

An energy grant for your town?

BPU Grant for Town Energy Plans

Many NJ towns, like Middletown, are running on shoestring budgets in order to keep property taxes low. Towns seek grants to undertake special projects. Following is a proposal by Middletown for Clean Energy (a Sierra Club “Ready for 100” project) to help fund Fall, 2019 development of a Middletown Energy Plan. Evaluate your own town: can you apply this process to launch your own Energy Plan?

The NJ BPU Clean Energy Program is offering \$5K to \$25K grants to develop towns’ Energy Plans to align with the NJ 2019 Energy Master Plan. The grant process and requirements are described at

<http://www.njcleanenergy.com/main/grants-solicitations/grants-and-solicitations-0>

Middletown for Clean Energy proposes to assist Middletown’s Sustainability Manager to realize her first priority: a 2019 Middletown Energy Plan. This involves:

- Creation of an energy profile
- A look at energy use as a whole: business, residential, and community (municipal and schools)
- A short term and a long-term plan, to include principles of the NJ 2019 Energy Master Plan, applicable Actions of Sustainable Jersey, the August, 2010 draft “An Energy Plan for Middletown Township”, and input from residents and businesses throughout Middletown’s dozen neighborhoods and zip codes.

Requirements: The application for a grant must include documentation affirming following minimum participation:

- Two Government entities, which can be municipal, school, or county; we strongly encourage a joint plan between the municipality and Middletown Public Schools
- One business or business association. Middletown possibilities include the Eastern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce, or individual businesses, such as AT&T, likely Middletown’s largest energy user; a clean energy business, such as a Middletown-based solar installation company; a car dealer with knowledge of upcoming vehicle technology; or an electrical or HVAC contractor
- One nonprofit. This might be a local church with strong environmental commitment associated with members of Middletown for Clean Energy; Lions Club or similar; and Sierra Club.
- One transportation partner. A school bus company is a possibility

The proposed project budget would include: consultants, benchmarking, audit services, meeting space ...

Evaluation criteria (grant applicants are rank-ordered, based upon total point score):

- Planning Committee: Diverse list of willing partners to participate in the Community Energy Plan committee – (30 points) Partners could be any, or all, of the above and many others.
- Past Success: Demonstrated success in participating in Clean Energy Programs and energy and emissions reduction programs in the past: (20 points) Middletown has completed a LONG list of Sustainable Jersey clean energy activities by both Middletown Township and Middletown Township School System . These “actions” are carefully documented at <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>

- Identified Opportunities to enhance clean energy production or reduce energy use, encourage waste and emission reduction: (20 points) Middletown can describe numerous planned and/or possible opportunities: the municipal complex, the planned microgrid, the proposed train station solar canopy,... One of the largest Green House Gas emission reductions (in addition to a lower electric bill) could be achieved by creating a renewable “Electrical Aggregation” for Middletown residents and businesses. Middletown could seize an opportunity to create a regional electrical aggregation by joining with Red Bank, which is presently considering an electrical aggregation.

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