



Overview of Green Building Alliance's Product Innovation Grants Request for Proposals, Solicitation #4

Through a competitive selection process, GBA intends to award funding for one or more projects that seek to develop new or introduce revamped existing building products as green building products to the marketplace. Eligible projects should address key product development challenges, focus on engineering or design challenges, show a significant degree of innovation, and identify a clear path to commercialization with the potential to significantly impact innovation-based companies in the region.

Green Building Alliance's Product Innovation Grants are intended to help provide the gap funding required to bring products from the research and development phase to the building product market so local specifiers can start using local green building products in local green building projects. The intent of GBA's Product Innovation Grants is to support the final commercialization steps for tangible building products or processes that contribute to the economic, environmental, and social benefits of green buildings.

Proposals are solicited from:

- Established Pennsylvania companies looking to develop innovative green building products and the processes to produce them;
- Start-up Pennsylvania companies looking to enter the green building product marketplace; and
- Pennsylvania university researchers / teams developing innovative green building products and the processes to produce them.

Important Dates

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| • February 20, 2009 | Idea Form Deadline (<i>Optional</i>) |
| • March 4, 2009 | Green Building Alliance Idea Form Feedback |
| • April 3, 2009 | Final Proposal Submission |
| • April 27, 2009 | Fund Match Verification Letters Due |
| • June 30, 2009 | Proposed Award Announcement |

More information about GBA's Product Innovation Grants is available at http://www.pa-greenbuildingproducts.org/product_innovation_grants.aspx. Questions and clarifications may be directed to GBA's Research Manager at (412) 431-0709 or research@gbapgh.org until the final submission date.

Full Product Innovation Grant proposals *must* include collaboration between private sector companies and university researchers / teams. The Principal Investigator should have the expertise necessary to conduct the proposed activities. **The private sector and university partners, as well as the commercializing entity, must be located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.** GBA will give preference to those partnerships located in its Western Pennsylvania service area.

GBA's Product Innovation Grants are focused on supporting projects that will enable expedited adoption into the marketplace in one year or less. ***All proposed projects must have a duration of one year or less.*** If awarded a Full Product Innovation Grant, the private company part of the applying partnership will be required to sign a contractual agreement with GBA. The private company will also need to sign a subagreement with their university partner/team; this subagreement must be attached to private company's contract with GBA.

The Product Innovation Grants are part of GBA's Green Building Products Initiative (GBPI), which operates in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership. The GBPI is funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority; the Richard King Mellon Foundation; and The Heinz Endowments.

Green Building Alliance is a nonprofit organization that advances economic prosperity and human wellbeing in Western Pennsylvania by driving market demand and facilitating green building practices and products that have minimal impact on the natural environment.



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GBA RFP #4 the fourth round of Product Innovation Grants. Since the program's inception, GBA has awarded a total of \$828,000 to fifteen grant recipients. GBA does anticipate that this fourth funding round will be the last opportunity to offer this program through State funding. Commercial firms and universities located in Pennsylvania are eligible to propose and perform projects. Collaborative efforts are strongly encouraged. Projects *must* be clear regarding the commercial opportunity of the project.

GBA's Product Innovation Grants are focused on supporting projects that will enable expedited market adoption in one year or less. Proposed Product Innovation Grant projects may include a product, process, or research that tangibly reduces the economic, environmental, or social impacts of status quo building (and green building) product market alternatives through its manufacture, installation, or operation; end-of-life issues may also be considered.

Past Product Innovation Grant Recipients

GBA funds two types of Product Innovation Grants: Full grants and Proof of Concept grants. Full Product Innovation Grant awards are capped at \$100,000 per project. Proposed research cannot exceed 12 months in duration. Applicants may also submit proposals for Proof of Concept level research, which is capped at \$20,000 per project and cannot exceed 12 months. GBA will invest in up to three proof of concept projects in 2009.

Grant Round	Grant Title	Grant Recipients	Grant Level
Fall 2007	Ductmate GreenSeam Pipe	Ductmate University of Pittsburgh	Full Grant
	GreenSim: A Process Simulator for Green Product Decision-Making	Burt Hill Pennsylvania State University	Full Grant
	Improved Production of Pigment as a Byproduct of the Treatment of Coal Mine Drainage in Western Pennsylvania	Iron Oxide Recovery University of Pittsburgh	Full Grant
	Investigating the Environmental Life Cycle Assessment, Performance, and Life Cycle Costing of Expanded Polystyrene for Construction Materials and Supplies: Focus on Insulating Concrete Forms	Tegrant Corporation University of Pittsburgh	Full Grant
	A Low-Impact, High-Performance District System for New and Existing Buildings	Geothermal Energy Systems, Inc. Carnegie Mellon University	Full Grant
	Development of a Superlattice Solar Cell Prototype	Villanova University	Proof of Concept
	Low-Energy Luminous Surfaces: Residential Lighting Using CeeLite LEC Technology	Drexel University	Proof of Concept
Spring 2008	Energy Wall™: A Passive Heat and Moisture Transfer Membrane for Ventilation Air Recovery	Energy Wall Pennsylvania State University	Full Grant
	Flexible Floor Plans: A Modular, Reconfigurable, & Sustainable Floor & Wall System	Drexel University	Proof of Concept
	ReD: A Responsive Daylighting Panel Integrating Phase Change Material	Temple University	Proof of Concept
	Sustainable Composite Materials	Bedford Reinforced Plastics, Inc. University of Pittsburgh	Full Grant
Fall 2008	Energy Efficient Geothermal Air Conditioning	Thar Process, Inc. Carnegie Mellon University	Full Grant
	CoBi: Bio-sensing Wearable Controls for Individualized Thermal Comfort	Carnegie Mellon University	Proof of Concept
	REDirt™ Topsoil: Fabricating Low Cost Soil Utilizing Waste Material for Building Site Landscapes and Green Roofs	GTECH Strategies	Proof of Concept
	Smart Facade: High-Performance and Sustainable Enclosure Web Portal	Carnegie Mellon University	Proof of Concept