

Transportation Energy Efficiency Funding Opportunities in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) May 2009

Transportation Funding

States and municipalities are eligible to apply for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to address a variety of transportation-related needs, including those related to improving energy efficiency. Money is available for distribution through the Department of Energy's Energy-Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, the Surface Transportation Program (STP) or the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. Below is a list of potential projects that qualify for funding under the various programs. For additional details and information on application guidelines for the various funding opportunities, please see:

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program: <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>

Surface Transportation Program: <http://stimulus.smartgrowthamerica.org/20ways>

National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program (NCDAP):

<http://epa.gov/otaq/eparecovery/prognational.htm#program>

Project Options

Integration of Land Use and Transportation Planning

- EECBG: Development of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy that includes transportation as a component
- STP: Planning in metro areas that connects land use to transportation and transit options

EX: State/Regional/Local Integrated Planning

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) developed a regional growth plan in 2004 that integrated land use and transportation decisions in an effort to curb sprawl and focus resources in already developing urban areas and new mixed-use, compact communities. The initiative involved the development of a regional funding program for alternative transportation options and a smart growth concept map to identify potential sites of compact communities. Major reductions in transportation energy use will be among the benefits of implementing the plan. For more information, please see: <http://www.sandag.cog.ca.us/index.asp?projectid=1&fuseaction=projects.detail>.

- EECBG/STP: Development and promotion of zoning guidelines that promote energy-efficient development

EX: Largo, Florida

The city of Largo, Florida recently modified its zoning to encourage the development of denser, mixed land-use projects. Zoning relief is provided if certain compact growth aspects of development are established and met. The city eventually hopes to establish a concrete set of performance measures in its zoning packages that will shift the focus from

sprawl to smart growth. For additional information, please see:
<http://www.smartgrowth.org/pdf/gettosg2.pdf>

- STP: Creation of mixed-use communities around transit nodes

Expansion of Public Transit and Multi-Modal Transportation Options

- STP: Monetary support of local and regional transit services to meet increased demand
- STP: Increased road-based transit in urban centers through investments in streetcar and bus services and busways
- STP: Expansion of commuter rail service base and frequency of trips
- EECBG/STP: Maintenance of existing bike and pedestrian routes as well as creation of new, safe routes

EX: Cambridge, Massachusetts Bike Lanes

The Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance enacted by the Cambridge City Council in 1992 called for the creation of more livable communities in the greater Cambridge area. As a result, the city established a Bicycle and pedestrian Mobility Program to encourage greater use of bicycles instead of single-occupancy vehicles as a primary mode of transport. Bike lanes are regularly created and rehabilitated to promote safe cycling throughout the city. For more information bike programs in the City of Cambridge, please see: http://www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/et/bike/bike_lanes.html#implanes.

- STP: Creation of streets that support diverse transportation options such as cars, buses, bicycles and pedestrians

Freight Efficiency

- STP: Improvement of freight connections between air, rail and water freight movement options. Such projects can reduce diesel consumption by facilitating use of less energy-intensive modes of transport.

EX: Port of Pittsburgh

The Port of Pittsburgh Container on Barge project facilitates improved connections between road and water freight movement. The program provides a water alternative to trucking for heavier, high-value shipments through the inland waterway system of the Appalachian and Gulf Coast Region. For more information, please see: <http://www.arc.gov/images/reports/interopp/ebinteropp.pdf>

- EECBG/NCDAP: Anti-idling programs that conserve energy, reduce harmful pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from freight transport

EX: Anti-Idling Programs

The city of Beaumont, Texas successfully implemented a freight truck anti-idling program in collaboration with the South East Texas Regional Planning commission in an effort to reduce diesel consumption by idling heavy-duty vehicles. 532 truck stop electrification units were set up in the Beaumont Port Arthur area to allow vehicles to continue heating or cooling their units without compromising fuel efficiency. For more information on the

project, please see: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ess-tas-micdi-workshop-CMAQ-ProgramOverviewHandout_269007_7.pdf.

- NCDAP: Reduction of diesel emissions through engine repowering or use of verified emissions control technologies: retrofit devices, cleaner fuels, engine upgrades low rolling resistance tires, and anti-idling technology.

Congestion Management

- Funding of programs that encourage ride-sharing, carpooling
- Urban congestion pricing programs
- Provision of more routing options to dissipate traffic throughout the transportation system

Efficient Vehicle Purchase

- Expanded use of advanced vehicle technologies, as well as alternative fuels, in light- and heavy-duty vehicles. [Funding will also be available for projects that include the installation or creation of new infrastructure to support these vehicles.] For more information on this opportunity, see: <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/cleancities/progs/solicitations.php#recovery>.
- NCDAP: Replacement of existing medium- to heavy-duty conventional fleets with efficient, clean diesel options.

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