

Energy Policy Update

Energy and Environmental News

September 21, 2009



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE

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economic advancement*

This newsletter is published by the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office and is provided free of charge to the public. It contains verbatim excerpts from international and domestic energy and environment-related publications reviewed by the Education and Community Outreach personnel. For inquiries, call **(602) 771-1143** or toll free **(800) 352-5499**. Compiled and edited by Gloria Castro, Special Projects Coordinator. To register to receive this newsletter electronically, email [Gloria Castro](mailto:Gloria.Castro).

For additional program information, access: <http://www.azcommerce.com/Energy/Energy+Policy+Update+-%28Monthly+Publication%29.htm>.

Click [here](#) to view Grant Opportunities from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, ARIZONA-RELATED TITLES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE

ARIZONA

A Greener Airport: Sky Harbor Tackles Auto Pollution

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 16] One of Phoenix's biggest greenhouse-gas producers is taking huge steps to go green. Sky Harbor International Airport is part of a citywide push to cut pollution, as Phoenix faces criticism from federal air-quality authorities and a self-imposed plan to reduce greenhouse gases. The city is converting its airport-based vehicles to alternate fuels. Soon, officials will require all taxis that pick up at city airports to use alternative fuels. The city is building a \$1.1 billion automated train that aims to take thousands of cars off the streets near Sky Harbor, the ninth-busiest airport in the nation.

APS Gets \$71M for Carbon Sequestration Program

[Phoenix Business Journal, Sept. 15] Arizona Public Service Co. received a \$70.5 million grant Tuesday for a carbon sequestration program near its large coal power plant in the northeastern part of the state. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money initially will fund startup costs covering a number of processes for capturing or storing carbon emissions rather than sending them into the atmosphere.

Arizona Corporation Commission Examining the Future of AZ Utilities

[Phoenix Business Journal, Sept. 18] As states and the federal government look to increase the amount of energy utilities must crank out renewable sources, some experts say there may come a time when more power is generated from rooftop solar systems than utility companies. Such a scenario brings a host of questions that Arizona Corporation Commissioners hope to address through a series of at least 20 town halls this fall.

Arizona Gets \$9.6 Million to Help Energy Efficiency in Small Towns

[Phoenix Business Journal, Sept. 14] Arizona received \$9.6 million Monday that will be funneled to small cities and towns across the state to further their goals for energy efficiency. The disbursement, part of \$354 million pool released by the U.S. Department of Energy, is for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants. Much of those funds already have been distributed to large cities and counties in the state. The latest round of disbursements will be handled through the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office and will target towns of 35,000 people or less, said David Drennon, spokesman for the department. The money is to be used for government projects that include energy efficiency such as replacing equipment or building retrofits.

Deregulation of Booming Solar Industry

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 13] Fueled by government incentives, Arizona's solar industry is booming, but experts are questioning whether a recent trend toward deregulation may eventually compromise public safety. Since Mesa and Gilbert waived a requirement for building permits, no consensus exists on whether consumers are

getting a break on fees or whether they are risking long-term damage to their roofs from the weight of solar systems, or worse, seeing their roof sail off during a microburst.

Environment Prize Goes to Light Rail

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 13] The Valley's light-rail system received the top prize Saturday night in Valley Forward's Environmental Excellence Awards, a program that honors contributions to livability and sustainability. The rail system, which opened less than a year ago, was recognized for connecting Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe with a transportation network that contest judges noted had already exceeded expectations.

Installers Pave the Way for Solar Job Growth

[Phoenix Business Journal, Sept. 11] A home-grown solar company has opened its doors in Scottsdale, adding to the number of solar companies that either have launched or expanded into Arizona during the past year. Green Choice Solar LLC opened in August in about 12,000 square feet at the Scottsdale Airpark. The company, which will focus on residential and commercial installations, is part of a growing number showing interest in the burgeoning Arizona solar market.

