



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE ALLEGHENIES

SERVING BEDFORD, CAMBRIA, SOMERSET, AND INDIANA COUNTIES

February 15, 2022

Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary for the PUC
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: Docket Number: M-00031715F0004

Dear Ms. Chiavetta:

I am pleased to enclose the 2021 Report of Activities for the Metropolitan Edison/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Mike Kane
President

Enclosure

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**METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY/PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC
COMPANY SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND**

Introduction

In 2000, First Energy established the Metropolitan Edison Company Sustainable Energy Fund at Berks County Community Foundation and the Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. Berks County Community Foundation and Community Foundation for the Alleghenies are 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations located in Reading and Johnstown, respectively.

The funds work together under the guidance of a joint volunteer advisory committee and in accordance with each organization's bylaws. The purpose of the funds is to promote:

- the development and use of renewable energy and clean energy technologies;
- energy conservation and efficiency;
- sustainable energy businesses; and
- projects that improve the environment in the companies' service territories, as defined by their relationship to the companies' transmission and distribution facilities.

The funds fulfill this purpose by seeking, vetting, and awarding grants, loans, and equity investments that benefit the ratepayers in the geographic territories within Pennsylvania served by Met Ed and Penelec.

From January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, the Metropolitan Edison Company/Pennsylvania Electric Company Sustainable Energy Fund (Met Ed/Penelec SEF) approved financing totaling \$791,785*.

Representative Fund Outreach Activities 2021

Each year, the staff members who manage the Met Ed/Penelec SEF on behalf of the Community Foundations participate in activities designed to raise awareness of Met Ed/Penelec SEF activities. From January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, that outreach included the following activities:

- Berks County Community Foundation hired its first Energy and the Environment Program Officer, Kevin Lugo, in late September 2021. Staff oversight of the Met Ed SEF is being transitioned to him, and he spent several weeks getting up to speed with the SEF mission, past projects, and priorities; meeting board members; and interviewing several grantees.
- Staff attended the ARPA-E Energy Summit.
- Staff attended a meeting of the four Sustainable Energy Funds in Allentown.

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- Staff represented the Met Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund and provided information about the Fund to potential grantees at virtual events (due to restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic), such as webinars, grant seminars, and workshops related to relevant technology and trends in clean energy.
- Staff maintained the Met Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund website and Facebook pages, updating pages as appropriate and posting on Fund activities, grant opportunities, and topics related to energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Representative Program Specific Activities 2021

- Based on the “Pennsylvania Clean Energy Projects” report that the Advisory Committee commissioned in 2018, 2021 was the third year of strategic grantmaking in the following priority areas to address stakeholders’ biggest needs and obstacles pertaining to development of clean or renewable energy projects:
 1. Providing up-front capital where needed in the form of grants or program-related investments to advance projects and support renewables (traditional work);
 2. Providing grants to support education, training, and workforce development in the renewable/sustainable energy field;
 3. Supporting energy efficiency efforts by providing grants for the creation of educational materials and grants or program-related investments to support buildings and retrofits; and
 4. Providing grants to support research and development efforts at colleges and universities, particularly for programs that will close the gap on the cost difference between traditional energy technologies and renewables.
- In 2021, in addition to the traditional grantmaking that was done in the spring to advance projects and support renewables, staff relied upon the outreach and research they conducted the previous year to once again create a Request for Proposals for priority number 4. This developed an opportunity for one grant of up to \$240,000 to support an applied research-and-development project that would impact at least one of the following categories:
 1. Battery storage tied to renewables and/or resiliency
 2. Grid resiliency with an emphasis on advanced controls for economically integrating renewables into the grid
 3. Hydroelectric power
 4. Carbon capture and storage, with an emphasis on projects that repurpose the carbon in a way that decreases energy consumption
 5. Or another breakthrough technology resulting in a significant reduction of kilowatt hours, driving down energy consumption

- Additionally, in 2021, staff created its first Request for Proposals for a larger scale energy efficiency project, which was categorized under priority number 3 and was listed as a tactic in our Business Plan for the year. This developed an opportunity for one grant of up to \$230,000 in support of a signature building or retrofit project.
- Throughout the year the community foundations provided all fund management operations, including monthly loan servicing, collection, due diligence on grant and loan applications, site visits (limited due to pandemic restrictions), phone and email correspondence with prospective applicants, PUC correspondence, and investment management and reporting.
- Due to pandemic restrictions, staff conducted a limited number of educational tours of the Berks County Community Foundation Platinum LEED building.
- Staff maintained the historical/geographical/technological mapping of SEF activity to ensure the map created in 2014 remained current and available on the website.

