



Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program Application For Funding

Program Overview

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER), through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), is making available formula funding to municipalities across the State. These funds are being made available to support the reduction of fossil fuel emissions, reduction of total energy use in communities, improve efficiency of facilities, and contribute to the growth of the clean energy economy. Every municipality is eligible to receive funding through the EECBG program. The amount of funds each community is eligible to receive was determined by a formula using federal guidelines and exact amounts can be viewed on the OER website. Note that the ten (10) communities receiving Direct Pay awards will be getting their EECBG allocation directly from DOE, NOT OER, and need not complete this application to receive those funds.

Through this application, OER will be evaluating project proposals from municipalities to distribute this federal EECBG funding to ensure alignment and compliance with the requirements outlined herein. In addition, OER will be evaluating the suitability of the proposed project(s) for additional funding made available through OER and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds, should the applicant request those additional funds. Distribution of RGGI funds is at OER's sole discretion and submission of an application for additional RGGI funding for a project does not guarantee award. Additional RGGI funds are available on a first come, first served basis.

Project eligibility criteria, distribution of funds, and reporting requirements are detailed in full in this application. Please ensure you have read all the guidelines and requirements outlined in this application and proposed project(s) meet all stated requirements prior to submission of your application.

Eligibility

The twenty-nine (29) Rhode Island cities and towns not receiving Direct Pay awards, as noted in the allocation document, are eligible to receive federal formula funds through OER and the EECBG Formula Grant Program and should complete this application.

The ten (10) Rhode Island cities and towns receiving Direct Pay awards, as noted in the allocation document, are NOT eligible to receive federal formula funds through OER and the EECBG Formula Grant Program. These communities are eligible for additional RGGI funds to support their Direct Pay project(s), however, and if desired should complete the RGGI funding portion of this application.

Application Process

- A municipality must submit a completed program application (this form).

- Municipalities can opt to partner together on a single project to braid their respective EECBG funds together. If partnering, one community will be the lead applicant and submit a single application to OER, listing all other partner communities.
- Each application will be reviewed for eligibility and other criteria by OER staff. OER reserves the right to request additional information directly from the applicant prior to making its final award determination.
- Once approved, OER will notify the applicant electronically or in writing.
- Upon approval, OER will provide the municipality with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will describe the financial commitment and terms of cooperation between the parties.
- Once a project is approved and funded by OER, the municipality has up to two (2) years to complete the awarded project, inclusive of all invoicing, reporting, and other required paperwork.
- Federal funding offered through this program is made through the EECBG Program, as funded by the IJA, and must be in compliance with all rules and regulations of that program and as outlined herein. Any additional, non-federal funding awarded to a project through this program is RGGI funding provided by OER and projects must adhere to all the rules and regulations of that program and as outlined herein. RGGI awards are made at OER's sole discretion and on a first-come, first-served basis and are contingent on the availability of funds. Submission of an application for RGGI funds does not guarantee award and not all projects eligible for federal funds can or will be supported with additional RGGI funds.

Project Eligibility

The following categories of project(s) are eligible to be supported using federal and/or RGGI funds under the EECBG grant program. While examples of activities, project types, or other investments may be listed below these are not exhaustive and items other than what is specifically listed below may be eligible for funding. Questions about project eligibility can be posed to the OER team.

1. Energy Planning, Management, and Capacity Building

Funding under this category can be used to help a municipality build capacity and better understand its energy usage and potential reduction opportunities. Examples of allowable project types under this category could include, but are not limited to:

- Development of an energy reduction plan for the community
- Identifying energy usage baselines and developing energy reduction goals
- Creation of a strategy and implementation plan to achieve energy reduction goals
- The hiring of a contractor or consultant to support the municipality in energy planning, development, and/or implementation of energy reduction projects.

2. Energy Efficiency Retrofits

Funding under this category can be used to help a municipality implement specific energy efficiency and/or energy reduction projects and/or install specific energy saving equipment. Examples of allowable project types under this category could include, but are not limited to:

- LED lighting or streetlighting upgrades
- Building automation systems (BAS) / Energy management system (EMS)

- Building weatherization (insulation, air sealing, duct sealing)
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Heat pump hot water heaters

Reporting Requirements

Projects funded under the EECBG program using federal and/or RGGI funds are required to meet certain performance, labor, and other reporting requirements as a condition of funding. Those requirements are outlined below for applicants and any questions about applicability or compliance can be addressed to OER staff directly. Much of this reporting will be done during and/or after the implementation of the proposed work and may not need to be included in the application itself.

- Davis-Bacon Act – Prevailing Wage

All laborers and mechanics employed by the applicant, subrecipients, contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work funded in whole or in part under this grant program shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act” (DBA).

By accepting an award, the Applicant is acknowledging the DBA requirements above, and confirming that the laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work on projects funded in whole or in part by awards made as a result of this award are paid or will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code (Davis-Bacon Act).

