

**Program Specifications for the Clean Energy Fellowship Program for University Participants,
Academic Years 2026-2028**

Product Type	Grant (non-competitive)
Program Purpose	The Clean Energy Fellowship Program (“CE Fellowship”) 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
Funding Source	\$1,820,000 in funding received by the NJEDA through the Addendum One to the Green Council Memorandum of Understanding (“Addendum One”) between New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA” and “Authority”) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) dated October 27, 2025
Fees	Application fees will be waived. Per N.J.A.C. 19-30-6.1A, the Board may waive application fees when other sources of funding are available for the Authority’s administrative costs and/or for pilot programs running for less than three years. The Authority’s administrative costs for the Grant Challenge will be covered by Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) administrative funding.
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). These universities 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	The Grantees may use the funds for the following eligible uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 supports to fellows • Indirect and administrative costs of the Grantee.
Term of Grant Period	2 years plus any Authority approved extensions in accordance with these specifications and the Grant Agreement.
Grant Amounts	Each Grantee will be allocated fellowship spots proportional to its student enrollment size (combined across all campuses) from the 2024-2025 academic year, based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities with a total enrollment above 55,000 students will be allocated six (6) fellowship spots

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities with a total enrollment less than 55,000 students will be allocated three (3) fellowship spots <p>The final grant amount for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years will be determined after the Grantee completes its fellow selection process each year. Final grant amounts per Grantee will be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$13,500 per undergraduate (junior or senior) fellow per year \$27,000 per graduate (masters or doctoral) fellow per year \$500 per fellow for travel, materials, equipment and other fellowship-related costs per year \$2,000 honorarium per faculty advisor for each student per year 10% of total grant amount for indirect costs, including facilities and administrative fees per year <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a Grantee with three spots selected two undergraduate students and one graduate students for a fellowship year, they would receive \$67,650 (\$13,500 for the two undergraduate student stipends, \$27,000 for the one graduate student stipends, \$1,500 for the fellows' travel/materials stipends, \$6,000 for the faculty advisor honorariums, which equals \$61,500, plus \$ 6,150 for the Grantee's indirect costs) If all graduate students are selected, the maximum grant amount for a Grantee with three spots is \$ 97,350 for each Fellowship Year If all graduate students are selected, the maximum grant amount for a Grantee with six spots is \$194,700 for each Fellowship Year
Application Process	<p>Applications will be accepted during a defined application window, which NJEDA will make all potential applicants aware of through a Notice of Funding Availability and other information posted to NJEDA's website. 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 any deficiencies or provide answers to clarifying questions. If after the 10-day period, the applications are still incomplete, they will be notified the application will not advance and will be rejected as incomplete.</p>
Scoring Criteria	<p>There is no scoring criteria for this Grant Program.</p>
Approvals and Declinations	<p>NJEDA will enter an agreement with eligible applicants who have submitted complete and compliant applications for the Grant Program, subject to the availability of funds. NJEDA staff anticipates that the available funding for the Grant Program will accommodate the maximum number of applicants that could be eligible. Applicants whose applications are declined will have the right to appeal. Appeals must be filed within the timeframe set in the declination letter. For appeals from declinations based on discretionary reasons, the Board is the final decision maker. The NJEDA Managing Director of Legal Affairs will assign a Hearing Officer to review the appeal and any relevant documentation and prepare a recommendation for Board decision.</p> <p>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.</p>

<p>Funding Disbursement</p>	<p><u>Disbursement 1</u> 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 in accordance with these specifications and the Grant Agreement, each Grantee must submit the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 establish compliance with the Grant Agreement. <p>After receipt of and approval of the submissions required to receive Disbursement 1, NJEDA will disburse 50% of the grant award to each eligible and compliant Grantee.</p> <p><u>Disbursement 2</u> 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 in accordance with these specifications and the Grant Agreement, each Grantee must submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed interim report using the template provided by NJEDA • Additional information necessary for the Authority to establish compliance with the Grant Agreement. <p>After receipt of and approval of the submissions required to receive Disbursement 2, NJEDA will disburse the remaining 50% of the grant award. to each eligible and compliant Grantee.</p>
<p>Program Requirements</p>	<p>Grantees shall be responsible for the coordination and execution of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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; ○ 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.

For the CE Fellowship Program, NJEDA will:

- Organize at least 4 CE Fellowship cohort meetings each CE Fellowship Year for Fellows to participate in industry trainings, guest lectures, site visits, and/or presentations
- Recruit and engage key industry stakeholders throughout the program to maximize the fellows' exposure to the clean energy industry
- Organize the Clean Energy Research Symposium to take place each CE Fellowship Year
- Upon receiving the names of the selected students and their project descriptions, provide schools with 50% of the allocated funding for each Grantee based on the number and graduate level of the selected fellows for each CE Fellowship Year.
- Upon receiving interim reports, provide schools with remaining 50% of allocated funding for each Grantee.
- Publicize the names of the fellows and advisors, as well as final presentation materials shared by fellows on the NJEDA website.