



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Renewable Energy Request for Applications Issued** AEA Seeks Qualified Applicants for up to \$100 Million in Grants

(Anchorage) – The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has issued its Request for Grant Applications (RFA) from qualified applicants for the purpose of evaluating and recommending renewable energy projects to be funded by the Alaska State Legislature.

Earlier this year Governor Sarah Palin signed House Bill 152 into law. The measure establishes a renewable energy grant fund and authorizes AEA to manage the procedures for awarding the grants and distributing grant funds. \$50 million is to be appropriated into the fund annually over the next five years. During this summer's special session, the Legislature and Governor Palin approved an additional \$50 million for this year, thus providing up to \$100 million for the first RFA.

“Alaska is blessed with abundant renewable energy resources,” said Governor Palin. “I am pleased to have worked with the Legislature in the establishment of this landmark renewable energy fund. Alaskans can now look forward to the development of real-world solutions that will help meet our long-term energy needs.”

“I am very pleased to see AEA take this next step towards lowering energy costs and expanding options statewide,” said Alaska House of Representatives Speaker John Harris. “I look forward to seeing what kind of innovative proposals result from the RFA.”

Speaker Harris and Representative Bill Thomas led the effort to pass HB 152.

“The number one thing the State should do is get our communities off expensive diesel generation and inefficient electrical supplies and work towards zero fuel cost energy resources,” Representative Thomas stated. “Hopefully, this RFA will generate proposals that will lead directly to helping areas with the highest fuel costs take advantage of locally available renewable resources.”

AEA will solicit grant applications in two rounds. The first round is for projects that may be ready and able to proceed more quickly with the anticipation that grants would be awarded by December 2008. The second round is for projects that may require further development, or that may take more time to prepare applications. Additionally, the second round will provide AEA with recommendations to the Legislature for FY 2010 funding.

AEA must receive Round One applications no later than 5:00 PM Wednesday, October 8, 2008. Round Two applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM Monday, November 10, 2008.

The RFA, application forms and all contact information can be found on the web at [www.akenergyauthority.org/RE\\_Fund.html](http://www.akenergyauthority.org/RE_Fund.html). Applicants may also contact Renewable Energy Fund Grant Manager Butch White by e-mail at [re\\_fund@aidea.org](mailto:re_fund@aidea.org), or telephone (907) 771-3048.

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