

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3522

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to facilitate tree planting that reduces residential energy consumption, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. FORTENBERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to facilitate tree planting that reduces residential energy consumption, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Trees for Residential
5 Energy and Economic Savings Act of 2021” or the
6 “TREES Act of 2021”.

7 **SEC. 2. TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-

1 tablish a program under which the Secretary may award
2 grants to eligible entities to facilitate covered projects in
3 accordance with this section.

4 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the Program,
5 the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Agri-
6 culture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

7 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To receive a grant under the
8 Program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
9 an application at such time, in such form, and containing
10 such information as the Secretary may require, including
11 the following:

12 (1) A description of how the proposed covered
13 project will reduce residential energy consumption.

14 (2) An estimate of the expected reduction in
15 residential energy consumption to be achieved by the
16 covered project.

17 (3) A description of the total eligible costs of
18 the project and other sources of funding for the cov-
19 ered project.

20 (4) A description of anticipated community en-
21 gagement in the covered project.

22 (5) A description of the tree species to be plant-
23 ed under the covered project and the suitability of
24 such species to the local environment.

1 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Pro-
2 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to covered projects
3 that—

4 (1) provide the largest potential reduction in
5 residential energy consumption for households with a
6 high energy burden;

7 (2) provide maximum amounts of—

8 (A) shade during periods when residences
9 are exposed to the most sun intensity; and

10 (B) wind protection during periods when
11 residences are exposed to the most wind inten-
12 sity;

13 (3) are located in a neighborhood with a low
14 percentage of tree canopy cover;

15 (4) are located in a neighborhood with a high
16 percentage of senior citizens or children;

17 (5) are located in an area where the average
18 annual income is below the regional median;

19 (6) will collaboratively engage community mem-
20 bers to be affected by the tree planting; and

21 (7) will employ local residents as a substantial
22 percentage of the workforce of the covered project,
23 with a focus on local residents who are unemployed
24 or underemployed.

1 (e) TREE PLANTING GOALS.—Subject to the avail-
2 ability of appropriations, the Secretary shall, to the max-
3 imum extent practicable, award grants under the Program
4 in a manner that facilitates the planting of at least
5 300,000 trees each year.

6 (f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
7 of a covered project assisted by a grant awarded under
8 the Program shall be 90 percent.

9 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program,
11 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

12 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered
14 project” means a tree planting project carried out to
15 reduce residential energy consumption.

16 (2) ELIGIBLE COST.—The term “eligible cost”
17 means, with respect to a covered project—

18 (A) the cost of carrying out the project, in-
19 cluding—

20 (i) planning and design activities;

21 (ii) establishing nurseries to supply
22 trees;

23 (iii) purchasing trees; and

24 (iv) preparing sites and planting trees;

1 (B) the cost of maintaining and monitoring
2 planted trees for a period of not more than 3
3 years;

4 (C) the cost of training activities; and

5 (D) any other cost determined appropriate
6 by the Secretary.

7 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
8 ty” means each of the following:

9 (A) A State government entity.

10 (B) A local government entity.

11 (C) An Indian Tribe.

12 (D) A nonprofit organization.

13 (E) A retail power provider.

14 (4) ENERGY BURDEN.—The term “energy bur-
15 den” means the percentage of household income
16 spent on residential energy bills.

17 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
18 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
19 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
20 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

21 (6) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY.—The term
22 “local government entity” means any municipal gov-
23 ernment or county government entity with jurisdic-
24 tion over local land use decisions.

1 (7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
2 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-
3 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
4 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section
5 501(a) of such Code.

6 (8) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
7 the program established under subsection (a).

8 (9) RETAIL POWER PROVIDER.—The term “re-
9 tail power provider” means any entity authorized
10 under State or Federal law to generate, distribute,
11 or provide retail electricity, natural gas, or fuel oil
12 service.

13 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
14 means the Secretary of Energy.

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