

\$10 Million in EPA Grants Available to Develop Local and Tribal Government "Climate Showcase Communities"

The EPA has announced the availability of up to \$10 million and solicits applications from eligible entities to compete for financial assistance through the Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program. The Agency expects to award approximately 30 cooperative agreements ranging from approximately \$100,000 to \$500,000. Approximately 5 percent of the funds (\$500,000) are set aside for tribal governments.

This program will assist local and tribal governments in developing plans, conducting demonstrations, and implementing projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while achieving additional environmental, economic, public health, and/or community benefits. The overall goal of the Climate Showcase Communities program is to create replicable models of sustainable community action that generate cost-effective and persistent greenhouse gas reductions while improving the environmental, economic, public health, or social conditions in a community.

The program defines eligible entities and includes local governments (a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, **school district**, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government), federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and inter-tribal consortia. A 50 percent cost-match or cost-share is required for this program with the exception of tribal governments and intertribal consortia, which are exempt from matching requirements.

Proposals are due by July 22, 2009, at 4 p.m. EDT. An optional notice of intent to apply is requested by July 1, 2009. Awards are expected in January 2010 and may run through January 2013.

The Climate Showcase Communities grant program is administered by EPA's Local Climate and Energy Program, an initiative to assist local and tribal governments to identify, implement, and track policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their operations and surrounding communities. Over the course of the grant program, EPA will offer peer exchange, trainings, and technical support to grant recipients, and share lessons learned with communities across the nation.

More information on the grant program is available at:

<http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/showcase.html>

State and local officials interested in additional information about developing and implementing cost-effective clean energy and environmental strategies that help further environmental and clean energy goals and achieve public health and economic benefits may visit: <http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/index.html>