



APRIL 22ND IS EARTH DAY!

SBA:
Investing in the
Green Economy

SBA's Green Footprint

The U.S. Small Business Administration has several initiatives that spur clean energy innovation, accelerate investment in clean energy technologies, and help America's small businesses go green.

Mission Innovation

In November 2015, President Obama and other world leaders came together in Paris to launch Mission Innovation, a landmark commitment to dramatically accelerate public and private global clean energy innovation. Through this initiative, U.S. federal agencies will double the current level of investment in clean energy research and development over five years.

To support this initiative, SBA will improve financing options for private investment funds seeking long-term capital, including early-stage investors in capital-intensive clean energy technologies. The Early Stage Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program allows privately managed funds to provide more long-term capital to high-growth firms, with no new cost to taxpayers.

SBIC Impact Investments

A multi-billion dollar program founded in 1958, the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program provides incentives for clean energy investments through SBIC Impact funds. The Impact Investment Fund expedites applications for licensees who invest 51 percent in underserved areas or next-generation industries like advanced manufacturing, education technology, and clean energy. Clean energy impact investments are "energy-saving qualified investments" as defined by SBA regulations (13 CFR 107.50).

Learn how to participate: at www.sba.gov/inv or e-mail asksbic@sba.gov.

SBIR Program

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is a vital source of Federal funding for innovative small businesses. America's seed fund has invested \$40 billion in entrepreneurs with big ideas. Each year, Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed \$100 million are required to allocate a minimum percentage of their

R&D budget to high tech innovation, including innovation in the clean energy sector. For fiscal year 2016, participating agencies were required to set-aside at least 3% of the R&D budget for the SBIR program. To date, some of the most promising clean tech companies are supported by SBIR funds awarded by participating agencies, such as the Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Department of Agriculture. These SBIR funded companies seek to help reduce our country's carbon footprint.

For more information visit: www.sbir.gov.

504 Loan Program

SBA's 504 program enables additional funds for green energy projects. Projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase use of renewable resources, e.g., ethanol or biofuel and/or reduce existing energy consumption by 10% are eligible for an additional \$500,000 in funds from a 504 lender. Conventional 504 loans have a maximum of \$5million, while 504 loans for qualified green energy projects have a maximum of \$5.5million.

For more information: www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/oca/resources/5991.

Growth Accelerators

SBA has invested millions into the Growth Accelerator Program to support 138 incubators and innovation hubs, 9 of which specialize in helping companies that have a focus in clean energy and environmental science. Some of our most promising partners include LA Cleantech Incubator (Los Angeles), Greentown Labs (Somerville-Massachusetts), NextEnergy (Detroit-Michigan), and XLR8UH (Hawaii).

Learn how to participate at: www.sba.gov/accelerators or e-mail accelerators@sba.gov.

SBA Clusters

The U.S. Small Business Administration is investing in regional innovation clusters throughout the US that span a variety of industries, ranging from energy and manufacturing to advanced defense technologies. The SBA supports a number of Clusters focused on building small businesses that can respond to the nation's most pressing environmental challenges. These include:

- Illinois Smart Grid Regional Innovation Cluster, Chicago, Illinois;
- Water Council Technology Cluster, Milwaukee, Wisconsin;
- Marine Industries Science and Technology (MIST) Cluster, I-10 Corridor (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida);
- Northeast Electrochemical Energy Storage Cluster, Hartford, Connecticut;
- Advanced Power & Energy Cluster, Minnesota;
- Wood Products Cluster, Appalachian Ohio Region. Contractor: Appalachian Partnership, Inc.; and
- Autonomous and Unmanned Systems Cluster, Southeastern New Mexico.

For more information visit: www.sba.gov/clusters.

Small Business Sustainability Toolkit

Small businesses can have a huge impact on national sustainability. Implementing sustainable business practices can help small businesses save money, meet consumer demand, and contribute to the sustainability of the nation. SBA offers federal tools for strategies to reduce pollution, conserve energy and water, and use green power and renewable energy on the SBA webpage.

For more information visit: www.sba.gov/sustainabilitytoolkit.