Local Firm's Prism Effect: Cut Solar Cost

[Arizona Daily Star, Sept. 17] Aiming to make solar energy less costly and more efficient, a company in Tucson is using the concept of the prism to fundamentally change the way sunlight is captured. New York-based Prism Solar Technologies Inc., which has its research center in Tucson, is poised to begin production of solar materials that redirect and concentrate sunlight to boost efficiency and reduce the use of precious silicon.

Partnership Expands Mesa's Use of Solar Power

[East Valley Tribune, Sept. 11] Mesa's Energy Resources Department and SolFocus, a California-based solar energy company with a manufacturing plant in Mesa, will showcase new solar technology at the city's Central Arizona Project Water Treatment Plant in east Mesa. The city said this week it has reached an agreement with SolFocus to build 11 next-generation concentrating photovoltaic solar arrays at the plant, 7750 E. Brown Road. Those panels will be installed beside four existing demonstration arrays previously installed by SolFocus at the plant.

Solar Project Review Questions Linger in Mesa

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 11] Two years ago, Mesa became one of the first cities in the Valley to deregulate the installation of increasingly popular solar electric systems by waiving building permits. While some praise Mesa for the move, saying it reduces an unnecessary financial burden on consumers and reliance on fossil fuels, others worry that the approach is ill-advised if not dangerous.

TEP Unveils Plans for Giant Photovoltaic Array and New Solar Power Plant

[MSN Money, Sept. 16] Tucson Electric Power (TEP) is working with partners to develop two new solar power systems that would rank as the Tucson area's largest renewable power plants, generating enough clean energy to serve more than 6,000 Tucson homes. The systems, including a new 25-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) array and a 5-MW concentrating solar power (CSP) plant, are expected to be completed by January 2012. TEP has agreed to purchase power from both systems, which will be privately owned and operated.

SRP Will Raise 4 Service Fees in Nov.

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 16] Salt River Project will be holding off on a rate increase this year, but the utility's directors are raising four service fees, including the charge to turn on electricity the same day you need it. SRP also is increasing the price of a home-energy audit and late fees and will not refund the full \$99 deposit on the in-home display screens for its prepaid electrical-service plan called M-Power. The changes go into effect Nov. 1 and will bring the company an estimated \$2.41 million a year in additional revenue, according to a management report.

West Valley Companies Cook Up Responsible Biofuel

[Arizona Republic, Sept. 11] Valley restaurants are turning to a new Glendale company that collects used cooking oil to convert into cleaner-burning motor fuel. Green Dining Network aims to build up a following not only in the West Valley but eventually across the state.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND EFFICIENCY

China, U.S. To Dominate Solar Market

[Reuters, Sept. 15] Los Angeles, CA - The United States and China are in a head-to-head race to become the world's top market for solar power, and panel makers are wasting no time making plans to cash in on the growth promise of both markets despite the global recession.

DOE to Fund up to \$454 Million for Retrofit Ramp-Ups in Energy Efficiency

[U.S. Dept. of Energy – EERE website, Sept. 14] U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu today announced a new \$450 million program designed to catalyze a nationwide energy upgrade that experts estimate could save \$100 million annually in utility bills for households and businesses. The Recovery Act's "Retrofit Ramp-Up" program will pioneer innovative models for rolling out energy efficiency to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses in a variety of communities. Much like past roll-outs for cable TV or the Internet, the Department of Energy (DOE) intends to create models that, when undertaken nationally, will save consumers billions of dollars on their utility bills and make the huge savings of energy efficiency available to everyone.

Recovery Act Announcement: DOE Delivers More than \$354 Million for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Projects in 22 States

[U.S. Dept. of Energy – EERE website, Sept. 14] Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced today that more than \$354 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is being awarded to 22 states to support energy efficiency and conservation activities. Under the Department of Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, these states will implement programs that lower energy use, reduce carbon pollution, and create green jobs locally.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

Controversial Bush Smog Rule under Review

[MSNBC.com website, Sept. 16] Washington, D.C. - The Obama administration said Wednesday it will review a controversial Bush-era smog rule, saying it might have fallen short of scientific recommendations. The Environmental Protection Agency said it would propose any revisions by December and a final decision by next August.

