



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Members of the Authority

**FROM:** Evan Weiss  
Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** February 25, 2026

**RE:** Clean Energy Fellowship Program for University Participants, Academic Years 2026-2028

**Summary:**

The Members are asked to approve:

- (1) The creation of the Clean Energy Fellowship Program for University Participants, 2026-2028 (“CE Fellowship”) that will enable undergraduate and graduate students at eligible universities to participate in a fellowship program supporting research to advance clean energy during the 2026-2028 academic years.
- (2) Utilization of up to \$1,820,000 in grant funds provided through the Addendum One to the Green Council Memorandum of Understanding (“Addendum One”) between New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA” or “Authority”) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) dated October 27, 2025.
- (3) Delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve individual applications from universities in accordance with the eligibility criteria set forth in this memo and the attached grant program specifications (“**Exhibit A**”), enter into grant agreements with awarded applicants, and extend program deadlines if necessary to achieve CE Fellowship goals.
- (4) Waiver of the application fee for the Grant Program as NJEDA’s administrative costs will be covered by Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) administrative funding.

**Background:**

In 2023, Governor Murphy adopted Executive Order No. 315, an accelerated target of 100% clean energy by 2035, defined as 100% of the electricity sold in New Jersey to come from clean sources of electricity by January 1, 2035 through various clean energy market mechanisms, paired with support for a Clean Energy Standard in New Jersey. Governor Murphy’s economic development plan, “The State of Innovation: Building a Stronger and Fairer New Jersey Economy,” identifies investment in the talent pipeline to support key industries including clean energy as one of the administration’s key priorities.

As part of its efforts to support clean energy and offshore wind workforce development, NJEDA operated the Wind Institute Fellowship Program (“WI Fellowship”) from 2022 to 2025 to support student research in

offshore wind. In the most recent iteration of the WI Fellowship, NJEDA entered into agreements with eight universities in New Jersey (Rutgers University, Rowan University, Montclair State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stockton University, and Seton Hall University) to support 40 fellows annually over two academic years.

Through this new Grant Program for eligible New Jersey universities, NJEDA intends to expand upon the WI Fellowship model and launch a new Clean Energy Fellowship Program (“CE Fellowship”) that will offer two cohorts of the program during the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic years (“CE Fellowship Year 1” and “CE Fellowship Year 2”, respectively). While the WI Fellowship focused exclusively on the offshore wind industry, the CE Fellowship will allow a broad spectrum of research in clean energy industries, including solar, wind, geothermal, green hydrogen, fuel cells, biomass, tidal, nuclear, and hydropower.

Prior to executing grant agreements, NJEDA will deposit the funds into NJEDA’s Economic Recovery Fund and utilize the grant-making powers as defined in the New Jersey Economic Recovery Fund Act per N.J.S.A. 34:1B-7.13 a (12) which authorizes the establishment of a fund to provide grants or competition prizes to fund initiative based activities which stimulate growth in targeted industries as defined by the authority's board or supports increasing diversity and inclusion within the State's entrepreneurial economy; this fund may also support not-for-profit industry, trade, and labor organization initiatives. Detailed CE Fellowship Product specifications are attached hereto as “**Exhibit A**”.

**Recommendation:**

The members are asked to approve:

- (1) The creation of the CE Fellowship that will enable undergraduate and graduate students at eligible universities to participate in a fellowship program supporting research to advance clean energy during the 2026-2028 academic years.
- (2) Utilization of up to \$1,820,000 in grant funds provided through Addendum One.
- (3) Delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve individual applications from universities in accordance with the eligibility criteria set forth in this memo and the attached grant program specifications (“**Exhibit A**”), enter into grant agreements with awarded applicants, and extend program deadlines if necessary to achieve CE Fellowship goals.
- (4) Waiver of the application fee for the Grant Program as NJEDA’s administrative costs will be covered by Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) administrative funding.

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Evan Weiss  
Chief Executive Officer

Prepared by: Aina Yadav

Attachments:

Exhibit A –Program Specifications for the Clean Energy Fellowship Program for University Participants,  
Academic Years 2026-2028

**Exhibit A**