



February 2025 Newsletter

Empowering Sustainable Communities

BIG NEWS: SEEDS Receives Funding from the Ohio River Valley Participatory Fund (ORVP)

SEEDS is proud to have received the funding from ORVP in the amount of \$30,000. It will make a huge impact on the work we do here at SEEDS. Please read the following press release for full details.



1/9/2025
For Immediate Release
Director@seedsgroup.net

Contact: Michele Long
570-245-1256

**Ohio River Valley Participatory Fund Supports
SEEDS with Grant Funding**

Sustainable Energy Education and Development Support (SEEDS) is pleased to

announce the support of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (CFA) with a grant of \$30,000 for building the capacity of the organization with a focus on community engagement and supporting our Home Energy Assessment Program. This funding will help our organization build on its next chapter of growth and expand our intern program to provide free home energy efficiency assessments to homeowners in our region.

The Home Energy Assessment Program offered by SEEDS reviews the efficiency of a home, using a comprehensive whole-building approach to help homeowners improve the comfort and energy efficiency of their home. Trained SEEDS volunteers and interns assist homeowners in determining the cause of problems they may be experiencing with heat loss, air infiltration, moisture issues, and the high energy cost for heating and cooling. They then provide recommendations homeowners can take to help reduce energy bills. This educational and informative assessment has helped over 275 homeowners lower their energy costs. If you are interested in signing up for an energy efficiency assessment in your home visit <https://seedsgroup.net/assessments/>.

“With the rising cost of most everything, SEEDS is excited to provide this opportunity to homeowners to save money with their energy bills,” says SEEDS Development Director Michele Long. “We look forward to working with volunteers and interns this spring.”

The grant award was made possible by the Ohio River Valley Participatory Fund and was received as part of the November 2024 grant round. The fund provides grants to nonprofit groups that are helping impacted communities address environmental, health, democracy, justice, movement-building, and economic development goals.

To learn more about the Home Energy Assessment Program visit our website at <http://www.seedsgroup.net/> or contact Development Director Michele Long at director@seedsgroup.net or call 570-245-1256.

Act Now on Energy Efficiency

If you're considering making home renovations that increase energy efficiency, you may want to act sooner rather than later. Here's why: the Inflation Reduction Act has put in place many rebates and tax credits for homeowners to make energy-efficient upgrades. A great tool to understand all the incentives you can benefit from is [Rewiring America's calculator](#).

Let's take a scenario. A married couple with two children, living in Dunmore, PA (zip code 18512), and an annual household income of \$80,000 would have access to 26 different incentives, including:

- \$600 off an electric panel
- 30% tax credit (up to \$2,000) for heat pumps and heat pump water heaters
- \$7,500 off a new qualifying electric vehicle or \$4,000 off a used electric vehicle
- 30% tax credit for rooftop solar
- Rebate for 75% of costs up to \$1000 for insulation in an electric heated house. Up to \$500 for attic insulation and \$500 for basement wall insulation.
- 30% tax credit (up to \$1,200) for weatherization projects: insulation, air sealing, doors, windows.

Everyone interested should use [Rewiring America's calculator](#) to read the details and talk to a CPA to confirm they are eligible for the tax credits.

According to the White House, in 2023 alone, 3.4 million Americans benefited from \$8.4 billion in Inflation Reduction Act tax credits to lower the cost of clean energy and energy efficiency upgrades in their homes. The incoming congress [may soon repeal](#) those rebates and tax credits. We know this because [there have already been](#) two attempts to repeal the electric vehicle tax credit and three attempts to roll back the energy efficiency rebates.

So, if you're considering upgrading those old windows or doors, adding more insulation to your attic, or finally changing your old furnace or water heater to more efficient heat pumps that also cool your house over the summer, this may be the best time to do it.