White House Unveils Landmark Fuel Economy and Emissions Standards

[Environmental News Network, Sept. 17] Today the Obama Administration released a 1,200 page document of proposed regulation changes that will drastically alter the fuel economy and emissions standards that auto manufacturers are required to meet in the US. Although it could be an incredibly contentious topic, it seems that so far the proposal has gained wide support from all sides of the spectrum including environmental organizations and industry lobby groups. The changes — which would alter both the Department of Transportation's and the Environmental Protection Agency's rules — call for what amounts to about a 5% increase in fuel economy standards per year from 2011 to 2016 starting with 27.3 mpg in 2011 and ending with 35.5 mpg in 2016.

ENERGY-GENERAL

Clean Energy to Create More Jobs than Coal: Study

[Reuters, Sept. 13] OSLO - A strong shift toward renewable energies could create 2.7 million more jobs in power generation worldwide by 2030 than staying with dependence on fossil fuels would, a report suggested Monday. The study, by environmental group Greenpeace and the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC), urged governments to agree a strong new United Nations pact to combat climate change in December in Copenhagen, partly to safeguard employment. "A switch from coal to renewable electricity generation will not just avoid 10 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions, but will create 2.7 million more jobs by 2030 than if we continue business as usual," the report said.

Corporate America's Adoption of Green Practices Doubles, Study Says

[GreenerBuildings.com website, Sept. 17] Washington, D.C. - Corporate America's embrace of sustainability has more than doubled in strength in the past three years with 76 percent of the largest U.S. firms reporting efforts and commitments that exceed those required by law, according to a new study from Siemens Building Technologies Inc. and McGraw-Hill Construction. Sustainability is no longer seen as a niche activity in corporate America," the study said, adding that its findings show "a substantial growth in sustainability activity over the last three years with a shift in focus from internal operations and public relations to a core part of business performance."

ENERGY-RELATED ENVIRONMENT

Climate Goals Must Be Achievable: U.S. Official

[Reuters, Sept. 15] Vienna - Nations aiming to agree on a new global climate deal should focus on achievable greenhouse gas emissions targets, to involve as many nations as possible, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu said on Tuesday. The world is meant to thrash out in December in Copenhagen a new international climate change pact beyond 2012, to replace the Kyoto Protocol. Developing nations want rich countries to cut emissions by 25 to 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2020 to avert the worst effects of climate change. But many industrialized nations fear such cuts are out of reach, especially in an economic downturn.

WESTERN POWER

San Jose to Add 75K Homes to Smart Grid, New IBM Software to Facilitate Growth

[GreenBiz.com website, Sept. 16] San Jose, CA - In a partnership with IBM, Cisco and Pacific Gas & Electric, the City of San Jose has launched a project to add smart meters to 75,000 businesses and homes, while also expanding the amount of solar energy generated on buildings within the city. The city is seeking more than \$42 million in federal funding to help implement to project, which will also give PG&E access to more solar installations to enhance the supply of renewable energy for customers on its grid. The city is also working with PG&E, Cisco and IBM on incorporating the hardware and software needed to connect smart buildings to the grid.

Schwarzenegger Orders Increase in Renewable Energy Use

[New York Times, Sept. 15] Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order Tuesday requiring that California draw 33 percent of its electricity from renewable sources like solar and wind power by 2020. The requirement is stricter than any other state's except Hawaii's, which calls for 40 percent by 2030.

INDUSTRIES AND TECHNOLOGIES

China's Plan to Rule the Sun

[Forbes, Sept. 16] Houston, TX - First Solar's two-gigawatt solar installation in the Chinese region of Inner Mongolia will be the biggest in the world, covering 25 square miles of the Ordos Desert with solar cells. When completed in 2019, the solar field (roughly the area of Manhattan) will generate as much electricity as two nuclear reactors or three coal-fired power plants, enough to power 3 million Chinese homes.

