



Tompkins County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

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TO: Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee
From: Megan McDonald, Associate Planner
Date: December 21, 2017
Re: Acceptance of NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Grant for Greening the County Fleet and for Developing a Business Energy Navigator Program

Action Requested

Approval of a resolution to accept a grant from the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for greening the Tompkins County fleet and for developing a Business Energy Navigator Program and to make related budget adjustments.

Background

As a Clean Energy Community (CEC), Tompkins County was eligible to apply for CEC grant, which was recently approved by NYSERDA. The application proposed splitting the \$250,000 award evenly between greening the County fleet and developing a Business Energy Navigator Program.

Greening the County Fleet

The green fleet portion of the grant will advance conversion to plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) by matching grant funds with County funds and any available state incentives to cover the ~\$10,000/PEV difference in cost between a gasoline vehicle and PEV, and providing a level one charging station for each PEV. The grant will support creation of a long-term schedule for conversion and rightsizing of the County's fleet, and the dissemination of information to help guide other fleet owners to make conversions to PEVs and rightsize their fleets using our lessons learned.

Business Energy Navigator Program

The Business Energy Navigator (BEN) program will work with businesses in their earliest stages of design and conceptualization of new construction or major renovation projects to help set energy goals and understand energy options. Working with partners to identify businesses at these stages, the County and Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD) will supplement CEC grant funds to support: a full-time BEN staff person and a contract with building and renewable energy experts as needed.

Budget Adjustment Explanation

The County originally expected to receive this award in 2017 and to begin the Business Energy Navigator Program portion of the grant, with the BEN staff position filled by January 1, 2018. Therefore, funds for these activities were included in the County's 2018 Adopted Budget. This position has not yet been recruited due to the delay in receiving the award contract from NYSERDA, so the revenue and expenditures required for the position's salary and fringes will only be needed for a portion of 2018. This budget adjustment accommodates this change as well as the intention to make further progress during 2018 on the green fleet portion of the grant activities, which combined increases the revenues and expenditures anticipated during 2018 by \$3,592.

Budget Implications

Acceptance of this \$250,000 grant does commit the County to expenditures in future years.

In accepting this grant, Tompkins County is committing to

- provide matching funds in the amount of \$50,000 per year for three years for the Business Energy Navigator Program;
- provide \$5,000 per vehicle through County Funds or, if available, state incentives to purchase up to 15 PEVs instead of gas-powered vehicles over the three-year period of this grant; and
- the labor to install a level one charging station for each PEV purchased (the cost of the charging stations will be covered by grant funds).

The Legislature, in adopting the 2018 budget, has already committed to the first year of the matching funds for the BEN project through a multi-year Over-Target Request. As with all multi-year OTRs, the Legislature will see this same request in the 2019 and 2020 budget submissions. Accepting this grant will compel the Legislature to provide those matching funds as it intended in the 2018 budget.

The Legislature has also committed \$16,700 for the Department of Recycling and Materials Management towards the purchase of one PEV (OTR #71) and \$25,000 for the Department of Social Services towards the purchase of five PEVs (OTR #84). The latter OTR is for Year Two of a three year program to purchase five PEVs annually by DSS. The expectation is that five more PEVs would be funded in 2019. No funding has yet been requested for purchasing PEVs in 2020.

Enclosures

Resolution No. __: Acceptance of Grant from Clean Energy Communities Program of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for Greening the County Fleet and for Developing a Business Energy Navigator Program

Contact

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