

The State Energy Office (SEO), a division of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), has established the Renewable Energy Incentives Grant program, using \$3,837,200 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding, authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). These grants are for the purchase of commercially available equipment (or other tangible assets) incorporated into renewable energy projects undertaken by eligible applicants. These grants may fund up to 25% of the total renewable energy project cost; the maximum amount of funding per applicant is \$250,000.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:** Cities, counties, school districts (K-12), community colleges, technical colleges/schools, universities/colleges, and state agencies may apply for these grants. However, counties (Butler, Cowley, Crawford, Finney, Johnson, Leavenworth, Lyon, Montgomery, Sedgwick, Shawnee) and cities (Hutchinson, Kansas City, Lawrence, Lenexa, Manhattan, Olathe, Overland Park, Salina, Shawnee, Topeka, Wichita) that already received EECBG allocations are NOT ELIGIBLE for this grant

**ELIGIBLE TYPES OF PROJECTS:** These grant funds may be used to develop, implement, and install renewable energy projects, which may include solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, biomass, or hydropower. All projects must reduce the applicant's reliance on traditional energy resources. Applicants are encouraged to consider different types of projects to determine which will reduce energy use most efficiently. The renewable energy must be produced and consumed onsite, and, for electric generation projects, the nameplate capacity must be sized for onsite needs only. Electric generation projects of less than 25 kW nameplate capacity are not eligible, nor are other projects producing less than 500 million Btu's of renewable energy annually. (Revised 3/1/2010)

#### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY BUILDING CODES:** Applicants that are local units of government must commit to work towards the adoption of energy efficiency building codes in their local jurisdictions. The KCC has formed the Energy Efficiency Building Codes Working Group to develop a plan to ensure compliance with this ARRA requirement by 2017. The State Energy Office will provide grantees assistance in meeting this requirement.

**NEPA:** All recipients of these grants must fully comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) by completing any required environmental impact assessments, which may include, but are not limited to the following: (1) the environmental impact of the proposed action, (2) any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented, (3) alternatives to the proposed action, (4) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and (5) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented. The SEO will assist with any required NEPA review, as well as refund the cost of such. The grantee will comply with all requests of the SEO to complete the NEPA review and will not expend any funds nor engage in any choice-limiting actions related to the project until a full and complete NEPA review is performed and compliance is assured.

**DAVIS-BACON ACT:** These grants, and all projects funded through the ARRA, must meet the requirements of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA). Contractors must pay employees the prevailing wages for the locality, as established by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Contractors and their subcontractors must submit weekly certified payrolls on form WH-347 (Rev. Dec. 2008). More information about the DBRA and the ARRA can be found at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/recovery/>.

**BUY AMERICAN:** Section 1605 of the ARRA prohibits use of recovery funds for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States. The law requires that this prohibition be applied in a manner consistent with U.S. obligations under international agreements, and it provides for waiver under three circumstances: (a) Iron, steel, or relevant manufactured goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; (b) Inclusion of iron, steel, or manufactured goods produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent; or (c) Applying the domestic preference would be inconsistent with the public interest. See 2 CFR Part 176 of the Federal Register for the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) "Interim final guidance" regarding Buy American, and other ARRA requirements

**HISTORICAL PRESERVATION:** Projects recommended for grant awards under this program will be reviewed by the Kansas State Historical Society for their approval. Their primary field of interest are buildings older than fifty years of age, and newly disturbed areas of ground. (Revised 3/1/2010)

**REPORTING:** These grants are subject to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, as well as numerous other reporting requirements, some of which are: Weekly certified payroll reports; Monthly payment requests with supporting documentation; Quarterly employment reports of the number, type, and duration of jobs created or retained, project budget reports; energy production/conservation reports will be required for the 12 months following commissioning.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:** The SEO will award these grants in four (4) separate rounds: approximately \$1 million will be available for each of Rounds 1, 2 and 3, with the balance of the funding available for Round 4. The deadline for submitting applications for Round 1 was January 31, 2010. The application period for Round 2 opens March 1, 2010, with a **deadline for submitting applications for Round 2 of April 15, 2010**. Round 2 award selections will be made by April 30, 2010. The tentative schedule for remaining rounds is as follows: Round 3 application period May 1 thru June 15, 2010, with awards by June 30, 2010; Round 4 will be a "cleanup round" with any remaining funds awarded on an ad hoc basis between July 1 and July 23, 2010. Projects in Round 4 will be compared to projects that were considered for grants in the previous rounds. Projects not receiving grants may be re-submitted in subsequent rounds. (Revised 3/4/2010)

**HOW TO APPLY:** Eligible applicants may request a grant application (Microsoft Excel file) by submitting to the SEO the following information: organization name, contact person, email address, telephone number, project site address or location, description of site location (Somewhere Jr. High School, Anywhere Water Treatment Plant, etc.), source of renewable energy to be used (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, or hydropower), current stage of development, and proposed total cost of renewable energy project. The SEO contact for this program is Terry Steuber, State Energy Office, 1300 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604 (t.steuber@kcc.ks.gov or 785-271-3352).

**CHANGES:** The SEO may make changes as it evaluates the response to the program. These grant funds are a result of the ARRA and are subject to the availability and requirements in place at the time of award.

**Revised 3/4/2010**