Largest Offshore Wind Farm to Go Online

[New York Times, Sept. 15] The world's largest offshore wind farm is expected to go into operation on Thursday at a site 30 kilometers off the coast of Denmark. The farm, called Horns Rev 2 and built by a Danish utility, Dong Energy, consists of 91 turbines made by Siemens, a German engineering company, spread over a 35-square kilometer area. The farm is projected to generate 209 megawatts or enough electricity to supply 200,000 households for a year.

To Hopeful Makers, the Electric Car's Time Is Here

[New York Times, Sept. 13] Frankfurt - The electric car is at the starting line, and the gun is about to sound. Now automakers must prove that the technology, and the market, are ready. After years of talk and prototypes, some automobile makers believe the electric vehicle is about to become more than just a science experiment.

US Energy Secretary Chu Announces Finalized \$5.9 Billion Loan for Ford Motor Company

[U.S. Dept. of Energy website, Sept. 17] Washington, D.C. - Today, Secretary Steven Chu announced that the Department of Energy has closed on its loan offer of \$5.9 billion to Ford Motor Company to transform factories across Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio to produce more fuel efficient models. The loan is part of

the Department's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing program, which supports the development of innovative, advanced vehicle technologies to create thousands of clean energy jobs while helping reduce the nation's dangerous dependence on foreign oil. The loan for Ford Motor Company is the first to be finalized since the program was appropriated in the fall of 2008.

GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL

To view Arizona and U.S. Gasoline and Diesel fuel data plus other pertinent oil information click [here](http://www.azcommerce.com/Energy/MotorFuel/).
<http://www.azcommerce.com/Energy/MotorFuel/>

GRANTS

The RFPs created or supplemented as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) are identified in the RFP titles.

NEW! Arizona Department Of Commerce Energy Office Announces Biofuels Grant Application Workshop

The Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office announced the 2009 Commercial Arizona Biofuel Conversion Program (ACBP) grants application is open. Assistance, in the form of grants, is available to commercial motor fuel dispensing sites to encourage the use of biofuels throughout Arizona. Money is allocated from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Arizona's State Energy Program, 21st Century Energy Grant.

These highly competitive grants are available for capital expenses to convert or install Biofuel compatible fuel storage tanks, fuel dispensers, blending equipment and other components for the purpose of dispensing Biofuel. Directly associated expenses, such as fees to clean existing storage tanks and labor for installation of tanks, fuel lines and dispensers are also eligible projects. The grants are for \$30,000 or 40% of the project cost, whichever is less.

Commerce will host a pre-proposal workshop as part of its application process to provide information on the grants as well as provide guidance in filling out the application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop. The workshop will be held at:

Arizona Department of Commerce
1700 West Washington Street,
2nd Floor Governor's Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ 85007
DATE: September 22, 2009
TIME: 2pm

Information is available at www.azcommerce.com/Energy/Biofuels.htm or by contacting Jennifer Pittman-Leeper at JenniferL@azcommerce.com or 602-771-1136. **The deadline for applications is 3 PM on October 15, 2009.**

NEW! DOE Request for Information: EECBG - Recovery Act

Reference Number: DE-FOA-0000148

Response Due Date: 9/28/2009 5:00:00 PM ET

Description: The Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking feedback from stakeholders on a planned competitive funding opportunity announcement (FOA) in support of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act "Recovery Act") of 2009, Public Law 111-5. Use the following link to view this opportunity:

<https://www.fedconnect.net/fedconnect?doc=DE-FOA-0000148&agency=DOE>

Building America Energy Efficient Housing Partnerships

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for **Building America Energy Efficient Housing Partnerships**. The long term goal of Building America for new homes is to develop cost effective, production ready systems in five major climate zones that will result in zero energy homes (ZEH) that produce as much energy as they use on an annual basis by 2020. Through this initiative, DOE seeks Industry Teams to implement research and technical support for new and existing homes. Some funding available for stimulating the existing home retrofit market. Up to \$25 million expected to be available, up to 7 awards anticipated. Responses due Sept 30, 2009. For more info, contact Angela Bosley at Angela.Bosley@netl.doe.gov or go to:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&opId=48215>

Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000099.

