MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND VERMONT
CLEAN CITIES PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

The Clean Cities coalitions of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont are seeking project proposals for a regional application for U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities competitive funds offered through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. ARRA makes supplemental appropriations for the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) of 2005 Section 721, which authorizes the establishment of a competitive grant pilot program to be administered through the Clean Cities Program, to provide not more than 30 geographically dispersed project grants to State governments, local governments, and/or metropolitan transportation authorities, in partnership with an active designated Clean Cities Coalition(s). The project solicitation for this funding is included in the *Funding Opportunity Title: Clean Cities FY09 Petroleum Reduction Technologies Projects for the Transportation Sector DE-PS26-09NT01236-00.* The full solicitation is available at www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/index.htm#funding under Area of Interest 4 which can be found at the *Clean_Cities_FY09_FOA_Modification* link on the above website. **Maine Clean Communities, the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition, and the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition are pursuing a regional project to utilize approximately $5 million in each of our states to promote alternative fuel infrastructure in Northern New England.**

Under this Area of Interest, applications are being sought for cost-shared projects (requiring a 50% non-federal cost share) that expand the use of alternative fueled vehicles and advanced technology vehicles including the installation or acquisition of infrastructure necessary to directly support an alternative fueled vehicle or advanced technology. Limited expenses associated with operation and maintenance of vehicles, infrastructure and other associated equipment acquired through the program are also allowable. These actions help to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum by increasing the use of alternative fuels and deploying technologies that lessen petroleum consumption.

Under Area of Interest 4 US DOE intends to provide up to 30 geographically dispersed project grants. Grant recipients include state governments, local governments and metropolitan transportation authorities, in partnership with an active designated Clean Cities Coalition(s). Projects are sought that will contribute to a sustainable market for these vehicles with a potential for future growth in the absence of additional Federal funding.

Special preference shall be for "Shovel Ready" projects that can be started and completed expeditiously, including a goal of using at least 50 percent of the funds for activities that can be initiated not later than June 17, 2009. These "Shovel Ready" projects are expected to be well understood and mature, with design completed, sites ready for activation, and all permits approved. For projects that are in less mature design phases, proposals shall include realistic schedules required to complete the project within the project period of performance.

In order to evaluate opportunities in the region that can be combined into a competitive regional application the ME, NH, and VT Clean Cities coalitions request interested entities prepare and submit the pre-proposal information as outlined below. **Pre-proposals should be completed (with realistic budgets) and submitted to the appropriate state contact person (state contacts are listed at the end of this document) no later than 5 p.m on April 10, 2009**. Questions regarding this process or project specific questions may be directed to the listed contact person.

Clean Cities Area of Interest 4
Proposal Template

Please complete the following. Add additional pages where necessary!

1) Provide an assessment of your organization's ability to rapidly initiate the project. ***(For projects where this is not possible, proposals shall include realistic schedules to indicate when they will be initiated and verify that the project will be completed within the proposed period of performance.)***

2) Provide a detailed description of the project team and partnering arrangement. ***(****Related technical expertise and experience, roles and responsibilities of parties, etc.)*

3) List the expected number of sites and vehicles that will be included in the project.

4) Estimate of the vehicle and fuel use or degree of use of the projects. *(Estimated vehicle miles per year and gallons or gasoline gallon equivalents where appropriate.)*

5) Estimate of the petroleum reduction (energy security) benefits and emissions reductions that will be achieved by this project. *(Petroleum reduction estimates should be based on gasoline or diesel gallon equivalent volumes of petroleum fuels that will be displaced. Emissions estimates should be calculated using a nationally recognized modeling method (such as GREET or AirCRED from Argonne National Laboratory) (see: http://www.transportation.anl.gov/modeling_simulation/GREET/ or http://www.aircred.anl.gov/). The proposal must cite or indicate the basis or method used to estimate emissions reductions.)*

6) Provide a description of how the project will be sustainable without Federal assistance after the completion of the term of the grant.

