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## **“Energized” to Help Develop Clean Alternatives – Ben Franklin Technology Partners Invests in “Home-Grown Solutions”**

**STATE COLLEGE, PA** - Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern Pennsylvania (BFTP/CNP), using funding that was approved by the state in last year’s creation of an Alternative Energy Development Program (AEDP), is investing in research conducted in universities and technology-based companies attempting to develop clean, alternative energy.

The Governor’s AEDP program is meant to incent collaboration among the private sector, academia, and government to reduce dependence on foreign fuels and expand clean/alternative energy technology. The region’s robust system of higher education plays a major role in Ben Franklin’s investment strategy for this year. University-based institutions and other non-profits engaged in energy research - as well as for-profit companies - have the opportunity to seek funding from Ben Franklin for support of their research efforts and to help speed near-term commercialization of their results.

This month, the Ben Franklin Board of Directors approved an overall investment of nearly \$750,000 for eight translational research projects soon to be underway at three Pennsylvania Universities – Penn State, Gannon, and Clarion - and two company projects. Terra Green Energy LLC, located in Smethport, Pennsylvania, is developing a biomass pretreatment technology known as torrefaction. For more information on the company, contact [tcauser@terragreenenergy.com](mailto:tcauser@terragreenenergy.com). GreenTek Building Solutions LLC ([www.greentekbuildingsolutions.com](http://www.greentekbuildingsolutions.com)) will begin marketing its patent-pending wall systems and insulated ceilings and flooring.

The research to be conducted at the three universities involves the gasification of glycerin, use of electrolytes in fuel cells, transforming biomass to liquid fuel, developing high surface area heat exchangers, storage of solar heating, new forms of compost, and several projects that surround converting high value crops into viable forms of fuel. For information on the research projects, contact Brian Krier at [dbk131@psu.edu](mailto:dbk131@psu.edu).

Stephen Brawley, President/CEO of Ben Franklin commented, “This year, our focus is on funding commercially viable energy research that will result in new technologies – developments that will ultimately impact the production and consumption of energy not only in Pennsylvania, but in the nation as a whole. “Home grown solutions” such as those that focus on alternate uses for our high-value crops are exciting for many reasons, but largely because harmful pollutants are not a by-product. The footprint served by our Center is largely rural, and it’s this regional asset that may turn out to be a very valuable natural resource in the production of energy.” For more information on Ben Franklin and its application procedure, see [www.cnp.benfranklin.org](http://www.cnp.benfranklin.org)

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