



Press Release



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Four San Jose Micro-Enterprise Cleantech Companies to Benefit from Citi Foundation Grant

San Jose, CA – April 3, 2009 – Four Micro-Enterprise Cleantech Companies will benefit from a Citi Foundation grant to the Environmental Business Cluster (EBC) for its MicroEnterprise Cleantech Program.

Through the Micro-Enterprise Cleantech Program, the EBC will provide four low-income to moderate-income owners of cleantech micro-enterprises with the full suite of services offered by the EBC, including office space, coaching, business development services, programs and more, for one year at no cost.

The EBC will accept applications from the principals of interested companies beginning in April, conduct interviews of the top 10 companies starting May 1st, and announce the winners by June 1st. Companies must, at minimum, have an executive summary/business plan, demonstrate that they could not afford the EBC's services otherwise, and demonstrate an intent to commercialize one or more of the following areas: energy efficiency, smart grid, transportation and energy storage.

“San Jose commends the Citi Foundation for their continued support of small business, fostering Clean Tech companies that will create and retain jobs in our community,” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. “The Micro-Enterprise Cleantech Program will give these companies the resources to develop their innovative products and services while furthering the goals of the San Jose Green Vision.”

Citi has supported the EBC since 2004. “The EBC's mission to help entrepreneurs create successful clean energy and environmental companies, and to increase the availability of environmentally friendly products and services complements two of Citi's key community goals,” says Citi Community Relations Director Cheryl Evans. “We work hard to support small business owners and entrepreneurs, particularly those who traditionally have been underserved, and we look constantly for opportunities to make

sustainable investments, and develop products and services with positive environmental and social impacts.”

“During these difficult economic times, we are delighted that the Citi Foundation has decided to continue its support of the EBC and local innovators. Private participation is key to the success of San Jose’s business incubators,” says Abi Maghamfar, Deputy Executive Director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency (SJRA). The SJRA is the chief financial sponsor of the EBC.

“The Citi Foundation has a history of supporting early stage technologies and diverse entrepreneurs, which makes it an ideal supporter for the EBC Micro-Enterprise Cleantech Program,” says EBC Executive Director, Melinda Richter. “This program will reach out to qualified low and moderate income micro-entrepreneurs who would not normally have access to the commercialization services offered at the EBC.

“Diversity is a catalyst for innovation and we are delighted with the opportunity to work with Citi on the launch of this Program,” says Richter. The 2009 EBC Micro-Enterprise Program will begin accepting applications on April 1, 2009. For more information, visit www.environmentalcluster.org/apply.

About the Environmental Business Cluster

Established in 1994, the Environmental Business Cluster (EBC) is a nonprofit technology commercialization center created to assist early stage for-profit companies developing products or services that will have a positive impact on the environment. Since 2003, the EBC has specialized in assisting clean energy and energy efficiency emerging technology companies and has also been working with the California Energy Commission and the National Renewable Energy Lab to provide commercialization services to selected applied research grant recipients. Today, the EBC manages the largest private technology commercialization program for clean energy start-ups in the United States. The EBC is sponsored by the San Jose Redevelopment Agency in partnership with the San Jose State University Research Foundation.

About the Citi Foundation

The Citi Foundation is committed to enhancing economic opportunities for underserved individuals and families in the communities where we work throughout the world.

Globally, the Citi Foundation is focusing its giving on Microfinance and Microentrepreneurship, which helps individuals become economically self-sufficient; Small and Growing Businesses, leading to economic expansion and job creation; Education, which prepares young people for personal and professional success; Financial Education, which helps individuals make informed financial decisions; and the Environment with a focus on sustainable enterprises that generate jobs and stimulate

economic growth while preserving the environment. Additional information can be found at <http://www.citigroupfoundation.com/>.

About the San Jose Redevelopment Agency

Since 1994, the San Jose Redevelopment Agency has invested over \$20 million in a business incubator program that supports the growth of young technology companies in San Jose. The purpose of the program is to create jobs and companies in key industry sectors in San Jose, with a focus on clean technology, biotechnology and the life sciences, and software. In addition to the Environmental Business Cluster, the Redevelopment Agency supports the San Jose BioCenter, the Software Business Cluster, and the U.S. Market Access Center. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is governed by a board of directors comprised of San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed and the San Jose City Council.

About San Jose's Green Vision

On October 7, 2007, Mayor Chuck Reed introduced San Jose's Green Vision, which sets 10 ambitious goals for environmental protection and economic development. This 15-year plan envisions: creating 25,000 Clean Tech jobs; building or retrofitting 50 million square feet of green buildings; installing 100,000 solar roofs (1/10 of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's 1 million solar roofs for California initiative); reducing per capita electricity use by half; becoming a zero waste city; recycling and reusing 100 percent of the city's water; and moving to 100 percent renewable energy. San Jose, the nation's tenth largest city, already is a leader in clean energy and solar innovation, with leading corporations such as SunPower, SoloPower, Stion, Nanosolar, Fat Spaniel, SunWize, Sopogy, and others headquartered in the city. Electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla Motors recently announced that it would locate its headquarters and new manufacturing plant in San Jose. For more information, visit www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision/.

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