

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) appropriated \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The Obama administration recently announced that \$2.7 billion of this amount would be made available to states, US territories, local governments, and tribal governments to assist in implementing strategies to:

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions
- Reduce total energy use
- Improve energy efficiency in all sectors
- Spur economic growth and create or retain jobs

The Program is administered by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible to apply directly to the DOE for EECBG funds (“direct formula grants”).

- The State Energy Office of each state
- Local governments, including cities, towns, and villages with a population of at least 35,000 (or one of the 10 most populated cities in the state)
- Counties with a population of at least 200,000 (or one of the 10 most populated counties in the State)

A list of counties and local governments by state, and the funding amounts they have been allocated, can be found on our [website](#).

For more information, visit the [DOE EECBG website](#). **Applications were due by 8 PM Eastern Time on June 25, 2009. Late applications will be considered if they are submitted by 8 PM Eastern Time on August 10, 2009**

Local governments that do not meet the population criteria to obtain a grant directly are still eligible to obtain program funds through their state. Once approved, the state will have 180 days to implement its sub-grant process and allocate funds to local governments and counties. Recognizing this, small local government units would be wise to communicate now with their State Energy Office regarding any projects they want to implement.

Eligible Project Types

General Categories

EECBG funds are being allocated for the following types of projects:

- Development of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and Technical Consultant Services to assist in the development of such a strategy (required of all entities receiving direct formula grants)
- Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits
- Financial Incentive Programs and mechanisms for energy efficiency improvements such as energy savings performance contracting, on-bill financing, and revolving loan funds
- Grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing Energy Efficiency Retrofits

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities
 - Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs to conserve energy
 - Building Codes and Inspections to promote building energy efficiency
 - Energy Distribution Technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including distributed resources, combined heat and power, and district heating and cooling systems
 - Material Conservation Programs including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency
 - Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases generated by landfills or similar waste-related sources
 - Energy efficient Traffic Signals and Street Lighting
 - Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings
 - Any other appropriate activity that meets the purposes of the program and is approved by DOE
- Direct utilization of landfill gas in boilers, kilns, industrial processes, or heaters on-site or at nearby industrial or municipal facilities
 - Landfill gas-fired combined heat and power projects
- Programs and plans that consider and prioritize energy efficiency, reduce energy usage and promote conservation:
 - Recycling programs, including public outreach and training
 - Solid waste management plans
 - Final disposition of waste studies
 - Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)
 - Projects to improve intermediate or final landfill covers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Feasibility studies to study any of the above

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy

As noted earlier, every entity applying for a direct formula grant is required to submit an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and to implement the strategy to achieve the purposes of the EECBG program. This strategy can be submitted either as part of the application process or within 120 days of submittal, and initial funds can be used to develop and implement the plan. No more than \$250,000 will be distributed under the grant until the strategy is approved by DOE. The DOE has up to 120 days to approve.

The EECBG’s Purpose, Program Principals, and Desired Outcomes should be reviewed carefully, and the written application prepared to address each element specifically.

Eligible Projects in Solid Waste Sector

For the solid waste sector, specific projects that may be eligible include:

- Landfill gas collection and control systems that reduce fugitive greenhouse gas emissions, and particularly those that are part of a voluntary greenhouse gas reduction project or landfill gas to energy project.
- Landfill gas to energy projects:
 - Landfill gas-fired renewable electric generation for net metering or export to the power grid

Registration Process

- i) Step 1: If you do not already have one, request a DUNS Number:
http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/
- ii) Step 2: If you are not already registered, register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) at: <http://www.ccr.gov/>
- iii) Step 3: E-Business Point of Contact must register with FedConnect at:
<http://www.fedconnect.net/>

It can take up to 21 days to complete the DUNS and CCR steps, so if you do not already have these credentials, time is short.

Application Process

Again, information regarding the EECBG program is available on the [DOE EECBG website](#).

Applications are due by 8 PM Eastern Time on June 25, 2009.

Complete application packages and instructions can be obtained either from [FedConnect](#) searching by Reference Number DE-FOA-0000013, or from [Grants.gov](#) by searching for the Keyword EECBG. Applications must be submitted through FedConnect.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review

A six-page questionnaire is provided as a part of the application package for submitting the required NEPA information, to include a description of the project and its effects on land uses, wildlife, cultural resources, air quality, water quality, and solid and hazardous wastes.

Project categories that require the NEPA review process (e.g. reduction and capture of methane) may delay the award process.

Resources

- i) General questions about the EECBG program - 877-337-3463 or eeiec@ee.doe.gov
- ii) Grants.gov Help - 800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov
- iii) Fedconnect Help - 800-889-6665 or support@fedconnect.net
- iv) Application Process Help - Specific questions relating to the application and award process: EECBG@netl.doe.gov
- v) [Questions regarding prevailing wage Davis Bacon Act](#)
- vi) [Public Technology Institute](#) and similar organizations for tips on applying for ARRA grants

How SCS Can Help

We help identify projects and programs that offer real energy savings and/or otherwise reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We help explain the technical and financial aspects of projects and programs as a part of the EECBG application process. And we help implement projects and programs following grant award.

For more information contact:

[Bob Gardner](#), PE, BCEE, Senior Vice President

[Jim Michelsen](#), Project Director

<http://www.scsengineers.com/>

Major Elements of the Application Package

Name of Document	Location of Document	Description
Application for Federal Assistance – SF424	In grants.gov forms package at http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm	General Application
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	In grants.gov forms package	Primary locations where the projects or programs will be performed.
Other Attachments		
Project Activity File	Attachment B1	Include a brief description of each activity the Applicant will undertake. Must submit one worksheet for each project.
SF 424A File – Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs	DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm .	Provide a budget for the total project period/total allocation amount using the “SF 424 A Excel - Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs”
Budget Justification File	Created by Applicant	Justify the costs (e.g., identify key persons and personnel categories and the estimated costs for each; provide a list of equipment and cost of each item; identify subconsultants and the work they will do; describe purpose of and number of days proposed travel and number of travelers; list general categories and amounts of supplies; provide other information to support the budget). Administrative costs should be limited. Applicant must also provide written assurance that prevailing wages will be paid (Davis-Bacon Act).
Subaward Budget File(s) (if applicable)	Created by Applicant	Provide a separate budget and budget justification for each subaward that has an estimated cost greater than 25% of the total allocation or \$1,000,000, whichever is less.
Financial Management Assessment	Attachment B2	Evaluate the viability of the Applicant’s financial management system, signed and certified by the Applicant’s Financial Officer.
EECS Strategy Format (units of local government and Indian Tribes only)	Attachment D	Submit an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS). Local Governments have the option of submitting the EECS with the application or not later than 120 days after the effective date of the award.
Assurances	Created by Applicant	Assurances that the proper authority has applied for funding based on Title V, Subtitle E, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, Sections 541(3)(A) or 541(3)(B) of EISA 2007, Public Law 110-140.
SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)	In grants.gov forms package	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable
NEPA Information NETL F 451.1-1/3-EECBG	Attachment B3	All projects related to reduction and capture of methane receiving financial assistance from DOE must be reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 – 42 U.S.C. Section 4321 et seq. While a review may determine that the projects are excluded from NEPA approval These projects must supply the environmental information contained in NETL F 451.1-1/3-EECBG contained in Attachment B3.