Financial Approvals

From January 1 to December 31, 2021, the Metropolitan Edison Company/Pennsylvania Electric Company Sustainable Energy Fund approved financing totaling \$791,785*.

Grants (Utilizing Endowed Funds)

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Berks History Center	Energy Efficiency Project	\$ 10,000.00
Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust	Education Center	\$ 50,000.00
The Energy Efficiency Alliance	CPace Program	\$ 45,000.00
Port Allegany School District	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	\$ 50,000.00
Bottle Works Ethnic Art Center	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	\$ 35,000.00
Chestnut Ridge Wellness & Fitness	LED Retrofit	\$ 785.00
Front & Centre Productions	LED Retrofit	\$ 8,000.00
Camp Allegheny	Solar Outdoor Lighting	\$ 8,000.00
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford	Solar Powered Building & Efficiency Dashboard	\$ 230,000.00
Gannon University	Adaptive Virtual Fault Current Limiters for Rural and Power Electronics-Based Microgrids	\$ 240,000.00*

Grants (Utilizing Alternative Compliance Payments)

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Dickinson College	Waste to Energy	\$ 50,000.00
Somerset Conservation District	Partners Hall Solar Installation	\$ 30,000.00

Mary S. Biesecker Public Library	Solar Canopy Installation	\$ 25,000.00
Albright College	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	\$ 10,000.00

Combined, the gifts that established the Met-Ed/Penelec SEF equaled approximately \$14,600,000. Since inception in 2000, the Met-Ed/Penelec SEF has approved 259 grants totaling \$5,861,637; 50 loans totaling \$25,043,724; and 3 equity investments totaling \$1,600,000. That adds up to \$32,505,361 in total financing, and their combined fund value as of June 30, 2021 was \$17,872,887.

Board Activities

The advisory committee met four times in 2021, and had one opening for an At-Large representative. The Met-Ed/Penelec SEF Advisory Committee may consist of nine members whose two-year terms are staggered so the terms of approximately half of the members end each year. Current members can run for re-election. The Advisory Committee Members for January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, were as follows:

Marybeth Smialek (Chair)	Rep. First Energy	Term Expires 12/31/2021**
Brian Hill (Vice Chair)	Rep. At Large	Term Expires 12/31/2021**
Frank Plank	Rep. Industrial User Groups	Term Expires 12/31/2022
Timothy Booth	Rep. Electricity Supplier	Term Expires 12/31/2022
Beverly Weaver	Rep. Weatherization Groups	Term Expires 12/31/2022
Davitt Woodwell	Rep. Environmental	Term Expires 12/31/2022
Dave Vollero	Rep. Indep. Power Producer	Term Expires 12/31/2021**
Jennifer Schade	Rep. Commercial Customer	Term Expires 12/31/2023

** The Met Ed/Penelec SEF operates on a calendar year, through December 31. But one grant, utilizing funds allocated in 2021, required additional deliberation and was not officially approved until January 2022.*

***Three committee members' terms were set to expire at the end of 2021, but the members were nominated and re-elected at the annual meeting.*

Review of Technologies and Sample of Met Ed/Penelec SEF Implemented Projects

The Met Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund maintains and updates the list below to show the organizations that have been funded and how they fit into the different sustainable and renewable energy tiers as defined by the Commonwealth. This list represents organizations funded since the SEF was established.

