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**Focus on Energy Announces New Grants Available  
for Environmental Research Projects**

**MADISON, Wis. – September 8, 2006** - Focus on Energy, the state's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, has announced grant funding available for research projects that study the environmental effects of electrical generation and transmission in Wisconsin. Through its Environmental Research Program, Focus on Energy will award grants to recipients who will address issues that may include the siting of renewable energy facilities, the ecological impacts of transmission line development and the potential effects of global warming and greenhouse gas emissions in Wisconsin. Only one-year projects will be considered in this funding round.

Any researcher or research organization with a project relevant to Wisconsin can apply for a grant. The Environmental Research Forum will evaluate proposals and make funding recommendations. This year the program has \$235,000 available in grant funding.

Each project must demonstrate a clear and critical need for new or continued research for Wisconsin. Research projects that fill gaps in existing knowledge about the environmental effects of electrical energy generation and transmission in Wisconsin or those that could provide timely support to the goals of the Environmental Research Program are of particular interest. Such topics may include:

- **The Siting of Renewable Energy Facilities**

- Wind Generation**

- Address environmental issues that impact the siting and required infrastructure of utility scale wind farms (i.e. pre- and post-siting studies on bird or bat kills, noise and other disruptions) specifically, studies that can inform protocols for pre-siting and management strategies for reducing impact after installation.

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- **Biomass Generation**

- Anaerobic digestion: the impact of siting facilities, including monitoring of existing installations; air and water quality impacts.
- Biomass fuel crops: biodiversity and land-use considerations of growing and burning.

- **Transmission**

Ecological effects of increased edge, early successional habitat and invasive species. Also wildlife perception of fragmentation, connectivity and movement and species isolation.

**Global warming and greenhouse gas emissions**

Research that explores the potential impacts of global warming on Wisconsin, such as impacts on water resources, species distribution and ranges, invasive species or direct health impacts.

Prospective applicants must submit an Intent to Propose form by October 16, 2006, and final proposals must be received by 12:00 p.m. on October 30, 2006. Forms and additional information can be found on the Focus on Energy Web site at [focusonenergy.com/rfp](http://focusonenergy.com/rfp) or by contacting Ingrid Kelley at 608.238.8276, x136.

**About Focus on Energy**

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. Since July 2001, the program has helped Wisconsin's businesses and residents cut their annual utility bills by more than \$98 million – reducing their energy consumption by more than 811 million kilowatt-hours and more than 40 million therms of natural gas. For more information, call 800.762.7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

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