

Grants Available to Upgrade School Lighting

The *Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation* is accepting applications until February 17, 2003 for grants to install energy efficient lighting during calendar year 2003 in existing public and private K-12 schools throughout Illinois. The Foundation awarded \$3.5 million in such grants this year to upgrade lighting systems in 140 Illinois elementary and high schools in 26 counties.

For 2003, all school lighting upgrade grant requests must be submitted on an application form provided by the Foundation. That form, along with a brochure describing the program in further detail, may be requested by calling the Foundation at 312-372-5191 or downloaded from the Foundation's website: www.illinoiscleanenergy.org. The grant requests must be received by the Foundation on or before close of business on **February 17, 2003**. When reviewing the requests, the Foundation will give preference to cost-effective projects that achieve high levels of permanent electricity demand reduction per dollar granted. The program is not "first-come, first-served" for 2003.

School districts must specify **the exact amount of funding being requested**, as well as how they would pay for any difference between the amount of the grant being requested and the total cost of the lighting upgrade. Finally, grants will be limited to \$800 per kilowatt (kW) of reduction in electricity demand that the lighting upgrade, as installed, yields. Awards are limited to no more than \$40,000 toward the lighting upgrade in any one school and no more than \$120,000 toward the aggregate lighting upgrades in any one school district.

The Foundation strongly encourages school districts that applied for a grant this year but were denied to re-apply in 2003 if they have not yet upgraded their lighting. School districts that received a lighting upgrade in 2002 may apply again in 2003 for additional lighting upgrades, but should be aware that preference may be given to districts that have not yet received a Foundation lighting upgrade grant.

For questions, please contact Keyonnie Dowdell at kdowdell@illinoiscleanenergy.org or 312-372-5191.