Moreover, applicants agree to provide to OER the following documentation from their vendors, if applicable, for the awarded projects to ensure compliance with DBA:

- Certified weekly payrolls submitted by all subcontractors and subrecipients
- Energy and Carbon Savings Calculations

Award recipients will be asked to provide certain data relating to the cost, energy savings, and carbon reductions that may result from the successful implementation and completion of the proposed project(s). This data can be provided to OER during the application or project implementation phase, whenever is most convenient for the applicant, and not all project types will have metrics in each of the below categories to report on.

Metrics to report on: Total Project Cost; estimated annual and lifetime MWh saved; estimated annual and lifetime avoided oil consumption; estimated annual and lifetime energy bill savings (in dollars); annual and lifetime CO2 emissions avoided.

- Justice40 reporting

Additionally, the EECBG program is covered by the Federal Justice40 initiative. Justice40 directs that at least 40% of the overall benefits realized from Covered Programs flow to “disadvantaged communities.” Disadvantaged Communities are defined and identified by the White House Council of Environmental Quality’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), which can be located at

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>. Communities are welcome to reach out to OER with any questions regarding these reporting requirements.

Recipients will be asked to track the following items, if applicable, for the proposed project(s) or in the disadvantaged communities that may benefit from the implementation of the proposed project(s):

Metrics to report on: Total Project Cost; estimated annual and lifetime MWh saved; estimated annual and lifetime avoided oil consumption; estimated annual and lifetime energy bill savings (in dollars); annual and lifetime CO2 emissions avoided; % of contracts awarded to MBE/WBE vendors.

Program Contact Information

George Sfinarolakis, George.Sfinarolakis@energy.ri.gov

Nathan Cleveland, Nathan.Cleveland@energy.ri.gov

Terri Brooks, Terri.Brooks@energy.ri.gov



State of Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
 1 Capitol Hill, 4th Floor, Providence, RI 02908
<https://www.energy.ri.gov>

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Application for EECBG Program – Part 1
 Federal Formula Funds

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of Municipality:	
Primary Business Address:	
Name of Authorized Representative:	
Title:	
Email:	
Phone Number:	

PROJECT DETAILS	
Funding Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Planning, Management, and Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency Retrofits
Partnering with other communities:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
If Yes to above, please list partner(s):	
Electric Account Number(s) (for project facility/locations):	
Natural Gas Account Number (for project facility/locations):	
Square Footage of Building(s), if applicable:	

Briefly describe the proposed project(s). In your description, please include details about what the project is, the anticipated timeline for completion, what benefits the municipality expects to receive from completion of this work, how this work supports and/or advances the community's energy goals, and if the project is located in a defined Disadvantaged Community:

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that the information contained in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorized to enter into agreements on behalf of my city/town. Further, I agree to comply with the rules, regulations, and reporting requirements contained herein as a condition of receiving these funds and will submit any reporting materials requested by OER in service of this grant award in a complete and timely manner.

Authorized Representative Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



State of Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
1 Capitol Hill, 4th Floor, Providence, RI 02908
<https://www.energy.ri.gov>

LEAD BY EXAMPLE
Application for EECBG Program – Part 2
Supplemental RGGI Funds

This application is to request additional project funding over and above the federal formula allocation. The maximum amount of additional funds available to any individual municipality is \$100,000.00. Any additional, non-federal funding awarded to a project through this program is RGGI funding provided by OER. RGGI awards, including partial funding awards, are made at OER’s sole discretion and on a first-come, first-served basis and are contingent on the availability of funds. Submission of an application for RGGI funds does not guarantee award and not all projects eligible for federal funds can or will be supported with additional RGGI funds.

Municipalities receiving a Direct Pay EECBG award from the federal government are eligible to apply for additional RGGI funds to support those projects and should complete the application below in full.

Municipalities awarded EECBG formula funds directly through OER are eligible to apply for additional RGGI funds to support those projects and need only fill out the first two questions below.

Amount of RGGI funding requested:	\$
Project Information Provided in Part 1	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
If answering NO to above, please complete application below	

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of Municipality:	
Primary Business Address:	
Name of Authorized Representative:	
Title:	
Email:	
Phone Number:	
Partner Communities (if any)	

PROJECT DETAILS	
Funding Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Planning, Management, and Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency Retrofits
Partnering with other communities:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
If Yes to above, please list partner(s):	
Electric Account Number(s) (for project facility/location):	
Natural Gas Account Number (for project facility/location):	
Square Footage of Building(s), if applicable:	

Briefly describe the proposed project(s). In your description, please include details about what the project is, the anticipated timeline for completion, what benefits the municipality expects to receive from completion of this work, how this work supports and/or advances the community's energy goals, and if the project is located in a defined Disadvantaged Community:

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that the information contained in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorized to enter into agreements on behalf of my city/town. Further, I agree to comply with the rules, regulations, and reporting requirements contained herein as a condition of receiving these funds and will submit any reporting materials requested by OER in service of this grant award in a complete and timely manner.

Authorized Representative Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____