School Construction Program – Recovery Act

The U.S. Department of Education requests proposals for the Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Program. This program provides support for emergency repairs and modernization of school facilities to local educational agencies that submitted applications for funding under Section 8002 (Payments for Federal Property) or Section 8003 (Basic Support Payments) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Additional rating points given for projects utilizing energy-efficient and recyclable materials and projects that use alternative building methods and materials. \$59.4 million expected to be available, responses due 10/1/09. For more info, contact Kristen Walls-Rivas at Impact.Aid@ed.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=49108>. Refer to Sol# ED-GRANTS-081709-001. (Grants.gov 8/17/09)

The U.S. Department of Energy announced the availability of up to \$5.5 million to increase the use of higher **ethanol blends up to E85 (85% ethanol/15% gasoline) by expanding refueling infrastructure and launching targeted outreach to promote public awareness.** This Funding Opportunity Announcement targets two areas of interest: Refueling Infrastructure for Higher Ethanol Blends (\$3.5 million) and Outreach for Higher Ethanol Blends (\$2 million). The FOA is available at [FedConnect](http://www.fedconnect.gov), and can be found by searching for Reference Number DE-FOA-0000125. Applications for this FOA are due October 4, 2009. To learn more about biofuels R&D and ethanol blends, visit the [DOE Biomass Program Web site](http://www.doe.gov/biomass).

Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) Initiative

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for the **Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) Initiative.** This initiative, which is restricted to U.S. cities, focuses on developing new, or refining existing, plans to integrate new energy portfolios (renewables, biofuels, etc) and new applications, such as Smart Grid technology into energy assurance and emergency preparedness plans. \$10.5 million expected to be available, 50 awards anticipated. Responses due Oct 8, 2009. For more info, contact Diane Franklin at diane.franklin@netl.doe.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=48595>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000098.

Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation

The National Science Foundation requests proposals for Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation. Through this new funding opportunity, the NSF seeks proposals from interdisciplinary teams of researchers, with transformative ideas that represent an opportunity for a significant shift in fundamental engineering knowledge with a strong potential for long term impact on national needs or a grand challenge. Areas of interest include: 1) Renewable Energy Storage, and 2) Science in Energy and Environmental Design (SEED): Engineering Sustainable Buildings. This solicitation is in coordination with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. \$29 million expected to be available, up to 14 awards anticipated. Letters of Intent due 10/9/09, preliminary proposals due 11/13/09, final proposals due 3/31/10. For more info, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09606. Refer to Sol# 09-606. (Grants.gov 8/13/09)

Baseload Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Generation

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for **Baseload Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Generation.** Through this initiative, DOE seeks the development and evaluation of CSP components and/or systems that will lead to solar power plants with a capacity to generate electricity at costs competitive with fossil-fired generators. Areas of interest include: 1) R&D of concepts and components that can be part of a CSP baseload system, 2) Evaluation of the feasibility of a complete CSP baseload system and development of a prototype system that can be implemented in the field. \$15 million expected to be available, up to 13 awards anticipated. Responses due Oct 15, 2009. For more info, contact Andrea Lucero at andrea.lucero@go.doe.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=48490>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000104.

Brownfields Assessment Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Brownfields Assessment Grants. A brownfield site is defined as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land. This program supports inventories, characterizations,

assessments, planning (including cleanup planning) and community involvement related to brownfield sites. \$37.3 million expected to be available, up to 171 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/16/09. For more info, including Regional contacts, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-orcr-09-04.pdf>. Refer to Sol# EPA-OSWER-OBLR-09-04. (Grants.gov 8/12/09)

