



## Community Innovations Grants Program v2.0

### Micro-Grants to Support Clean Energy Awareness

#### What Is the Community Innovations Grants Program?

The Community Innovations Grants Program (CIGP) is offered by the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority with the purpose of assisting Connecticut's communities to increase voluntary support for clean energy and to build model sustainable communities. Under the original test pilot program forty towns received grants for clean energy awareness initiatives. Under the Community Innovations Grants Program v2.0, 105 additional communities are now eligible to receive grants.

#### Who Should Apply?

Individuals, groups or non-profit organizations can apply to your town's energy task force for funds between \$250 to \$2,000 to support a public awareness or education project on the benefits and availability of clean energy.

A successful applicant will have:

- Developed a project proposal that would generate new sign-ups to the **CTCleanEnergyOptions** program or adoption of clean energy systems such as solar PV;
- Earned credibility through community work that strengthens the role of local citizens;
- Achieved media coverage on clean renewable energy in local press, radio, television or internet;
- Demonstrated an ability to account for the expenditure of funds.



The town of Fairfield provided a grant of \$662 to Sharon Pistilli, a local resident turned environmental activist, who purchased packages of compact fluorescent light bulbs that were given to new customers as an incentive to enroll in the CTCleanEnergyOptions program. Through appearances at local events and meetings, she secured more than 100 sign-ups in just over three months.

#### What Types of Grants are Available?

##### \$4,000 Microgrant for 50 Communities

Up to fifty municipalities are eligible to receive a microgrant of \$4,000. Cities or towns must commit to the 20% by 2010 Campaign and the EPA Community Energy Challenge. Municipalities that have previously received a Community Innovations Grant are not eligible for this grant.

##### \$2,000 Microgrant for 45 Additional Communities

Up to forty-five municipalities are eligible to receive a microgrant of \$2,000. Cities or towns must commit to the 20% by 2010 Campaign and the EPA Community Energy Challenge. Municipalities that have previously received a Community Innovations Grant are eligible for this grant.

##### \$1,000 Microgrant for 10 "At-Large" Recipients

At least ten at-large recipients may receive a microgrant of up to \$1,000. "At large" recipients include individuals who reside in municipalities that have not yet committed to the 20% by 2010 campaign; or not-for-profit organizations based in Connecticut.

Applicants will be required to submit proposals that include a plan to create a model, sustainable clean energy community.

Additional details about each of these grant categories may be obtained at [www.ctcleanenergy.com/grants](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/grants)

## The Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority provides the following resources to municipalities:

- **Training Sessions** – CEFIA 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** – All program-related forms, including a sample solicitation letter, grant application and grant reporting form, are available on-line. In addition, case studies of successful projects are available



Portland boy scout Troop #2, which secured 55 clean energy sign ups, receives Community Innovations Grants Program micro-grant to help toward the purchase of a solar-powered emergency communications system for the town.

## What are Examples of Potential Projects?

Potential projects that an energy task force may support would include, but are not limited to:

- Sign-up campaign for the **CTCleanEnergyOptions** Program using compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) as incentives;
- Educational or artistic exhibitions to raise the awareness within the community about the importance of clean renewable energy;
- Local access cable programming to inform residents of the benefits and availability of clean energy resources.

This program is intended to identify “new” ways of promoting and supporting clean renewable energy in our communities. Applicants are encouraged to be creative with their proposals.

## How to Apply?

Applying for a micro-grant is simple. Applications are available on the CEFIA website.  
[www.ctcleanenergy.com/grants](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/grants)

## The Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority

CEFIA was created by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2011. It is the successor organization to the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. CEFIA’s mission is to promote, develop and invest in clean energy and energy efficiency projects in order to strengthen Connecticut’s economy, protect community health, improve the environment, and promote a secure energy supply for the state. As the nation’s first full-scale clean energy finance authority, CEFIA will leverage public and private funds to drive investment and scale up clean energy deployment in Connecticut.

CEFIA’s main goals are to:

- create clean energy supply for Connecticut;
- accelerate the development of clean energy and energy efficient technologies; and
- educate Connecticut consumers about the benefits and availability of clean energy.



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