



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FOR THE ALLEGHENIES

SERVING BEDFORD, CAMBRIA, SOMERSET, AND INDIANA COUNTIES

March 22, 2024

M-2023-3041568

Secretary's Bureau
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
2nd Floor, Room-N201
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RCVD PUC SEC BUR
MAR 25 2024 AM 10:52

RE: Docket Number: M-00031715F0004

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to enclose the 2023 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

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY/PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND

Introduction

In 2000, FirstEnergy 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, 2023, to December 31, 2023, the Metropolitan Edison Company/Pennsylvania Electric Company Sustainable Energy Fund (Met-Ed/Penelec SEF) approved financing totaling \$618,202.

Representative Fund Outreach and Program Specific Activities 2023

Each year, in addition to awarding funds, 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, 2023, to December 31, 2023, that outreach and grantmaking included the following activities:

- Staff represented the Met-Ed/Penelec SEF and provided information about the Fund to potential applicants in-person and at virtual events (such as webinars, grant seminars, and workshops) related to relevant technology and trends in clean energy.
- Staff redesigned and launched a new Met-Ed/Penelec SEF website. During 2023, there was staff transition in the communication departments at both community foundations, so social media was limited for this year. However, marketing and outreach will be an area of focus moving forward.

- 2023 was the first year for implementation of the strategic plan that the advisory committee completed in 2022. The vast majority of the year was spent developing the new Program-Related Investment opportunity and process. This included executing a memorandum of understanding with a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) as a partner to do the financial underwriting for the loans.
- 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, phone and email correspondence with prospective applicants, PUC correspondence, and investment management and reporting.
- Staff maintained the historical/geographical/technological mapping of Met-Ed/Penelec SEF activity to ensure the map accurately reflects projects that were funded, and that it is available on the website.

Financial Approvals

From January 1 to December 31, 2023, the Metropolitan Edison Company/Pennsylvania Electric Company SEF approved financing totaling \$618,202.

Grants (Utilizing Endowed Funds)

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Green Building Alliance	Sustainable Communities	\$376,539
Generation 180	Solar for All Schools	\$124,300

Program-Related Investments (Utilizing ACP Funds)

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Indiana County Conservation District	Solar Installation	\$117,363

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 279 grants totaling \$7,209,518; 51 loans totaling \$25,161,087; and 3 equity investments totaling \$1,600,000. That adds up to \$33,970,605 in total financing, and their combined fund value as of June 30, 2023 was \$16,104,672.

Board Activities

The Advisory Committee met formally four times in 2023, and also had one informal “Lunch and Learn” session to learn more about the technical assistance programs that are offered through FirstEnergy in support of Act 129. The committee 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, 2023, through December 31, 2023, were as follows:

Davitt Woodwell (Chair)	Rep. Environmental	Term Expires 12/31/2024
Brian Hill (Vice Chair)	Rep. At-Large	Term Expires 12/31/2023**
Kelli Volkomer	Rep. Electricity Supplier	Term Expires 12/31/2025
B. Tucker Schreiber	Rep. Industrial User Groups	Term Expires 12/31/2024
Jennifer Schade	Rep. Commercial Customer	Term Expires 12/31/2023**
Chris Wehr	Rep. First Energy	Term Expires 12/31/2024
Dave Vollero	Rep. Indep. Power Producer	Term Expires 12/31/2023**
Beverly Weaver	Rep. Weatherization Groups	Term Expires 12/31/2024

***Three committee members' terms were up for renewal at the end of 2023. All three members were nominated and re-elected for another two-year term at the annual meeting.*

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

The Met-Ed/Penelec SEF 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 Met-Ed/Penelec 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 – 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
- 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 & Genealogical Society of Somerset
- St. Francis Univ. 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
- Laurel Arts
- Hyndman Food Pantry
- Erie County Conservation District
- Allegheny College
- Reformation Lutheran Church
- Indiana County Conservation District

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 Co. 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
- Genesis 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
- Laurel Arts
- Hyndman Food Pantry
- Chan Soon-Shiong Medical Center at Windber
- Little Dreamers Daycare & Preschool
- High Point Foundation/Lutheran Home at Kane
- Meyersdale Public Library
- Women's Help Center
- Portage Library Association
- Berks County Association for the Blind
- Clay on Main
- Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity
- Dickinson College
- Rodale Institute

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
- Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education
- Energy Efficiency Alliance
- Green Building Alliance
- Generation 180

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 SEF 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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