7) Plans and budget to participate in DOE merit reviews, performance audits and other forums aimed at ensuring that the information and knowledge gained by participants in the pilot program are accurate and transferred among the pilot program participants and to other interested parties, including other applicants that submitted applications. This also may involve contributing information for publication.

8) Status of site agreements for associated infrastructure as well as licensing, permitting, and the use of safety listed equipment.

9) Discuss the availability of required vehicle and/or infrastructure equipment. (Written commitments from partners required along with statements indicating that equipment meets required safety and/or emissions regulations)

10) Status of partnerships (Written partnering commitment required including type of technical or financial support A letter of commitment describing the financial match requirements, in kind including staff time and other tangible assets such as land that are specific and necessary for the project.)

11) Please provide project schedules that include the following key activities:

- **Design/Procurement Specifications Complete**
- **Permitting/NEPA Complete**
- **Vehicles and/or Fueling Equipment Ordered/Procured**
- **Vehicles and/or Fueling Equipment Delivered to project site(s)**
- **Fueling Infrastructure Development Complete (if applicable)**
- **Training/Education Completed**
- **Vehicle and/or Fueling Equipment Operational**
- **Marketing/Outreach Activities**
- **Vehicle and/or Fueling Site Data Collection**
- **Project Completion**

12) Identify jobs directly created or retained as a result of this project (e.g. construction workers) as well as those indirectly created in industries or services that support the project (e.g. workers in factories that provide alternative fuel vehicle equipment or supplies, operating and maintenance services, and training related to these jobs and skill sets). ***Speculation on potential indirect jobs that may occur as a result of this project shall not be included (e.g. jobs associated with traditional retailers such as grocery stores, real estate, etc).***

13) Identify how your project will strengthen the regional effort to create an alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure for Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR DETAILS ON THE PROPOSAL PLEASE READ THE BRIGHT BLUE SECTIONS OF Funding Opportunity Title: Clean Cities FY09 Petroleum Reduction Technologies Projects for the Transportation Sector DE-PS26-09NT01236-00 available at
http://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/index.htm#funding ***under***
Clean_Cities_FY09_FOA_Modification

Evaluation Criteria

Following is the evaluation criteria that has been developed by the Clean Cities program. Details on the criteria begin on page 44 of ***Funding Opportunity Title: Clean Cities FY09 Petroleum Reduction Technologies Projects for the Transportation Sector DE-PS26-09NT01236-00 available at http://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/index.htm#funding.***

Criterion 1: Probability of Project Success based on Technical approach and Work Plan /Statement of Project Objectives (30%)

- **Responsiveness and relevance of the application to the programmatic goals and requirements identified in this announcement for this area of interest**
- **Likelihood of successfully completing the proposed project based on the adequacy and thoroughness of the approach to the proposed work including the technical feasibility, location, number, type, and size of the proposed infrastructure installations, and/or number, type, and size of the proposed AFVs and/or Advanced Technology Vehicles to be purchased and/or converted to successfully meet the project objectives**
- **Adequacy of the proposed data collection and reporting activities**
- **As appropriate, the adequacy and reasonableness of the methodology and approach for selecting sites that have not yet been identified**
- **Degree of public access to the proposed infrastructure installations**
- **Effectiveness of proposed marketing plan to increase public awareness of alternative fuels/advanced technology vehicles and for offering any incentives for purchasing alternative fuel/advanced technology vehicles**
- **The willingness of the station owner(s) to display the availability and price of the alternative fuel in a manner similar to its postings for conventional fuels**
- **Degree that approach develops and strengthens alternative fuel infrastructure on a local and/or regional basis**
- **Adequacy, reasonableness and soundness of the proposed Project Management Plan including the duration and sequencing of tasks and the scheduling of project milestones and decision points**
- **Adequacy, appropriateness, and reasonableness of the proposed work and budget distribution among the team members to accomplish the Statement of Project Objectives.**

Criterion 2: Probability of Project Success based on Team Expertise and Prior Experience (20%)

