

Environment & Energy

Energy Department Opens \$425 Million to State Clean Energy Plans

By Zach Bright

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- Infrastructure bill funds open to clean energy applications
 - State energy funding boost is nearly 10 times usual level
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States can apply for a \$425 million pot of funds to “turbocharge” clean energy projects, US Department of Energy officials announced Friday.

The bevy of funds—available in formula funding through the Energy Department’s State Energy Program—is nearly 10 times the usual amount the state energy program receives. It would go toward projects that expand and modernize grids, improve transmission and distribution, and promote community options.

“This program builds on 40 years of work alongside states and territories to deliver better energy options, clean energy programs and projects for local communities—everything from building out a network of electric vehicle charging stations in Maryland, to deploying solar energy on abandoned mine lands in Kentucky,” said Jeremiah Baumann, chief of staff for the Office of the Under Secretary for Infrastructure.

The boost to the program, which comes from last year’s infrastructure law, enables states to fulfill the program’s goals of advancing energy initiatives, security, and affordability.

“The President’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding expands foundational, longstanding programs like the State Energy Program to help every state and territory manage their energy resources and accelerate gains in energy efficiency and add more clean energy onto the grid,” Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said in a statement.

States are required to explain their energy plans in applications, but won’t have to spar among each other to compete for funds, Baumann said. Each is entitled to dollars under a department formula.

States can also opt in to cohort-based assistance programs that range across five topics. Those include planning for transmission and distribution, grid changes and clean energy technology integration, state energy security, community energy, and clean energy manufacturing.

Coupled with climate dollars passed in this month's tax-and-climate measure, the newly announced funding will enhance efforts to build an equitable clean energy economy with good-paying jobs and secure and affordable energy, the Department of Energy said in its release.

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