Tier I Projects:

Solar Photovoltaic

- Silicon cell panels – Hundredfold Farm and French Creek Ridge
- Printed electronics – Plextronics
- Solar installer training – Conservation Consultants
- Solar lighting – 2nd & Oley playground
- Solar lighting – Welcome sign to City of Reading
- Solar cell panels – Lacey Electric
- Solar cell panels – Rodale Institute
- Solar array – Scottish Heights
- Solar cell panels – Epiphany
- Solar panels/inverter – Sandusky Lee
- Solar panels – Phipps Conservancy
- Manufacturing solar grade silicon – One Solar
- Solar panel installation – Leg Up Farm
- Solar lighting installation – Reading Rising Park
- Solar panels – Cambria County Transit Authority
- Concurrent Technologies Corporation
- Sally's Cider Press
- RiverPlace
- Jager & Friends Dog Park
- Tree Pittsburgh
- Huntingdon Farm
- Altoona Intermunicipal Relations/Buckhorn Recycling
- Kulu Kamala Foundation
- Camp Allegheny
- Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset
- St. Francis University Institute for Energy
- MAB Holdings
- Werner Acres
- Greater Easton Development Partnership
- City of Erie
- Somerset County Mobile Food Bank
- Community Energy Solar
- Somerset Conservation District
- Mary S. Biesecker Public Library
- Albright College
- University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Solar Thermal

- Adams County
- Mid Atlantic Renewable Energy Association
- Greater Prospect Store
- Solar concentrator dish production – CEWA
- Mystic Mountain Training Center
- Solarflux

Wind

- Utility wind installations – Bear Creek/Forward/Lookout
- Supply chain facility – Gamesa
- Community Wind – SFU Renewable Energy Center/Anemometer Loans
- Windustry Community Wind Conference
- Small wind systems – Shade Central City School District, Meadville School District, Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, Wayne County Conservation District, Evergreen Conservancy Tonoma AMD Site and New Tech Wind

Low Impact Hydro

- Micro- and low-hydro statewide conference
- PA Environmental Council - general permitting program

Biogas and Coal Mine Methane

- Pioneer Landfill gas to electricity G.A.S.
- Johnstown Regional Energy
- Green Gas Pioneer Crossing

Biomass

- Farm digester – Native Energy
- Wood waste – United Corrstack
- Ethanol-Regional Economic Development Initiatives
- PGH Zoo Somerset International Research Center
- Biomass Boot Camp
- First Nation Wood Pellets
- Organization - PABIOMASS Energy Association
- Pittsburgh Zoo International Conservation Center biomass furnace
- Pennsylvania Biomass Energy Association
- Dickinson College

Demand Side Energy Conservation and Efficiency

- Pymatuning Lab
- Somerset Conservation District
- West Erie County Emergency Center
- Gildono Center
- Birdsboro Alloying
- Police Athletic League/Olivet's Boys & Girls Club
- Cambria County War Memorial Arena
- Johnstown Area Heritage Association
- Mission Critical Solutions

- City of Reading Pagoda
- Human Services Center
- Allegheny College
- Millcreek Township School District
- Asbury Park Nature Center
- Hanover Public School District
- Concurrent Technologies Corporation
- Twin Valley Elementary School
- Southern York County Library
- York County Commissioners
- Albright College
- Hyndman Area Health Center
- Berks County Community Foundation LEED Platinum Headquarters
- Green Building Alliance – Pittsburgh
- Green Building Alliance – NW PA
- Allegheny Clarion Valley Development Corporation
- BosWell Pharmacy Services
- Crawford County Development Authority
- Rouse Estate
- Radiant Heating System – City of Johnstown Historic Carpenter Shop
- Energy Management Systems – Crispus Attucks Association
- eCAP Network Energy Management
- Windber Research Institute
- Renewable Manufacture Gateway
- Greater Reading Commerce Center
- Pittsburgh Gateways
- Commonwealth Community Energy Project Revolving Loan Fund
- Shawnee Country Market
- Disaster’s Edge Environmental Center
- Liberty LLC
- Berks County Redevelopment Authority
- Greater Prospect, Inc.
- Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission
- Cambria County War Memorial
- Johnstown Redevelopment Authority
- JC Blair Memorial Hospital
- Somerset County Campus Foundation (Allegheny College of Md.)
- Greater Johnstown YMCA
- Oakland Volunteer Fire Company
- River Valley Regional YMCA
- A Better Address
- Conrad Flatiron Building/JBDDC
- Berks County Conservancy
- Johnstown Industrial Development Corporation

