

# Maryland Energy

ADMINISTRATION

*Powering Maryland's Future*

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## **GOVERNOR O'MALLEY "EMPOWERS CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES" WITH OVER \$2M FOR LOW INCOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS**

**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND (August 18, 2011)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the start of the 2012 EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities Low-to-Moderate Income Grant Program, with \$2.1 million available through competitive grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations. This will be the fourth consecutive year of this program, administered by the Maryland Energy Administration, which has created jobs, lowered energy demand, and reduced energy usage for Maryland as a whole while concurrently helping its low and moderate income residents. Funding for the program comes from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF), which was created from public auctions of carbon credits through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

"These grants are an example of exactly the type of efficiency projects we had intended for Maryland communities and families when we entered into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the nation's first multi-state collaborative carbon cap-and-trade program," said Governor O'Malley. "These grants are another step forward in our goal to take control of our energy future."

[The EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities Grant Program](#) helps local governments and nonprofits fund energy efficiency projects that benefit low-to-moderate income Marylanders. In addition to lowering energy costs for financially struggling families, the program also advances the State's energy efficiency goals. Past grantees have successfully used their grants to preserve affordable housing, improve the quality of energy efficiency and comfort through energy audits/assessments and appliance upgrades, and leverage additional funds.

"The Maryland Energy Administration is thrilled to be able to help thousands of Maryland families reduce their energy bills with investments in their homes that will save them money today and for years to come," commented MEA Director Malcolm Woolf, "These smart investments will achieve real results in the lives of Marylanders and also help move Maryland forward in meeting Governor O'Malley's EmPOWER Maryland goal of 15% reduced energy consumption by 2015."

In the past two years, 87 grants occurring in each of Maryland's counties have helped approximately 4000 homes save energy and money with this program. To ensure an equitable distribution of grant funds, each county in Maryland has been appropriated an allocation of EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities grant funds based on the number of low-to-moderate income households residing in the respective county. Grant funds will be awarded competitively within the applicant pool for each respective county.

MEA will be holding conference calls and an in-person meeting to share the requirements of the grant program. Meeting information, as well as the grant application itself, are available on the EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities website at: <http://www.energy.state.md.us/Govt/empowercleanenergycommunities.html>.

Applications are due to MEA by Wednesday, October 5, 2011. For more information, [visit the Maryland Energy Administration](#).

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