

**Five Star Restoration Program – 2009 Request for Proposals – Feb. 16 deadline**

***Applications are due February 16, 2009***

The Five Star Restoration Program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships for wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration. The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Wildlife Habitat Council, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Southern Company, and our newest partner Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), are pleased to solicit applications for the Five Star Restoration Program.

Elements of a Five Star Project:

- On-the-Ground Restoration. Projects must include on-the-ground wetland, riparian, in stream and/ or coastal habitat restoration.
- Environmental Education. Projects must integrate meaningful education into the restoration project either through community outreach, participation, and/or integration with K-12 environmental curriculum.
- Partnerships. Projects must involve a diverse set of community partners to accomplish the projects objectives.
- Measurable Results. Projects must result in measurable ecological and educational/social benefits.

For more information, visit [www.nfwf.org/fivestar/](http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/).

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**Forest Service Funding for Urban Forestry – February 17 deadline**

***Applications are due Tuesday, February 17, 2009***

The U.S. Forest Service requests proposals for the 2009 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program. This program will support the establishment of sustainable urban and community forestry projects that have a national or widespread impact and application. A total of \$1 million in funds is expected to be available, with up to 12 awards anticipated. The funds will be divided into two main categories:

**Innovation Grants and Best Practices Grants**

Innovation Grants will focus on one of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council's identified priority areas. One or more grants may be awarded from the \$500,000 available in this category. Best Practices Grants are smaller grants intended to improve existing or develop new best practices related to urban forestry. A maximum of \$50,000 per application can be awarded from the \$500,000 available in this category.

Responses are due February 17, 2009. For more information, contact Nancy Stremple at [nstremple@fs.fed.us](mailto:nstremple@fs.fed.us) or go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac>

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**U.S Department of Energy Funding for Alternative Fuel Vehicles – February 27 deadline**

***Closing Date for Applications: Feb 27, 2009***

Clean Cities FY09 Petroleum Reduction Technologies Project for Transportation Sector

Incremental Cost of Dedicated Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Applications are being sought for projects to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum by expanding the use of dedicated alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). These funds can be used to help reduce the incremental cost for the purchase

of new OEM AFVs or the retrofit/conversion/repower of new and/or used conventional vehicles (i.e., vehicles originally designed to operate using diesel or gasoline) to run on authorized alternative fuels. Only on-road, highway-certified vehicles that operate exclusively on alternative fuels will be considered for funding under this area of interest.

DOE has particular interest in funding medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and school buses as well as light-duty vehicles used in high fuel-use fleet applications. Vehicles with hybrid-electric or hydraulic-hybrid drive systems that are powered exclusively by alternative fuels are also of interest. Vehicle retrofits/conversion systems must be certified/approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in order to be eligible for funding in this category.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&opId=18706>

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### **Illinois Rain Garden Initiative – March 2 deadline**

#### ***Applications are due March 2, 2009***

The Illinois Rain Garden Initiative is designed to empower students and communities to confront local flooding concerns, restore native Illinois prairie habitats, and learn about green solutions to storm water management. The Lt. Governor's Office will award 20 grants of \$500 each to plant rain gardens.

This year we are pleased to announce that as part of the grant, we will be awarding rain barrels that can be integrated into the rain gardens for a more sustainable project. Eligible organizations include: public institutions, non-profit groups and schools.

For more information and application materials, please visit: [www.raingarden.il.gov](http://www.raingarden.il.gov) or contact Jamie Campbell at 312-814-6671.

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### **Illinois Green Energy Loan Program**

The Illinois Green Energy Program is a pilot program through the Illinois Treasurers Office that encourages energy efficient development and improvements by offering low interest loans to businesses, non-profit organizations and local governments in Illinois. Funds can be used to finance the purchase or installation of energy efficient and renewable energy equipment at participating lenders. Projects can range from \$10,000 to \$10 million.

To learn more about this new program that just recently started, please call the Illinois Treasurers Office at: 217-557-6436 or visit their website at:

<http://www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/cultivate-illinois/green-energy.aspx>