- McKean County
- Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center
- Goodwill Industries of the Conemaugh Valley
- Johnstown Demanufacturing Center
- Millcreek Township School District
- Leg Up Farm
- Hillcrest Racquet Club
- Opportunity House
- Kutztown University Foundation
- Bethany Children's Home
- Johnstown Business District Development Corporation
- Gautier Steel, Ltd.
- Cresson Lake Playhouse
- Pocono Environmental Education Center
- Schuylkill River Greenway Association
- Berks County Industrial Development Authority
- Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library
- East Berlin Community Library
- Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association
- Easy Does It, Inc.
- Borough of West Reading
- Meadville Public Library
- Saxton Volunteer Fire Company
- Benedictine Sisters of Erie
- Human Services Center
- Concurrent Technologies Corporation
- Windber Fire Company
- Ashville Volunteer Fire Company
- Bedford County Chamber Foundation
- Mary's Shelter
- JARI Growth Fund
- Thistle Creek Farm
- Reading Public Museum
- Greater Johnstown Water Authority
- Bedford County Regional Education Foundation
- Highland Community Library
- Para-Coat Technologies
- Lee Initiatives/Johnstown Concert Ballet
- Biesecker Library
- Altoona Intermunicipal Relations/Buckhorn Recycling
- Reading Public Museum
- Genesius Theater
- Pittsburgh Gateways
- Camp Allegheny

- Railroaders Heritage Corp.
- Our Town Foundation – Hamburger Strand
- Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Allegheny College
- The Learning Lamp
- City of Meadville
- Saegertown Public Library
- Fleetwood Area Public Library
- Forks Township
- Indiana County Conservation District
- The Learning Lamp
- Christian Camps of Pittsburgh (SB2W)
- Brownstown Borough
- City of Johnstown
- Huntingdon Borough
- Berks History Center
- The Energy Efficiency Alliance
- Port Allegany School District
- Bottle Works Ethnic Art Center
- Chestnut Ridge Wellness & Fitness
- Front & Centre Productions

Supply Side Efficiency

- PA Environmental Council – Inclined Discharge Study
- Hydroconfidence – Oil to Natural Gas Conversion Equipment
- Interphase Materials – Heat Transfer Efficiency
- Gannon University – Adaptive Virtual Fault Current Limiters for Rural and Power Electronics-Based Microgrids

Ocean and Lake Energy – None to Date

Non-Combustion Solid Waste – None to Date

Tier I Fuel Cells

- Solid-Oxide, Shade Central City School District
- Franklin Fuel Cells

Tier II Projects:

Electricity from Eligible Waste Coal (New or Retrofitted Facilities) – None to Date

Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle – None to Date

Non-Tier 1 Fuel Cells – See Above Franklin Fuel Cells

Education (not including application of technologies listed above):

- K-12 Energy Curriculum Development – Penn State university
- CEEP Green Campus Education
- Clean Energy State Alliance
- Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania
- NW PA and Laurel Highlands Chapters of Pittsburgh Green Building Alliance
- MAREC

- Pennsylvania Foundry Association
- US Green Building Council
- Manufacturers Association of Berks County
- Public Lebanon Valley Conservancy
- Penn Future
- Clean Energy Expo
- Berks County Conservancy
- Keystone HELP
- WPSX –TV
- Southern Alleghenies Conservancy
- Berks County Community Foundation
- Erie School District
- Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association
- Oley Valley High School
- Allegheny College
- University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
- Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center
- Boyertown Area Multiservice, Inc.
- Reading Public Museum
- Reading Public Library
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Erie City School District
- St. Francis University's Institute for Energy
- PA Biomass Energy Association
- North American Passive House
- Pocono Environmental Education Center
- GoggleWorks Center for the Arts
- Penn TAP
- Energy Audit Program (53 nonprofit organizations throughout the territories)
- Econ Opportunities
- Envinity
- Energy Coordinating Agency
- Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust

Conclusion

With the guidance of an expert advisory committee and professional financial and operational oversight from Berks County Community Foundation and Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, the Met Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund has had a successful year meeting its purpose to promote:

- the development and use of renewable energy and clean energy technologies;
- energy conservation and efficiency;
- sustainable energy businesses; and

- projects that improve the environment in the companies' service territories, as defined by their relationship to the companies' transmission and distribution facilities.

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The funds are honored to continue to fulfill this purpose by seeking, vetting, and awarding grants, loans, and equity investments that benefit the ratepayers in the geographic territories within Pennsylvania served by Met Ed and Penelec.

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