



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Planning Grants

How do these grants relate to EECBG Formula funds?

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG) was originally authorized and signed into federal law on December 19, 2007. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) provides funds for the EECBG program through the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) to units of local and state government, Indian tribes, and territories to develop and implement projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions in their communities.

\$10,645,000 in EECBG formula funds will be awarded to the state. \$6.4 million will be available in a separate program for grants to small cities with fewer than 35,000 and small counties with fewer than 200,000 population (Please see *Preliminary Application Handbook for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program*). The remaining \$4.2 million will be used for three purposes: 1) support the administration of the program; 2) expand the current network of resource conservation managers into more local governments; and 3) provide local governments with energy efficiency and conservation planning assistance and resources.

What are the elements of the statewide Energy Planning Program?

The statewide Energy Planning Program will be available for all cities and counties to do energy efficiency and conservation planning and implementation. The two main components are:

- Growth Management Services will administer energy efficiency and conservation planning grants through a competitive process for all cities and counties, regardless of size and whether they are receiving direct formula funds. The focus of these grants will be on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and dependence on foreign oil through transportation plans and programs. The Department is in the process of developing preliminary application guidelines. Approximately \$770,000 will be available.
- Washington State University (WSU) Extension Energy Program will expand its existing state resource conservation manager program. Approximately \$750,000 will be available. A Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) is a designated individual who supports a local government energy and resource efficiency program. The RCM's sole focus is to bring about reductions in the cost of energy, water, natural gas, fuel oil, refuse disposal and other utilities. This is done through improved use practices, greater attention to utility billings and the installation and use of resource management equipment. (See WSU Extension Energy fact sheet on the RCM program, and <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/rem/>)

Who is eligible to apply for energy efficiency and conservation planning grants?

All cities and counties in the state, regardless of size and whether they received direct EECBG formula funds, will be eligible to apply for energy efficiency and conservation planning grants. A total of approximately \$770,000 will be available for distribution through competitive grants.

What are the eligible activities that can be funded by an energy efficiency and conservation planning grant?

Consistent with federal guidelines for the EECBG program, funding will be available for development and implementation of transportation plans and programs. Cities and counties may develop and implement plans and programs to conserve energy used in transportation, including but not limited to:

1. Employee flex time or telework programs.
2. Development and promotion of comprehensive planning or zoning guidelines or requirements that promote energy efficient development. For example, promoting satellite work centers.

3. Development of non-motorized transportation plans, which may or may not include a "gap analysis" of the existing system.
4. State/local/regional integrated planning activities (i.e. transportation, housing, environmental, energy, land use, designated growth and transportation efficiency centers) with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicles miles traveled.
5. Incentive plans or programs to reduce commutes by single occupancy vehicles.
6. Improvements in operation and system efficiency of the transportation system such as implementation of intelligent transportation system (ITS) strategies.
7. Plans or programs for idle-reduction technologies and/or facilities to conserve energy, reduce harmful air pollutants, and greenhouse gas emissions from freight movement, school buses, transit, or other large vehicles.

What are the timelines for this program?

The Department submitted its application for distribution of grant funds to U.S. DOE on June 22, 2009. Upon approval of the Department's application by U.S. DOE, the Department will issue final application guidelines and notice of competitive application for energy efficiency and conservation planning. The application deadline will be September 1, 2009, or four weeks after DOE approves the state's application and the final notice of application is issued, whichever is later.

What are the Recovery Act requirements for this program?

- Buy American – Use of Iron, Steel and Manufactured Goods
- Davis-Bacon Act wage rates
- Quarterly reporting – metrics for energy savings to be determined
- Environmental and cultural review
- Listing Recovery Act jobs with the Employment Security Department
- Attending Department training on Recovery Act requirements

Who do I contact?

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