

# Maryland Energy Administration

The Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF), created by the General Assembly in 2008 and managed by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), promotes affordable, reliable, and clean energy. The SEIF provides incentives to decrease energy bills, increase the supply of renewable energy, reduce Maryland's carbon footprint, and create new, green-collar jobs. The program also provides residential rate relief and assists low-income families with energy assistance funds. The SEIF is a special fund consisting of the proceeds from the auction of carbon emission allowances to power plants under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Seventy-three percent (73%) of the SEIF has been returned directly to Marylanders in the form of credits on household electric bills and bill payments to keep the lights on for thousands of low-income Marylanders. The remaining

***“CESA is an enormous resource to Maryland and should be used by all state energy agencies. The organization follows developments in policies, finance, and technologies and provides a valuable conduit for informational exchange, fostering best practices and avoidance of potential pitfalls.”***

**Ross Tyler**, Director of Clean Energy



Salvo Auto Parts uses a Maryland Energy Administration mid-size American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded grant to help offset cost of a 50 kW array on its corporate facility.



**Malcolm Woolf**  
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## Maryland Energy Administration

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## HIGHLIGHTS

27% has been invested to help homeowners, renters, and businesses to save money through energy makeovers and renewable energy systems, creating hundreds of green collar jobs and reducing greenhouse gases in the process.

As shown in the below chart, the SEIF investments during FY10 and FY11 are anticipated to achieve the following benefits for Marylanders:

	FY 10	FY 11
SEIF funds invested by MEA into energy efficiency and renewable energy (RE) programs	\$11.8 million	\$6.5 million
Energy savings over life of investments	\$47 million	\$31 million
New green collar jobs created	134	95
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions reduced	14,500 tons	9,600 tons
Cars off the road (in CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)	2,500	1,700
# of Maryland low- to moderate-income families benefitting from energy retrofits	730	630
RE systems installed on homes	540	262
Annual MWh equivalents saved	25,000	16,800
Number of Marylanders receiving rate relief	2.1 million	2.1 million

**EMPOWERING LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES.** Programs include the **Electric Universal Service Program**, which assists low-income customers who have difficulty paying their electric bills. In FY 2010, MEA has set aside over \$40 million in SEIF funds for the Department of Human Resources, helping thousands of low-income Maryland households keep the lights on; the **Multi-Family Housing Retrofits for Low- and Moderate-Income Families** program, which provides energy efficiency retrofits to low- and moderate-income apartment units to help renters reduce their home energy bills. Over the next two years, the program will reduce energy consumption by 11,400 MWh, saving those families nearly \$9 million over the next 15 years; and the **Energy Retrofit Program**, which provides, at low or no cost, home improvements for families to reduce their home energy bills. The program provides additional and expanded funding and operations for the state's Weatherization Assistance Program for energy upgrades, building improvements, HVAC replacement, and weatherization.

**EMPOWERING HOUSEHOLDS.** Programs include the **Residential Rate Relief Program**, which provides direct rate relief for customers, and the **Residential Renewable Energy Grants** program, which provides financial incentives for the installation of small renewable energy systems. Grants to install solar, wind, or geothermal systems can alleviate congestion on the grid and help move more Marylanders toward renewable energy sources. The nearly \$2 million in SEIF funds allocated to this program in FY 2010 will help over 500 families receive grants this year, and the \$800,000 in SEIF funds allocated to this program in FY 2011 will help another 300 families receive grants in FY 2011. Also the **State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program**, which offers consumers rebates for the purchase of energy efficient clothes washers, refrigerators, and heat pump water heaters, and the **Public Outreach Campaign**, which includes transit, outdoor, print, radio, and internet ads to educate Marylanders about opportunities to reduce energy bills and energy consumption, and also to educate the public on renewable energy.

**EMPOWERING CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESSES AND JOBS.** Programs include the **Commercial and Industrial Programs**, including a 2010 FY allocation of \$500,000 in SEIF funds for loans to help the industrial/commercial sector—which accounts for approximately 30% of electricity consumption in Maryland—implement energy efficiency upgrades; the **Farm Energy Technical Assistance & Incentives** program, which is designed to assist the over 12,000 Maryland farms reduce the over \$26 million spent on electricity annually by providing technical assistance, energy assessments, and cash rebates for farms that install energy efficiency measures; and **Energy Workforce Training**, through which MEA has been working closely with DHCD and the community colleges to develop and promote a home energy retrofit training program. Classes began in July 2009, and approximately 700 Marylanders have been trained to date.

**EMPOWERING CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES.** Programs include the **Energy Efficiency Low to Moderate Income Grants** program, which awards grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations for energy efficiency improvement programs that benefit low- to moderate-income Marylanders; the **Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program**, which attempts to address the financing barrier that precludes individuals from participating in energy efficiency programs by making loans to local governments, nonprofits, and businesses for projects that can be paid back out of the energy savings over time. In FY 2010, \$1.75 million in Lawton loans are available; the **EmPOWERing State Government to Lead by Example** program; the **Maryland Department of the Environment's Climate Change Program**; the **Department of General Services** program, which helps pay the salaries of Department of General Services energy staff to pursue clean energy programs and projects; and the **State Energy Performance Fund Swap**, which makes project repayments to the State's Master Lease for those agencies participating in energy performance contracting, freeing up general fund dollars in those agencies that will be used to reduce the State budget. In FY 2010, MEA allocated \$4.4 million of SEIF funding for this program and will allocate another nearly \$6 million in FY 2011.