



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION FUND

RFP GRANT SELECTIONS – PHASE ONE

The following is a description of nine foundational grant proposals that have been selected for funding through the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund. These grant awards are contingent on approval by Governor Lynch and the Executive Council. The grants will be submitted to the Governor and Executive Council at their meeting on July 15.

Additional proposals are currently under consideration, and a second phase of awards will be announced by the end of June.

1. Construction Institute of New Hampshire \$178,169 (two years)

CINH, the education arm of the Home Builders and Remodelors Association of New Hampshire, will a) provide training to building professionals so that they can design, build and remodel New Hampshire homes to meet the National Green Building Standard thereby significantly reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; and b) educate homeowners, buyers and occupants, as well as municipalities and the real estate, appraisal and banking industries, about the benefits of homes built to green standards.

2. Dept. of Resources and Economic Development \$174,000 (two years)

DRED will partner with Lakes Region Community College (LRCC) to develop a new training program to help develop a skilled labor force for energy efficiency improvements to buildings. LRCC will offer classes at its campus and at 5 other community colleges (or other locations around the state) for a Building Analyst course. Scholarships of up to 50% will be offered to ensure that the program is affordable. Graduates of the program will be certified energy auditors. LRCC will also conduct "train the trainer" sessions to increase the instructor pool in New Hampshire, and will establish internships for newly trained workers.

3. NH Business Finance Authority **\$2,000,000 (one year)**

BFA will establish a revolving loan fund to help businesses finance energy efficiency improvements. The program will have two different lending models, a low or no interest loan program for non-profit businesses and a lower interest program for for-profits. Loan repayments will be recycled and used to help additional businesses finance their energy improvements. The revolving loan fund will be a collaborative effort with the Department of Resource and Economic Development's Business Resource Center. BFA is seeking a total of \$10 million to fully capitalize the loan fund.

4. Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative **\$99,250 (one year)**

Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI) will expand its successful "Energy Raiser" programs to provide homeowners with the technical information and volunteer support to install solar hot water systems and to weatherize homes. Ten homes will be weatherized and ten will have solar hot water systems installed. Five will receive refrigerator replacements. PAREI already operates in Plymouth and ten other towns, and the expansion of this program will enable PAREI to bring its programs to at least three additional communities.

5. Retail Merchants Association **\$1,372,028 (one year)**

RMA and its partners – the Jordan Institute, the Dupont Group, White Birch Communications, Ocean Bank et al – will create an energy efficiency program for RMA members and other similarly situated businesses. The program will consist of outreach and public education, energy audits, demonstration projects to retrofit buildings with energy-saving measures and technologies, financing packages and other forms of assistance. This multi-pronged approach will help businesses significantly reduce the use of fuel oil and other energy sources, thereby reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The program has a five year work plan; this grant will fund the first year of activity.

6. Southern NH Resource Cons. & Dev. Area Council **\$87,000 (one year)**

Known as the New Hampshire Farm Energy Initiative, this program will provide up to 10 workshops on energy efficiency to agricultural business owners and operators. In addition, the initiative will provide comprehensive energy audits to 25 farms, which will serve as demonstration sites for other farmers seeking to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

7. TRC, Inc. **\$499,948 (two years)**

TRC will launch a benchmarking initiative to measure the energy performance of 250 public K-12 schools. Schools will receive a report describing energy use, costs and emissions for each building. The report will also provide

recommendations for immediate strategies to reduce energy use and links to utility efficiency programs and other efficiency-related initiatives and funding sources. Schools that wish to pursue detailed energy audits will be provided with referrals.

8. UNH – Carbon Challenge

\$813,402 (two years)

The New Hampshire Carbon Challenge, a joint initiative of the University New Hampshire and Clean Air - Cool Planet, will partner with the New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association to develop a residential energy portal (website) as a central source of sound information on energy efficiency programs, sustainable energy technologies, and available resources. A new suite of web-based tools will be created by these partners in conjunction with an advisory panel of NH stakeholders and residents. The Carbon Challenge will significantly expand its outreach efforts to provide residents and communities with the information, tools and support necessary for households to make substantial reductions in their energy consumption and thus greenhouse gas emissions.

9. UNH - Carbon Solutions New England

\$139,945 (one year)

CSNE will track, analyze and report on the results of projects funded by the GHGERF. CSNE will independently verify project outcomes and will create a database to track energy savings, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, costs and economic benefits. CSNE will also estimate the state-wide energy efficiency potential and the impacts on the state economy of different types of projects.

COMBINED FUNDING FOR THESE PROJECTS IS \$5,363,742.