

TURNING WASTE TO CASH IN WISCONSIN - PROJECT SUMMARY

Applicant: Wisconsin State Energy Office; **Project Director:** Amanda Mott, Energy Projects Specialist

The Wisconsin State Energy Office (SEO) requests \$75,000 to implement its *Turning Waste to Cash in Wisconsin* project, which intends to assemble an inclusive industrial energy efficiency (IEE) and combined heat and power (CHP) stakeholder group to evaluate the current state of play in Wisconsin; identify market and non-market barriers to IEE and CHP deployment; and develop a replicable, sustainable and effective action plan to eliminate these barriers, with the ultimate goal of stimulating the economy, creating jobs and protecting the environment. The SEO has identified two specific objectives that will be accomplished through this project:

Objective 1: Increase awareness of cost-effective IEE and CHP opportunities in Wisconsin by: **(1)** Holding public stakeholder meetings targeted for industrial, economic development and consulting representatives; **(2)** Hosting 1-2 seminar(s) dedicated to CHP through implementation of Anaerobic Digester (AD) systems at industrial facilities or wastewater treatment plants; **(3)** Outreach including best practices, examples from select projects, the Wisconsin Action Plan (WAP), and a discussion board portal; and **(4)** Earned Media and events highlighting major projects and WAP efforts.

Objective 2: Implement sustainable IEE and CHP projects in Wisconsin by: **(1)** Creating a stakeholder group to analyze and identify market/non-market barriers, develop a WAP addressing identified barriers, and assign roles for WAP implementation; **(2)** Utilizing the Wisconsin Public Utility Institute and their effective Chatham House Rule policy to increase open dialogue amongst utilities developing viable solutions for utility implementation barriers; **(3)** Helping implement at least 3 CHP projects focusing on food processing, agricultural and wastewater treatment facilities; and **(4)** Implementing 15 projects/year identified through Energy Savings Assessments conducted during the course of the WisconSEN (Better Plants) program.

President Obama's August 30, 2012 Executive Order (EO) solidified the U.S. commitment to IEE and CHP. The SEO has served as a leader in contributing to the EO goals and is well situated to lead the effort to meet the *Turning Waste to Cash in Wisconsin* objectives. Current SEO efforts that complement this project include:

- WisconSEN (Better Plants) program (Energy savings assessments at industrial facilities);
- Clean Energy Manufacturing Revolving Loan Fund (Low interest loans for energy efficiency or renewable energy projects at WI manufacturers);
- EI Communities Program (140+ communities committed to reducing energy use 25% by 2025; 20 communities developed action plans);
- Fuels Reduction & Wood Energy Plan (CHP biomass boiler upgrades at a paper plant and hospital);
- EE Projects at Craft Breweries (5 craft breweries implemented EE projects).

Finally, Wisconsin has one of the highest concentrations of dairy and food processing facilities in the country and has also long served as a national leader in AD system implementation. Building upon that foundation, the state will soon be home to an innovative AD system that produces biogas from combined organic wastes of a farm and a nearby chicken processing facility. The biogas will be transported via pipeline and burned at the processing facility for heat and electricity. A new state mapping tool allows users to easily replicate such partnerships by capitalizing on available organic substrates at farms and nearby food processing facilities. The SEO proposes to encourage greater CHP AD development through the WAP and subsequent activities.

Through the *Turning Waste to Cash in Wisconsin* project, the SEO intends to remove regulatory, market and utility barriers to IEE and CHP project development, creating a replicable and sustainable model. The SEO intends to continue these efforts after the two year funding period ends through WAP implementation and regular developed SEP Formula programs. Accomplishing this will speed economic recovery and development, create and retain jobs and open dialogue amongst invested stakeholders including utilities, regulatory agencies, economic development organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and trade associations as detailed in the letters of support and full application.