

Local Infrastructure Hub Grant Application Bootcamps

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The Local Infrastructure Hub is a national program designed to connect cities and towns with the resources and expert advice they need to access federal infrastructure funding in order to drive local progress, improve communities, and deliver results for residents.

Agency: Department of Energy-
Office of Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy

Category: Clean Energy and Power

Total IIJA Funding:

\$550 million total

Available Funding: \$374M in
Formula Funding (Minimum
allocation of \$75,000)

Eligible Applicants: DOE has
released a list of cities eligible to
receive formula funds through
EECBG. This [list](#) includes cities with
the following characteristics:

- Cities and towns with a population of at least 35,000;
- The ten largest cities in each state.

Match Requirements: TBD

Key Dates:

- [Formula allocations](#) under the Notice of Intent were published in November 2022.
- Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected to be released in January 2023.

Technical Assistance:

- Review previously funded [projects](#)
- Review the US Conference of Mayors [survey](#) of 204 cities use of EECBG funds.

Additional information can be found on the [EECBG overview website](#).

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Overview

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 appropriated \$550 million to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. EECBG assists local governments, states, territories, and Tribes in developing and implementing strategies to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. Examples of how the prior funding under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was used include:

- developing and implementing climate action plans for the municipal, residential, commercial and transportation sectors,
- facility energy audits and renewable energy opportunity analysis,
- policy development to encourage energy efficient land use and development,
- municipal facility energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installations,
- programs for residential and commercial energy efficiency retrofits,
- off grid power for critical facilities, and demonstration projects: like cool roofs and community solar.

Key Funding Criteria

Formula applicants must submit an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan to receive their allocation. Key funding criteria includes strategies that will meet the EECBG priorities, cost-effectively reduce demand, conserve energy, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The primary measures of success in 2009 included the number of jobs created or retained, energy saved and/or renewable energy generated, and greenhouse gas reduced. For example, EECBG produced \$5.2 billion of total cumulative savings on energy bills, 70% of which were realized by residential consumers, and avoided avoided 25.7 million metric tons of carbon equivalent due to energy savings and renewable generation.¹

Key Preparatory Activities:

- Collect at least 12 months of municipal energy data per facility/fleet
- Gather gross data for commercial, residential and transport sectors
- Review any existing climate action plans (local, regional, state)
- Review existing energy audits or plan to conduct one
- Consult with your community and begin scoping opportunities
- Look at effective practices from other communities
- Explore opportunities to layer efficiency into facilities maintenance, repair, and replacement; capital improvement plans; land use and transportation planning; development policy; procurement
- Plan to incorporate state and utility incentives

Additional information can be found on the [EECBG overview website](#).

Opportunities for Climate and Racial Wealth Equity

With EECBG funds, local and state governments can scope and implement energy efficiency policies and reforms. By engaging communities, particularly disadvantaged communities, in an equitable manner, governments can help households save on energy costs, enhance neighborhood resilience, and mitigate climate-related threats, such as extreme heat or grid failures.

For example, many people of color live in older housing and in areas not well served by multimodal transportation options. Older housing is usually less energy efficient, resulting in a higher household energy cost burden. EECBG can advance energy equity by making homes and communities more energy efficient. In turn, such actions can reduce fossil fuel use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support local economies and resiliency, and support national economic security.

Eligible Activities

The following is a non-exhaustive summary of eligible activities, based on [DOE's 2022 information](#):

- Developing and implementing an energy efficiency conservation strategy
- Conducting residential and commercial building energy audits
- Establishing financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements
- Replacing traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient lighting technologies
- Financing energy efficiency, renewable energy and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure), capital investments, projects and programs for leveraging of additional public and private sector funds