

State of Connecticut SEP Funding – Preliminary Planned Activities

Introduction-The State Energy Program (SEP) was developed to support the implementation of programs encouraging energy efficiency and renewable technologies through market transformation initiatives. It is not intended for specific projects. The US Department of Energy (DOE) has developed four broad goals for SEP funds to meet:

- Increase efficiency and reduce energy costs for consumers, businesses and government;
- Reduce reliance on imported energy;
- Improve the reliability of electricity and fuel supply and delivery of energy services; and
- Reduce the impact of energy production and use on the environment.

In addition to the SEP program goals, ARRA was specifically enacted to create and retain jobs. The following matrix contains general program recommendations for use of SEP stimulus funds. Consideration was given to the above goals and those of a practical nature or required by DOE (utilize existing mechanisms to deliver programs), administrative issues, including reporting (minimizing the number of contracts/grants that need to be negotiated and the number of entities that are required to report), energy savings (how readily can energy savings/production/job metrics be provided), and speed at which the programs can be up-and-running.

Program	Detail	Rationale
Geothermal Incentives	Establish a geothermal incentive program for residential & commercial buildings. Available for both new and existing construction.	Based on inquiries, demand for this type of program is great, will reduce dependence on fossil fuels, will help develop in-state geothermal design/ installation expertise, provides CT with resources to promote a technology that utilizes an indigenous renewable resource.
Solar Thermal	Establish a solar thermal program for residential and commercial buildings, both new and existing.	Based on consumer inquiries, there is a significant demand, will reduce dependence on fossil fuels, is more cost effective than photovoltaic, and provides greater market penetration for local solar technologies.
Fuel Cells	To provide expanded program support and incentives for commercial/industrial/institutional fuel cell installations in proper applications.	This is a CT industry and should help retain jobs within the state.
Wind Energy	To provide expanded wind energy program support and incentives where such installations are proven as practical.	Clean Energy, air quality benefits, reduces reliance on fossil fuels.

State of Connecticut SEP Funding – Preliminary Planned Activities

Energy Efficiency Programs	Support and expand existing energy efficiency programs that target commercial/industrial, small business, and residential customers. This would include building and equipment retrofits, and support for providing Home Energy Solutions audits to non-electric, non-gas households.	Utilize existing systems to deliver proven and effective services. Building retrofits create jobs. Home Energy Solutions audits is a cost effective way to deliver a number of energy services while also providing information and/or incentives to the customer for other energy efficiency opportunities.
State Building Energy Projects	To support priority funding of energy efficiency and renewable projects at state facilities.	State projects will reduce energy consumption and costs to the state, and result in cleaner air.
Building Code Training and Monitoring	Funding provided to enable DPS to meet the DOE requirement that within 8 years, they develop a plan to achieve a 90% compliance rate to the energy code.	A condition for receiving SEP stimulus funds. (see "Detail" column)
Building Operator Certification Training	To be offered to state and municipal personnel, this course provides the skills necessary for proper operations and maintenance of buildings.	Demonstrated to result in significant energy savings, trained personnel are more marketable.
Clean Cities	Funding provided to clean cities coordinators for administrative support to effectively utilize clean cities funds.	To support the clean cities infrastructure within CT for alternative fueled vehicles and infrastructure.