

PADEP Begins Accepting Grant Applications for Industrial Decarbonization Program

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On February 26, 2025, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) announced it had begun accepting grant applications for the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) Program. See [Press Release](#), PADEP, “Shapiro Administration Launches RISE PA Initiative to Create Energy Jobs, Cut Costs, Grow Pennsylvania’s Energy & Manufacturing Industries, and Lower Toxic Air Pollution” (Feb. 26, 2025). The RISE PA Program is funded by a \$396-million award under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act for projects that will reduce carbon emissions from the industrial sector, including from fuel combustion, industrial process emissions, natural gas and oil systems, coal mining, and other electricity usage.

As previously reported in [Vol. 42, No. 1 \(2025\)](#) of this Newsletter, President Trump’s Executive Order No. 14,154, “Unleashing American Energy,” created uncertainty around RISE PA’s future by pausing clean energy and climate-related funding under the Inflation Reduction Act. Exec. Order No. 14,154, § 7, 90 Fed. Reg. 8353 (Jan. 20, 2025). The Shapiro administration, however, sued the federal government and the funds were unfrozen on February 24, 2025.

The RISE PA Program awards are tiered based on project size: up to \$40 million for small-scale projects; up to \$100 million for medium-size projects; and up to \$220 million for large-scale projects. Small-scale awards are administered by the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP), while medium- and large-scale awards are administered by PADEP.

The Shapiro administration offered examples of eligible projects, including, “installing energy-efficient heat recovery systems to reduce the energy required to heat or cool an industrial facility, electrifying an industrial plant by swapping out diesel-powered generators with equipment that runs on electricity, and capturing coal mine methane from mining operations.” *Press Release, supra.* The program also includes bonus award opportunities based on taking one or more additional actions and depending on the size of the project. These include a Community Benefits Bonus (for projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities that include a Community Benefits Plan; up to 10% of total project cost), a Fair Labor Bonus (committing to one or more labor-related requirements, based on project size; up to 10% of total project cost), and a GHG Emissions Reduction Bonus (available to medium- and large-scale projects based on the percentage reduction of GHG emissions; up to 10% of total project cost).

The RISE PA website includes step-by-step instructions for applying online, mock project application answers and budgets, and other guidance to assist applicants, as well as a form to submit public feedback about the program. PADEP is currently accepting applications for medium- and large-scale projects, with an application deadline of August 29, 2025, and first award announcements in fall 2025. All projects must be completed by April 1, 2029.

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