



CONNECTICUT CLEAN ENERGY FUND

Community Innovations Grants Program – Version 2.0

Effective - July 31, 2008

On July 28, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) approved the Community Innovations Grants Program – Version 2.0 with a funding allocation of \$300,000. Version 2.0 of this program will provide microgrants to as many as 105 additional communities that are intended to help raise awareness of the benefits of clean energy and increase voluntary support for clean energy. Furthermore, it is anticipated that projects funded under this program will lead to the development of model sustainable communities.

Version 2.0 includes the following key features:

- **\$4,000 Microgrant for 50 Communities** - Up to fifty (50) municipalities are eligible to receive a microgrant of \$4,000. To qualify, a city or town must commit to the 20% by 2010 Campaign and the EPA Community Energy Challenge (two of the three steps required to become a Clean Energy Community.) Municipalities that have already received a Community Innovations Grant are not eligible for this grant.
- **Payment in \$2,000 Increments** - A municipality shall be awarded \$2,000 upon satisfaction of the training requirements and submission of a Memorandum of Understanding; advance of the second \$2,000 shall be contingent upon the submission of a report on one or more completed projects and demonstration of the need for additional funding (i.e., the task force's approval of an additional grant application that cannot be awarded until additional funds are received.)
- **\$2,000 Microgrant for 45 Additional Communities** - Up to forty-five (45) municipalities are eligible to receive a microgrant of \$2,000. To qualify, a city or town must commit to the 20% by 2010 Campaign and the EPA Community Energy Challenge (two of the three steps required to become a Clean Energy Community.) Municipalities that have already received a Community Innovations Grant are eligible for this grant - provided such municipality has expended the entire grant and met all reporting requirements.
- **\$1,000 Microgrant for 10 "At-Large" Recipients** - At least ten (10) at-large recipients to receive a microgrant of up to \$1,000. Eligible "at large" recipients include individuals who do not reside in municipalities that have committed to the 20% by 2010 campaign or not-for-profit organizations based in Connecticut.

Applicants for this “at large” microgrant will be required to submit proposals that include a plan to create a model, sustainable clean energy community. A committee of clean energy and sustainability leaders in Connecticut (including staff) will select microgrant recipients, who will then be subject to the same training, reporting and accounting requirements as outlined above.

- **Training Sessions** – Beginning this fall, the CCEF will host workshops for representatives of participating communities. The workshops are intended to provide task forces with background on the program and requirements for managing the microgrants.
- **Support Materials** – The CCEF will make all forms including a sample solicitation letter, grant application and grant report form available on-line. In addition, the CCEF will provide case studies of successful projects on-line.
- **Applications** – A convenient on-line application form will be available in the near future.