- **Ability to assemble a team necessary to successfully accomplish the objectives of the proposed project**
- **Qualifications, expertise, and experience of identified key personnel in areas relevant to the proposed work**
- **Corporate and individual experience and degree of success achieved in conducting projects of similar scope and nature**
- **Strength of partnerships and extent of active participation of Clean Cities Coalitions and state and local agencies and/or metropolitan transportation authorities**
- **Appropriateness of the planned assignment of responsibilities and level of effort among individuals and corporate team members**
- **Adequacy of the applicant and/or team resources to successfully complete the proposed work**
- **Quality and strength of letters documenting technical and/or financial support and /or site availability from all team partners and station owners**

Criterion 3: Ability to Preserve or create Jobs through Rapid Project Implementation (20%)

- **Adequacy of discussion and number of domestic construction, manufacturing, maintenance, service-support, or green work force jobs created or preserved in support of this activity**
- **Extent of domestic jobs created or preserved in support of this activity**
- **Ability of the applicant to initiate the project expeditiously**
- **Ability of the applicant to identify specific sites, provide proof of necessary permits and include written commitments from actual project partners and fuel suppliers**
- **Adequacy of the discussion of potential safety compliance rules, best practices and other considerations such as permitting and codes & standards (including plans to coordinate projects with local safety & fire protection officials)**
- **Adequacy of the discussion of environmental considerations of the proposed project (i.e., licenses, environmental, safety, and construction permits, NEPA)**

- **Readiness to proceed with the project in terms of readiness for collaboration with required partners, equipment availability, permits and licenses, etc.**
- **Identification of implementation barriers and "timely" strategies for resolution**
- **Ability of project to provide skilled labor opportunities after project completion.**
- **Availability of the necessary vehicles and equipment to carry out the proposed project**

Criterion 4: Energy Security and Environmental Benefits from Petroleum Displacement and Emissions Reduction (20%)

- **Adequacy of the project to reduce the consumption of petroleum-based fuels and/or maximize the use of alternative fuels**
- **Reasonableness of the estimated quantity of alternative fuels to be dispensed and/or number of vehicles to be deployed during the operational phase of the project**
- **Feasibility of the overall proposed approach toward maximizing the amount of petroleum-based fuels displaced and/or maximizing the use of alternative fuels, taking into consideration the age of any vehicle to be converted and the expected ownership period of the new or converted vehicles**
- **Reasonableness of the estimated quantity of petroleum fuels that will be displaced over the projected ownership period for each of the proposed vehicles**
- **Extent to which the project will contribute to a sustainable alternative fuel/advanced technology vehicle market**
- **Adequacy of plans for continued deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure and advanced technology vehicles beyond the proposed effort**
- **Probability that the project will lead to market transformation and bring about significant and sustainable use of alternative fuels and advanced technology vehicles. (Applicants should explicitly outline how the project will be expanded beyond the initial scope to lead to greater volumes of petroleum displacement and expanded vehicle use)**
- **Extent to which the funding for the proposed project will be maintained or expanded after Federal assistance under this part is completed**
- **Extent of air pollution emissions reduction estimates and reasonableness of calculation method used.**

Criterion 5: Project Cost and Cost Share (10%)

- **Reasonableness of the cost effectiveness of the project in terms of total number of vehicles and/or infrastructure to be purchased or converted as part of the project**
- **Reasonableness of the cost effectiveness of the project in terms of total project cost per gallon (or equivalent) of petroleum displaced per year during the operational phase of this project**
- **Reasonableness of the cost effectiveness of the project in terms of total project cost per gallon (or equivalent) of petroleum displaced per month during the expected period of ownership of the vehicles/infrastructure**
- **Financial commitment demonstrated by the applicant and/or team partners in providing any cost share for completing project activities**

CONTACT INFORMATION

MAINE — **Steve Linnell, 207-774-9891 slinnell@gpcog.org**

NEW HAMPSHIRE — **For guidance and questions:**
Chris Skoglund, 603-271-7624 christopher.skoglund@des.nh.gov
To submit proposals for NH projects:
Melinda Treadwell and Carol Fairbanks
mtreadwe@keene.edu and cfairban@keene.edu 603-358-2945

VERMONT — **Karen Glitman, 802-656-8868 Karen.Glitman@uvm.edu**