announcement Commercial Wood Feasibility Study

Fiscal Year 2021

Applications Due by May 15, 2021

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Commercial Wood Feasibility Study (CWFS) Program. Because wood energy conversion systems have the potential to significantly lower fuel and electricity bills while burning renewable, locally-sourced, low-emissions wood fuels, MEA will provide grants to conduct wood energy feasibility studies at eligible facilities in Maryland.

Program Description

The CWFS Program provides grants to help conduct feasibility studies for wood energy conversion systems at governmental, institutional, commercial, and industrial facilities (e.g., schools, hospitals, campuses, commercial buildings) located in Maryland.

Applicants that submit incomplete applications will be notified of missing information and given 30 days from notification date to submit missing information. If not received within this timeframe, the application will be rejected from consideration. Applicants rejected for this reason are free to re-apply but will be treated as new.

Program Budget and Funding Availability

Up to \$200,000 is budgeted for the FY21 CWFS Program. Funds will be awarded on a **first-come, first served basis**, subject to funding availability, and will be calculated as:

- 75% of the total cost of the feasibility study; OR
 - \$15,000, whichever is lower.
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Program Eligibility Requirements

At minimum, each proposed project must:

Category I – Proposed Feasibility Study

- Extent of selected engineering firm's experience with similar feasibility studies and wood energy conversion projects.
 - Cost of feasibility study relative to its scope of work.
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- 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 – Demonstrated Likelihood of Project Implementation

- 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 Applicant commitment to a potential wood energy project in the form of a letter of support 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 sources of “Qualifying Biomass” as defined in the Public Utilities Article Section 7-701, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- Space for feedstock storage identified.

Category III – Diversity of Awards

- Geographic diversity; and
- Industry sector diversity.

Due Date and Submission Instructions

All applications are due by **11:59 P.M. EDT on Saturday, May 15, 2021.**

MEA is encouraging the use of electronic communication, including applications, to streamline processing and reduce environmental impacts. If you choose to “opt out” of electronic communications for this program, please contact MEA no later than five (5) days prior to the application deadline to establish an alternative method to apply. Applications must be submitted no later than **May 15, 2021, 11:59 P.M. EDT**, unless the Applicant has contacted MEA regarding an alternative application method and that method has been authorized in writing by MEA.

Applications should be submitted electronically to MEA via email to:

>>> CWP.MEA@Maryland.gov <<<

Contact Information

For more information or assistance, please visit the FY21 MEA CWFS webpage or contact **Garry Aime, Biomass Program Manager** at Garry.Aime@Maryland.gov or via phone at (443) 306-8149.