



**New Jersey Economic Development Authority
Clean Energy Fellowship Grant
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA” or “Authority”) will begin accepting applications for the Clean Energy Fellowship Program for University Participants (“CE Fellowship” or “Program”) on **Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 10:00am EST**. Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST**.

The Program will make available up to \$1.82 million in grant funding, as approved by the Authority’s Board on February 25, 2026, for eligible universities to enable undergraduate and graduate students at their institutions to participate in a fellowship program supporting research to advance clean energy during the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic years.

No application fees will be charged for this program. The application can be accessed on the Program’s website: [Clean Energy Fellowship Program for University Participants - NJEDA](#)

Purpose and Overview

The Program is designed to encourage and support interdisciplinary student research in topics that further the development of, and build student expertise in clean energy topics, including solar, wind, geothermal, green hydrogen, fuel cells, biomass, tidal, nuclear, and hydropower.

Funding Source

The total funding available for the program is up to \$1.82 million from the Addendum One to the Green Council Memorandum of Understanding between NJEDA and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) dated October 27, 2025.

The total funding and award amounts per university are based upon Grantees selected for the fellowship program. NJEDA reserves the right to increase that amount and number of awards should additional funds become available.

Program Details

The Program is designed to encourage and support interdisciplinary student research in topics that further the development of, and build student expertise in clean energy concepts. Undergraduate and graduate university students will be provided the opportunity to conduct paid, independent research in various sectors of clean energy, including solar, wind, geothermal, green hydrogen, fuel cells, biomass, tidal, nuclear, and hydropower, under the mentorship of a university faculty

advisor over an academic year. In addition to financial stipends, students will receive the opportunity to gain industry knowledge through monthly cohort meetings, guest lectures, site visits, and other activities. Students will present their research findings to industry, academic, and community stakeholders at an annual Clean Energy Research Symposium.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be research universities classified by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education as R1 (Very High Research Activity) or R2 (High Research Activity). The universities eligible to apply are: Rutgers University, Rowan University, Montclair State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Kean University, Princeton University, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Seton Hall University.

In addition, the applicant must also be in substantial good standing with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and NJDEP. The applicant must also provide a current tax clearance certificate at the time of grant execution to verify that they are properly registered to do business in New Jersey and in good standing with the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

Eligible Uses of Funding

The Grantees may use the funds for the following eligible uses:

- Stipends to be provided to fellows as financial support while conducting research on clean energy over the term of the CE Fellowship.
- Stipends for fellows' travel, material, equipment, and other fellowship-related costs.
- Honorariums for required faculty advisors who will commit time to provide mentorship and other support to fellows.
- Indirect and administrative costs of the Grantee. (Examples include: costs associated with having university accounting departments deposit funds and costs associated with having legal teams review grant agreements, etc.)

Application Submission and Review Process

Applications will be accepted through a rolling application process via the program's online application portal, which will be open from **March 12, 2026** at 10 a.m. through **April 1, 2026** at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants must complete all required portions of the application questions fully and upload all required PDF documents and attachments by the deadline of April 1, 2026 to be considered.

The Authority will perform a review of applications after the closing of the application period. Applications will first be reviewed for application completeness to ensure that all necessary application information and documents are submitted and complete. Applicants will be given ten (10) business days to cure the deficiencies or provide answers to clarifying questions by submitting the requested information electronically to **CleanEnergyFellowship@njeda.gov**

with the email subject line “*Clean Energy Fellowship Grant – Missing Documentation Submission for [APPLICANT NAME]*”.

If after the 10-business day cure and clarification period, the applications are still incomplete, the applicant will be notified that the application will not advance and will be rejected as incomplete.

Applicants whose applications are declined will have the right to appeal. Applicants will be notified whether they are awarded funds as soon as practicable upon completion of approvals and declinations and the completion of all possible appeals.

Grant Amounts

Each Grantee will be allocated fellowship slots based on its total student enrollment (combined across all campuses) for the 2024-2025 academic year, as follows:

- Universities with a total enrollment **greater than 55,000** students will be allocated **six (6) fellowship spots**.
- Universities with a total enrollment **55,000 students or fewer** will be allocated **three (3) fellowship spots**.

