

N E W S R E L E A S E COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Environmental Protection
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**DEP GRANT PROGRAM TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES WITH
POLLUTION PREVENTION, ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Applications Available for Small Business Advantage

HARRISBURG: On behalf of Governor Edward G. Rendell, Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today announced a new state grant program designed to help Pennsylvania small business owners put in place equipment or processes that enhance energy efficiency or promote pollution prevention.

Applications are now available for Small Business Advantage, which will provide a 50 percent matching grant of up to \$7,500 to encourage reduced energy consumption and pollution prevention that can help to increase profitability for small businesses.

“This is a great opportunity for small business owners to experience the economic growth that is possible when environmental considerations become priorities,” Secretary McGinty said. “Designing and implementing projects that improve energy efficiency and pollution prevention can help small businesses cut costs and reduce the risk of potential regulatory problems, while simultaneously protecting the environment.”

The grant program is open to small business owners whose business or facility is

located in Pennsylvania. Any Pennsylvania small business may apply. The project for which the grant applies must be located within the applicant's Pennsylvania facility. An eligible applicant must be a for-profit business enterprise that is a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, sole proprietorship or other legal entity that has no more than 100 employees and is a separate legal business entity at the time the application is submitted.

Governor Rendell is making Pennsylvania a national model by building on this idea that environmental protection and economic development should work together.

The department has several programs to help businesses put in place equipment or processes that promote pollution prevention. Designing and implementing projects that improve pollution prevention can help small businesses cut costs and reduce the risk of potential regulatory problems, while simultaneously protecting the environment.

The Governor also is making Pennsylvania a national leader in developing and deploying advanced energy technology. The state recently launched a second \$5 million grant round for the Pennsylvania Energy Harvest program to provide the last increment of financing for clean and renewable energy projects to be built in Pennsylvania from sources such as biomass, wind, solar, small-scale hydroelectric, landfill methane, coal-bed methane and waste-coal.

To further that effort, the Governor recently revitalized the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority to provide tax-free bond financing for projects that develop, promote and more efficiently use alternative energy resources indigenous to the state. In addition, the Governor is moving on an Advanced Energy Portfolio Standard, which has strong bipartisan support, to ensure that in 10 years, 10 percent of all of the energy generated in the Commonwealth comes from clean, efficient sources.

Applications for the Small Business Advantage grant program will be accepted through June 30, 2005. Application packages may be downloaded from the DEP Web site at www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword: "SB Advantage."

To receive an application package by mail, call 717-783-8411 or e-mail the department at epadvantagegrant@state.pa.us.