Photo by [Freepik](#)

Jimmy Carter, Solar Trailblazer

By Katharine Dodge, SEEDS Secretary

Former President Jimmy Carter was a man ahead of his time. He was talking about climate change and the need for a smarter energy policy during his presidency in the late 70s. Throughout his life, he practiced what he preached. One example was his installation of 32 solar thermal panels on the White House, saying: “No one can ever embargo the sun or interrupt its delivery to us.”

Unfortunately, the next president removed those panels. An [article by Austyn Gaffney in the New York Times on January 2, 2025](#) tells the story of what happened to those panels. Unity College in Maine bought them at the bargain price of \$500 down from their original cost of \$28,000, using them to save money heating their water. At the end of their productive life in 2010, one or two of the panels were sent to the Carter Library to help in making a documentary film about Carter’s solar efforts. One is on display at the National Museum of American History in DC, one is at a museum in China, one is at the Solar Energy Industries Association, and another at a clean energy company in Vermont. The US Department of Energy has one. Unity College, now called Unity Environmental University, retains the rest.

President Carter said at the installation ceremony back in 1979: “A generation from now, this solar heater can either be a curiosity, a museum piece, an example of a road not taken or it can be just a small part of one of the greatest and most exciting adventures ever undertaken by the American people.” It seems he hit the nail on the head on all counts, although the great, exciting adventure has had road blocks thrown up along a twisting road by powerful fossil fuel lobbies and short-sighted political leaders. SEEDS thanks President Carter for the foresight and wisdom he demonstrated when he installed those panels.



Photo credit: Rick Diamond & The Carter Center

#SEEDSGoodNews

In cooperation with the Chamber of the Northern Poconos, SEEDS awarded the Human Resources Center, Inc. (HRC) the *Green Business of the Year* award for their Shred-ABLE program. The award recognizes businesses for making this region a more sustainable place to live and work. To learn more about their program visit: [SHRED-ABLE | hrcinc](#)



Pictured above is SEEDS Development Director Michele Long, with Darlene Glynn, CEO of HRC, and the staff and team of HRC.

#SEEDSGoodNews

Submitted by Katharine Dodge, SEEDS Secretary

Did you know? Fungi could be used to power batteries in remote regions thanks to a new breakthrough by Swiss researchers. Their fungal battery invention is **3D-printed — with fungal cells mixed into the printing ink** — and has the unique advantage of being biodegradable.

Read more about this fascinating breakthrough:

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2025/01/11/swiss-scientists-have-taught-fungi-to-generate-electricity-how-do-mushroom-batteries-work>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/01/250109125838.htm>

Do you have any #SEEDSGoodNews stories to share with the SEEDS community? Send them to us at newsletter@seedsgroup.net or tag us on social media! They can be local stories from your community, or stories from around the world — anything to celebrate and spread the word about the progress of energy efficiency, renewable energy or sustainable living wherever you hear about it!

Message Board Info:

Subscribe to SEEDS new online message board to ask questions, share expertise, and get alerts on upcoming learning opportunities!

Have a specific question about solar, energy efficiency, or clean tech?

Want to promote an upcoming event or resource?

SEEDS is building an online forum to serve as a center of knowledge on all things clean energy!

Visit <https://groups.io/g/NEPA-solar-and-energy-efficiency> or send an email to NEPA-solar-and-energy-efficiency+subscribe@groups.io to subscribe!

Calling for Contributors!!

We know our members have many different interests. If there is a topic on sustainability that you would like to write an article about (food, energy or education), please send it to **info@seedsgroup.net**

The SEEDS review board will consider your submission for publication in a future newsletter depending on the topic and date submitted.

We'd love to hear from our members!

If you are not a member of SEEDS, please consider [joining us](#) today!

You can use this link to share our membership page with others:

<https://seedsgroup.net/become-a-member/>



You will continue to receive our newsletters, invitations to our educational forums and other events. Members are eligible for free solar evaluations, have voting rights at our annual meeting, and help shape our programs and initiatives. For more information visit our website at www.seedsgroup.net.