Final grant amounts for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years will be determined after the Grantee completes its fellow selection process for the applicable year. Final grant amounts per school year will be based on:

- **\$13,500** per undergraduate fellow (junior or senior year)
- **\$27,000** per graduate fellow (master’s or doctoral)
- **\$500** per fellow for travel, materials, equipment and other fellowship-related costs
- **\$2,000** honorarium per faculty advisor for each fellow
- **10%** of total grant amount for indirect costs, including facilities and administrative fees

Grant Agreement

The Authority will enter into a grant agreement with the applicant (i.e., “Grantee”) detailing the responsibilities of the awardee, responsibilities of the NJEDA, eligible uses of funding, disbursement schedule, the term of the grant agreement, and all reporting requirements. In order to execute the grant agreement, the Grantee must provide a current tax clearance certificate to verify that they are properly registered to do business in New Jersey and in good standing with the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

Disbursement of Grant Funds

Grant awards will be disbursed in two (2) tranches, contingent upon timely submission and approval of required documentation and compliance with the Grant Agreement.

1st Tranche - 50% of the Total Grant Award

No later than **October 30, 2026, for CE Fellowship Year 1, and October 30, 2027, for CE Fellowship Year 2**, unless an extension is approved by the Authority, each Grantee must submit

the following documents:

- Details for each participating fellow and faculty advisor including name, email address, degree program, undergraduate or graduate level, project title and description, faculty advisor, faculty advisor email, beginning and end date for the CE Fellowship (i.e. including whether the CE Fellowship includes a Summer semester or not), and short fellow biographies.
- Signed participation forms from fellows.
- Signed photo release forms and headshots for each fellow (or written communication from fellows declining photo use)
- Grantee administrative point person contact information.
- Additional information necessary for the Authority to determine satisfactory compliance with the Grant Agreement.

2nd Tranche - *Final 50% of the Total Grant Award*

No later than **January 30, 2027, for CE Fellowship Year 1, and January 30, 2028, for CE Fellowship Year 2**, unless an extension is approved by the Authority, each Grantee must submit the following:

- Completed interim report using the template provided by NJEDA
- Additional information necessary for the Authority to determine satisfactory compliance with the Grant Agreement.

Post Compliance Requirements

The Grantees shall be responsible for the coordination and execution of the following activities:

- **Within 30 calendar days of signing a grant agreement with NJEDA**, Grantee shall submit a Fellowship Administration Plan to NJEDA for CE Fellowship Years 1 and 2, using a template that will be provided by NJEDA, that details the Grantee's process for:
 - Marketing the CE Fellowship Program to the Grantee's student population in a way that raises awareness about the application process among a diverse range of students. Diversity in this instance can include, but is not limited to: gender, race, age, first generation college students, University major/degree, and other factors;
 - Conducting a selection process that facilitates the participation of a diverse set of students with a goal of prioritizing students from low-income households or overburdened communities;
 - Communicating all requirements for the fellows including attendance at NJEDA monthly meetings and presentation of their research at the Clean Energy Research Symposium;
 - Connecting selected fellows with advisors; and
 - Distributing funds to fellows and advisors throughout the CE Fellowship per the Grantee's internal policies and procedures.

