



Overview of Solar Innovation Grant Program

To speed the deployment of solar energy and spur growth of private firms in the industry, the State of Tennessee established a Solar Innovation Grant Program. The source of the funding for this program is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The funding has been awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development through the State Energy Program (SEP). It is the purpose of Tennessee's State Energy Program to promote the conservation of energy, to reduce the rate of growth of energy demand, and to reduce dependence on imported oil through the development and implementation of solar technologies and comprehensive energy management strategies.

The primary intent of the Solar Innovation Grant Program is to facilitate the growth of Tennessee's solar industry via improvements in productivity and cost reductions associated with incorporation of energy efficiency measures and adoption of renewable energy in the applicant's primary place of business. To provide guidance on these objectives, the State of Tennessee has adopted clean energy goals established by the Department of Energy's State Energy Program (http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/pdfs/sep_strategic_plan_0207.pdf). The State of Tennessee has a long-term goal of reducing per capita energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency while fostering economic development

In broad terms, Tennessee's energy goals are to:

1. Increase energy efficiency to reduce energy costs and consumption for consumers, businesses, and government.
2. Expand the availability and use of renewable energy.
3. Expand the clean energy sector of the state's economy.