



5 winning strategies for maximizing the impact of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) funding

Top recommendations from the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Institute for Market Transformation

#1 Set yourself up for long-term success with a comprehensive plan.

Does your city or town have a comprehensive [climate change plan](#)? Does the plan have greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and identify projects that prioritize GHG reduction? Does the plan include “systemic” approaches and solutions – including local government policies, agreements with utilities, and business GHG reduction benchmarks?

DOE specifically will want to see that you’ve got the energy efficiency and conservation plan basics covered and are positioned for long-term success – so consider using [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program \(EECBG\)](#) funds to [upgrade or perform](#) initial comprehensive climate change plans that incorporate renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, and resiliency components.

#2 Layer funding to build progress against your energy efficiency and climate agenda.

Once you’ve got a plan in place, leverage EECBG to [advance your city’s or town’s energy and climate agenda](#). Don’t just rely on EECBG dollars to achieve your goals. Find ways to supplement EECBG with funding through BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act – like the clean energy rebate for households, tax credits for businesses, programs for non-profits, and electric vehicle tax credits – to help meet your benchmarks. When layered together, these federal programs will help you make strides in achieving your goals and delivering results.

#3 Boost participation in your climate change agenda – and unleash the benefits to your community.

Your climate goals must have community buy-in – so use EECBG and other federal programs to engage residents, boost participation, and [unlock the massive benefits](#) to your community. Working with frontline communities can highlight priorities such as accelerating large scale or community-based renewable energy projects and programs to [improve performance and reduce energy burden](#) – especially those that benefit low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. This could include supporting micro-grid projects, solar farms on public lands, and infrastructure for off-shore wind farms – all things that will benefit your city or town.

#4 Leverage potential philanthropic partnership to support your work.

With the devastating effects of recent droughts, floods, and intense storms – many of which are caused by global warming – a lot of [public, private, and community-based foundations](#) are ready to supplement EECBG funds to hire staff or consultants to advance climate change planning and projects. Start talking to [potential philanthropic partners](#) NOW about the support they can offer to take full advantage of BIL and IRA programs at the community level.

#5 Build public momentum.

When all is said and done, EECBG funding in its first year isn’t a lot of money, so cities and towns will need to think strategically about how to spend these dollars to create systemic change and leverage the impact – whether it’s building internal capacity or [developing projects with high return on investment](#) and visibility to attract greater investment down the road.

Overall, one of your main goals with EECBG should be to [create public momentum](#) for local climate change commitments – this will benefit you, your town, and our planet in the long term. Additionally, use this historic opportunity to adopt [clean technology](#) within your government operations – and demonstrate how this can be a responsible use of taxpayer resources AND have a strong return on investment.