## LOUISIANA REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

by Buddy Justice

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages the State Energy Program (SEP) under a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Congress created DOE's State Energy Program in 1996 by consolidating two other programs: The State Energy Conservation Program (SECP) and the Institutional Conservation Program. Both programs went into effect in 1975. The State Energy Program provides grants to states and U.S. territories to promote energy conservation and reduce the growth of energy demand in ways that are consistent with national energy goals. SEP is the only EERE sponsored activity that encompasses renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and addresses all sectors of the economy. The goals established for the SEP are: Increase energy efficiency to reduce energy costs and consumption for consumers, businesses and government; reduce reliance on imported energy; improve the reliability of electricity and fuel supply and the delivery of energy services; reduce the impacts of energy production and use on the environment. As part of the DOE SEP grant, DNR created the Louisiana Revolving Loan Fund Program to encourage the development, implementation and deployment of cost-effective energy efficient products, compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling stations and vehicles, and renewable energy projects in Louisiana, and also to support the creation of additional employment opportunities and other economic development benefits.

The current round of DNR funds became available for loans to be awarded under these Program Guidelines on January 1st, 2020. This will be a competitive funding process. The Revolving Loan Fund offers Louisiana domiciled public entities assistance in implementing eligible projects from inception to completion. The Program will provide access to low-interest rate loans for eligible entities to implement eligible projects at public facilities. This loan program is being administered through the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA). LPFA charges a 2% loan closing fee with an additional 1/2 of a percentage point paid annually to service the loan. DNR charges 2% simple interest for the 10-year life of the loan or until paid in full. Interest is calculated from the closing date as based upon a 360-day year. No prepayment penalties are incurred for early payments.

Under the Louisiana Revolving Loan Fund, eligible applicants are public entities located within the State of Louisiana. Applications from the residential sector (homeowners) are not eligible for loan funding.

This Program will fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects as deemed appropriate by DNR. Preference will be given to projects initiated by schools, hospitals, local parishes, or state governmental subdivisions.

Projects must be located within the state of Louisiana. Eligibility is limited to certain project costs for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency measures, CNG, and renewable energy equipment. Eligible projects are limited to the following types:

1. Funding energy efficiency retrofits, provided that projects are limited to: Installation of insulation; installation of energy efficient lighting; HVAC upgrades; weather sealing; purchase and installation of ENERGY STAR appliances; replacement of windows and doors; high efficiency shower/faucet upgrades; and installation of solar powered appliances with improved efficiency.

- 2. Installation of CNG refueling equipment; purchase of CNG vehicles (incremental costs only); CNG conversions. Including the purchase of new CNG school buses or the conversion of current buses to CNG power.
- 3. Purchase of new clean diesel powered school buses.
- 4. Installation of renewable energy technologies, as deemed appropriate by DNR.

## Contact Information:

Copies of the Guidelines and Application Packets may be obtained by Writing to:

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Technology Assessment Division, Suite 1272E Louisiana Revolving Loan Fund Program P.O. Box 94396 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9693

E-Mail Request to:

larlf@la.gov

Downloading from our Website:

www.dnr.louisiana.gov/larlf

Please note that all requests must include a contact name, company name, mailing address, email address, telephone number, and fax number.

Applications must be sent to the address above, or received at the email address above no later than 3:00 p.m. CST on April 30, 2020 (closing date) after which time they will not be accepted. It is the position of the Department of Natural Resources that receipt of the completed electronic application forms no later than 3:00 pm CST on April 30, 2020 at the e mail address provided in the Program Requirements and Guidelines (*larlf@la.gov*) will suffice as having met the program guideline deadline.