

Energy Loan Fund for Public and Nonprofit Projects

OVERVIEW:

The Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Energy is providing low-cost loans to support energy-efficiency improvements in state agencies, public colleges or universities, school districts, local governments and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located within the state of Ohio. This program provides financing for eligible projects that reduce energy usage and associated costs, reduce fossil fuel emissions and/or create or retain jobs.

Loan funds may be awarded to an eligible applicant for a project in the amount not to exceed 90 percent of total eligible project costs (up to \$1 million). Third-party borrowers are allowed as long as the primary beneficiary of the energy efficiency or energy generation project is an eligible entity and the project site is owned by the eligible entity. An agreement between the third party borrower and the eligible entity that describes the roles and responsibilities on managing all aspects of the project during the term of the loan must be provided.

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligible Entities

- State agencies, departments, boards and commissions;
- Local governments;
- Public colleges, universities and community colleges;
- School districts; or
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Eligible Projects:

The loan program will be used on energy efficiency retrofits of existing buildings, but may be used to finance cost efficient and effective distributed energy generation systems. However, energy efficiency potential (based on an energy efficiency audit) of each application must be demonstrated or included when seeking financial assistance through this program. A copy of the energy audit report for each project must be included. An ASHRAE-II audit must be provided or an equivalent that is certified by an engineer/architect duly licensed to practice in the state of Ohio.

Specific activities eligible through this loan program include:

- ***Energy efficiency retrofits (including energy saving performance contracting):*** Energy efficiency retrofits MUST be for existing buildings or facilities adding energy efficient equipment. Eligible activities include – green energy techniques including computer aided modeling of green buildings, insulation, installation of light emitting diodes (LED) lighting, energy efficient lighting technologies, including day-lighting techniques, energy management demand control systems and occupancy sensors, heating, venting and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades, installation of high-efficiency boilers, weather sealing, the purchase and installation of permanently fixed ENERGY STAR appliances, replacement of windows and doors.

Retrofits do not include new construction and expansions of buildings or facilities. For historic structures, it may be necessary for the retrofits to maintain the building's historic character (e.g., replacement of windows and doors with appropriate designs). This will be determined through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

- **Distributed Energy Generation:** Entities may implement distributed energy resource technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including but not limited to:
 - District heating and cooling systems;*
 - Combined heat and power systems (systems sized to boilers appropriate to the buildings in which they are located);*
 - Cogeneration systems;*
 - Energy storage systems;
 - Absorption chillers;*
 - Desiccant humidifiers;*
 - Micro turbines;
 - Biomass systems that include gas generation for internal use or electric generation as byproducts;* and
 - Renewable Energy:* (develop, implement, and install onsite renewable energy technology that generates electricity from renewable resources, including solar, wind, bio-energy, or other non-depletable sources of energy.

*If selected for financial assistance with federal funds, applicants must comply with certain size restrictions on installed technologies and must adhere to federal requirements such as Buy American, Davis-Bacon Act, Historic Preservation, National Environmental Policy Act, and Waste Stream Compliance along with all reporting and monitoring requirements. Details will be provided to those applicants selected for assistance with federal funds.

- **Traffic signals and street lighting:** Entities may use grant funds to replace traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient lighting technologies, including light emitting diodes; and any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency.

Project Restrictions:

Funding **CANNOT** be used:

- For any work related to the construction of a new building, an addition or an expansion project;
- To conduct or purchase equipment for research, development or demonstration of energy efficiency or renewable energy techniques and technologies not commercially available;
- For non-energy-related alteration or upgrades or repair of a building or structure;
- For any casino or other gambling establishment, aquarium, zoo, golf course or swimming pool if federal funds are used;
- To subsidize utility rate demonstrations or state tax credits for energy conservation or renewable energy measures;
- To purchase land, a building or structure or any interest therein; or
- For projects that would require, but have not yet completed environmental impact statements.



MONITORING AND REPORTING

Selected applicants are required to submit project and financial reports on a monthly and/or quarterly basis. Reports submitted before and during the completion of the project will be required on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on the source of funds.

All selected applicants must adhere to regular reporting requirements on their project and submit the following reports on a monthly and/or quarterly basis:

- Progress reports before and during installation that describe the log of activities and work completed during the reporting period, work remaining to be completed, actual project costs, project variances, project successes, and/or project changes which would result in a change of project scope of work or would affect the energy output of the project, and publicity conducted for the project;
- Post-installation reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis for one year after the installation of completion of the project that describe the energy saved and/or energy production from technologies installed and operational, emissions avoided, submission of quarterly utility bills, downtime and/or maintenance issues with the installed equipment, and any publicity conducted for the project;
- Financial data reports with support documentation such as invoices, financial statements, bills, receipts and proof of payments of the actual project expenses incurred;
- If projects are financed with federal funding: verification of payment for Davis-Bacon Act compliance and any other information as required by the U.S. Department of Energy;
- Close out report summarizing the results and outcomes of the project due at the end date of the loan.

Selected applicants must provide access to the site upon 48 hour notice of intent by the Ohio Development Services Agency to visit the job site. Additional requirements may be added to ensure the transparency and accountability of funds.

CHANGES TO ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The Ohio Development Services Agency reserves the right to adjust the dates listed above for whatever reasons it deems appropriate without prior notice. The Ohio Development Services Agency also reserves the right to request additional information to assist in the review process, to reject any and all applications and make no awards under this program, to make fewer and smaller awards than anticipated, or to fund partial projects.