Brownfields Cleanup Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Brownfields Cleanup Grants. Cleanup grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at specific brownfield sites owned by the applicant. An individual applicant can apply for up to \$200K per brownfield site and can submit up to three site-specific cleanup proposals. \$35.1 million expected to be available, up to 163 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/16/09. For more info, including Regional contacts, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-orcr-09-05.pdf>. Refer to Sol# EPA-OSWER-OBLR-09-05. (Grants.gov 8/12/09)

Brownfields Revolving Loan Funds

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants. This program provides funds for a grant recipient to capitalize a revolving fund and to make loans and provide subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. \$7 million expected to be available, up to 7 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/16/09. For more info, including Regional contacts, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-orcr-09-06.pdf>. Refer to Sol# EPA-OSWER-OBLR-09-06. (Grants.gov 8/12/09)

State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grants

The U.S. Department of Labor requests proposals from State Workforce Investment Boards, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, for **State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grants**. This program will support training, job placement, and related activities that reflect a comprehensive statewide energy sector strategy including the Governor's overall workforce vision, State energy policies, and training activities that lead to employment in targeted industry sectors. A portion of the funds under this SGA will be reserved for communities or regions undergoing auto industry related restructurings. \$190 million expected to be available, individual awards NTE \$6 million. Responses due Oct 20, 2009. For more info, contact Jeannette Flowers at Flowers.Jeannette@dol.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&opId=48074>. Refer to Sol# SGA-DFA-PY-08-20.

Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study. Through this RFP, EPA is offering Graduate Fellowships for master's and doctoral level students in environmental fields of study. 16 Topic Areas identified which include, but are not limited to: Global Change; Energy; Green Engineering/Building/Chemistry/Materials; and Environmental Behavior and Decision Making. \$4.5 million expected to be available, up to 120 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/22/09. For more info, contact Brandon Jones at 2009FellowshipsRFA@epa.gov or go to: http://epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2009/2009_star_gradfellow.html. Refer to Sol# EPA-F2009-STAR. (Grants.gov 8/19/09)

NSF STTR Phase I

The National Science Foundation requests proposals from small businesses for Phase I of the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program. STTR requires researchers at universities and other research institutions to play a significant intellectual role in the conduct of each STTR project. The topic of interest is Multi-Functional Materials. The subtopics of interest include: Bio-inspired Materials and Systems; Materials for Energy Generation and Storage; Materials for Sustainability; Nanostructured Materials; and Smart Materials and Structures. \$5 million expected to be available, up to 35 awards anticipated. Responses due 11/17/09. For more info, contact Ben Schrag at bschrag@nsf.gov or go to: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09605. Refer to Sol# 09-605. (Grants.gov 8/13/09)

Environmental Information Exchange Network

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for the National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program. This program supports the development of information technology and information management capabilities needed to actively participate in the Exchange Network, a secure, Internet

and standards-based way to support electronic data reporting, sharing, and integration of both regulatory and non-regulatory environmental data. \$10 million expected to be available, up to 50 awards anticipated. Responses due 11/20/09. For more info, contact Edward Mixon at mixon.edward@epa.gov or go to: <http://epa.gov/exchangenetwork/grants/>. Refer to Sol# EPA-OEI-10-01. (Grants.gov 7/29/09)

Interdisciplinary Solar Energy Research

The National Science Foundation Divisions of Chemistry (CHE), Materials Research (DMR), and Mathematical Sciences (DMS) requests proposals for the CHE-DMR-DMS Solar Energy Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to support potentially catalytic interdisciplinary work by groups of researchers to address the scientific challenges of efficient harvesting, conversion, and storage of solar energy. The intent is to encourage new collaborations in which the mathematical sciences are linked in a synergistic way with the chemical and materials sciences to develop novel, potentially transformative approaches in an area of much activity but largely incremental advances. \$7 million expected to be available, up to 10 awards anticipated. Preliminary proposals due 12/8/09, final proposals due 3/10/10.

For more info, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09604. Refer to Sol# 09-604. (Grants.gov 8/13/09)

For additional information visit the DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program home page at: <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>

Special thanks to the Washington State University Extension Energy Program for collecting this information.