- **Within 15 (fifteen) calendar days of completing the selection process for each CE Fellowship Year**, and no later than October 30, 2026 for CE Fellowship Year 1 and October 30, 2027 for CE Fellowship Year 2, Grantee shall submit the following to EDA:
 - Details of all fellows, including but not limited to name, email address, degree program, undergraduate or graduate level, project title and description, faculty advisor, faculty advisor email, beginning and end date for the CE Fellowship (i.e. including whether the CE Fellowship includes a Summer semester or not), and short fellow biographies
 - Signed participation forms developed by each respective university and completed by each fellow and their faculty advisor who will guide and support the fellow's research
 - Signed photo release forms from each fellow using a template provided by NJEDA and headshots of the fellows, unless a fellow provides written communication that they will not allow the use of their picture on NJEDA public platforms
 - Name of a Grantee representative that will serve as the administrative point of contact for NJEDA for the duration of the CE Fellowship Program
- Track and report CE Fellowship program applicant throughput data to NJEDA that details the number of students that engaged in each of the Grantee's respective selection steps (e.g. attending a webinar, completing an application, participating in an interview, etc.) in a Post Selection Data Sheet to be submitted by the Grantee in a template approved by NJEDA.
- Provide NJEDA, if requested, copies of any collateral used to promote the CE Fellowship program, application/interview questions and presentations utilized during the selection process, and other relevant materials developed by the Grantee for the CE Fellowship Program.
- While not required, aim to select at least one (1) undergraduate and one (1) graduate fellow. The remaining Fellowship slots can comprise either undergraduate or graduate fellows.
- For each CE Fellowship Year, set research fellowships for a duration no fewer than 24 weeks and no more than 52 weeks over one academic year. For CE Fellowship Year 1, the CE Fellowship Program must begin no later than the Fall 2026 semester and end no later than the Summer 2027 semester. For CE Fellowship Year 2, the CE Fellowship Program must begin no later than the Fall 2027 semester and end no later than the Summer 2028 semester, with the addition of Summer 2027 and 2028 at each Grantee's discretion. The number of hours/week shall be determined by the Grantee and/or the faculty advisor per each Grantee's internal processes and procedures.
- Facilitate and support all communications among Grantee faculty advisors, fellows, and NJEDA.
- Facilitate and encourage fellows' participation in CE Fellowship cohort meetings and the Clean Energy Research Symposium organized by NJEDA.
- Coordinate and facilitate all logo use, branding permissions, and other Grantee approvals and sharing of information as need arises.
- Ensure all funds go to eligible uses including the full amount of the fellows' stipends to the fellows.
- Disburse fellow stipends and faculty honorariums per the Grantee's internal policies and procedures.

- Meet with NJEDA twice a year to discuss progress of CE Fellowship Program for CE Fellowship Years 1 and 2
- Track use of all funds using a budget template provided by NJEDA and submit an interim report by January 30, 2027 and a final report by September 30, 2027 for CE Fellowship Year 1.
- Track all use of funds using budget template provided by NEDA and submit an interim report by January 30, 2028 and a final report by September 30, 2028 for CE Fellowship Year 2.
- Any funds received for CE Fellowship Years 1 and 2 that are not utilized should be returned to EDA by October 30, 2027 for CE Fellowship Year 1 and October 30, 2028 for CE Fellowship Year 2.
- Each Grantee must appropriately determine and guide fellows on meeting any federal and state tax liabilities from the stipend payments, as per its internal policies and procedures.

Fees

There is no application fee for this Program.

Additional Information

Questions regarding the Program and Notice of Funding Availability may be submitted via email to CleanEnergyFellowship@njeda.gov by **March 25, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EDT** with the subject line “Questions –Clean Energy Fellowship Program”. EDA will post answers on the Clean Energy Fellowship Program website on a rolling basis until **March 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EDT**.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to check the Clean Energy Fellowship Program website prior to submission of the application.

Information about the Clean Energy Fellowship Program is available at [Clean Energy Fellowship Program for University Participants - NJEDA](#).

State and Federal Requirements

Funding for this grant is subject to State and Federal statutes including, but not limited to, the following, which may impact affiliates: N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq., which prevents the New Jersey government entities from certain dealings with businesses engaged in prohibited activities in Belarus or Russia; Compliance with the list of “Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons” promulgated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), <https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov>; N.J.S.A. 24:6I-49 which provides that the following are not eligible for most State or local economic incentives (a) a person or entity issued a license to operate as a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or delivery service, or that employs a certified personal use cannabis handler to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service; and (b) a property owner, developer, or operator of a project to be used, in whole or in part, by or to benefit a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or delivery service, or to employ a certified personal use cannabis handler to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery

service; and N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12, et seq., which prohibits a member of the Legislature or a State officer or employee or their partners or a corporation in which they owns or controls more than 1% of the stock to undertake or execute any contract, agreement, sale, or purchase of \$25.00 or more, made, entered into, awarded or granted by any State agency, with certain limited exceptions including grant awards by the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology.