



FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

TOOLKIT

from January 9th, 2025, How to Apply for Ohio Energy Efficiency Grants Workshop
compiled by Nikki Vandivort

ODOD (Development) Office of Energy and Environment (OEE) Programs

- [Energy Efficiency Program for Ohio Communities Audit Support \(EEPOCAS guidelines\)](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Program for Manufacturers/Non-manufacturers – \(EPPM/NM guidelines\)](#)
- [Advanced Energy Fund Grant – \(AEF guidelines\)](#)

The requirements and framework of the EPPM/NM and Advanced Energy are very similar. Text has been **bolded** where the programs differ.

For more information, contact the OEE Energy Section at energy@development.ohio.gov

GLOSSARY

AEF: Advanced Energy Fund Grant

ASHRAE: American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers

BABA: Build America, Buy America (a federal law)

BIL: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (a.k.a. the IJA)

Ccf: The volume of 100 cubic feet

[CEJST](#): Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

CO₂: Carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas)

DACs: Disadvantaged Communities (a federal definition to identify priority communities)

DOE: Department of Energy

EEM: Energy Efficiency Measure

EEPOCAS: Energy Efficiency Program for Ohio Communities Audit Support

EPPM/NM: Energy Efficiency Program for Manufacturers/Non-manufacturers

FEIN: Federal Employer Identification Number

HVAC: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

IJA: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (a.k.a. the BIL)

kW: Kilowatt (a measure of energy demand – like speed is measured in MPH). [See explanation.](#)

kWh: Kilowatt hour (a measure of total energy usage – like distance travelled in miles). [See explanation.](#)

LED: Light Emitting Diode (an efficient type of lighting)

MMBtu: 1,000,000 British thermal units

MW: Megawatt. 1 megawatt is equivalent to 1,000 kilowatts.

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

ODOD: Ohio Department of Development. Also referred to as “Development”.

OEE: ODOD’s Office of Energy and Environment

OH|ID: Ohio ID, a means of registering with the State of Ohio

O&M: Operations and Maintenance:

SAM.gov: A federal website for registering an entity for a UEI number

SSN: Social Security Number

UEI: Unique Entity Identifier number

[Energy Efficiency Program for Ohio Communities Audit Support \(EEPOCAS\)](#)

[IIJA Energy Efficiency Program for Ohio Communities Audit Support Guidelines \(7/1/23\)](#)

Total Funding Amount: \$1M used to provide energy audits out of \$13.3M. One-time pot of funds. ODOD-approved auditors will confirm if they have funding available in this pot of funds.

Application Period: Funding available until it runs out

Purpose: Help Ohio's local gov'ts and businesses recognize energy savings potential in their facilities

Eligible Applicants:

- Local Government Facilities
- Public Institution Facilities (non-profit hospitals, public schools, education service centers)
- Manufacturing Facilities (small-to-medium-sized manufacturers)
- Non-Manufacturing Facilities (includes small businesses, nonprofits, and houses of worship)
- Industrial Facilities
- Agricultural Facilities

NOT Eligible:

- New construction or expansion of buildings or facilities.

Projects & Project Funding:

- ASHRAE Level II energy audits are the only eligible project for this program
- Max funding per project: \$20,000
- Must be completed by a Development-approved energy auditor.
- Grantees will be subject to site visits by ODOD as needed.
- Grantee shall establish and maintain for at least 3 years records regarding the grant agreement, etc.

Location	Building Size	Cost Match
Not in DACs	Less than 10,000 SF	\$250
Not in DACs	More than 10,000 SF	\$1,000
In DACs (as shown by the DOE Justice Dashboard or CEJST)	Any	Waived

Applications & Auditors:

- No formal application process. Eligible entities work with a Development-approved auditor (find the [list of approved auditors](#) in the dropdown menus on this web page, located under the "What if I've completed an energy audit?" header) and Development to determine feasibility of audit location.
- Once pre-approved, audit work may begin at the location and no other steps will be required.
- The Grantee should have an Ohio Supplier ID (needed for reimbursement). If the Grantee does not currently have one, they are required to register for one at ohiopays.Ohio.gov. Grantees will only be able to receive an award once a valid Ohio Supplier ID matching the FEIN/SSN provided in the application has been obtained and is verified by ODOD. [Help links](#).

Reimbursement Requests

- At the completion of the audit, the eligible entity (Grantee) will be required to submit the ASHRAE Level II energy audit to ODOD as part of a Reimbursement Request. This must be completed within 45 days of audit completion. Grantees may work with ODOD on extensions.

- If the audit is approved, the Grantee will submit a request for reimbursement (may receive help from the auditor). If the audit is rejected, the Grantee and auditor must correct the audit and resubmit for funds.
- Reimbursement Requests must contain:
 - Energy Efficiency Measures (EEM) information:
 - EEM number, description, and price
 - Rebates
 - Annual electricity savings (kWh and cost)
 - Annual gas savings (kWh and cost)
 - Total annual utility savings – calculated for Grantee
 - Amount,
 - MMBtu,
 - % of energy saved
 - Tons of CO₂
 - % of Total Annual Utility Energy Spend Savings w/o O&M
 - Annual O&M savings
 - Total annual savings
 - Simple payback with rebate and O&M
 - Simple payback with rebate and without O&M
 - Simple payback w/o rebate and O&M
 - Totals – parts entered by Grantee, parts calculated
 - Total facility square footage,
 - Total annual electric usage (kWh) – MMBtu
 - Total annual natural gas usage (Ccf) – MMBtu
 - Total MMBtu
 - Total annual electric spend
 - Total annual natural gas spend
 - Total annual utility cost
 - Average amount per kWh
 - Average amount per Ccf
 - Average amount per MMBtu
 - Reimbursement
 - Location audited,
 - County,
 - Job type,
 - Audit date,
 - Requested reimbursement amount,
 - Disadvantaged Community (yes/no),
 - Cost share expended (note if applicable)
 - Energy Audit Study Report
 - Signed/stamped Engineer/Architect Certificate of ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit Report
 - Proof of payment from Grantee to contractor

[Energy Efficiency Program for Manufacturers/Non-manufacturers \(EPM/NM\)](#)

[Ohio Energy Efficiency Program Guidelines \(10/1/2024\)](#)

Total Funding Amount: \$800,000

Application Period: Funding available until it runs out

Purpose: Provide grant funds to Ohio businesses, nonprofits, and public entities to complete energy efficiency retrofits (including distributed energy technologies if done in conjunction with energy efficiency measures) on existing buildings that have received an ASHRAE Level II energy audit.

Eligible Applicants: Applicants must be registered with the Ohio Secretary of State as an entity qualified to do business in the State of Ohio. Applicants must be the property owner or hold a long-term lease with an owner that is also an eligible entity. Applicants must submit an ASHRAE Level II energy audit during the application process. The audit must be less than 2 years old and show a minimum of 15% energy reduction and maximum 15-year payback.

- Manufacturers
- Non-manufacturing commercial businesses
- Nonprofits
- School districts
- Colleges and universities
- Local governments
- Any combination thereof

NOT Eligible:

- Any work related to new construction or expansion of buildings or facilities.
- Research, development, or demonstration projects
- Non-energy-related upgrades or repair of a building or structure
- To subsidize state tax credits for energy conservation or renewable energy measures
- To purchase land, a building, or structure
- For projects that would require, but have not yet completed, environmental impact statements
- **Personnel, consultants, travel, overhead/indirect costs, and non-BABA compliant equipment**

Projects & Project Funding

- **Grant awards are a minimum of \$100,000 up to a maximum of \$200,000**
- **Utilizing matching funds is strongly encouraged but not required.**
- Only expenses incurred after the grant agreement are eligible unless approved by ODOD
- All project components must be new or remanufactured parts with a 1-year+ warranty
- Grantee must meet all applicable permitting and reporting requirements
- Grantee will be subject to site visits by ODOD as needed.
- Grantee shall establish and maintain for at least 3 years records regarding the grant agreement, etc.

Project definition: All eligible work related to the installation and implementation of eligible Energy Efficiency Measures (EEMs) and includes adherence to the Ohio Energy Efficiency program requirements. This includes **energy-saving performance contracting** as well as distributed energy technologies (so long as they are a part of an overall energy efficiency project and not standalone resources).

Qualifying energy efficient property includes, but is not limited to:

- Insulation (building envelope, ductwork, steam/hot water, equipment, etc.) and weather-sealing
- LED lighting or other energy efficient lighting, including daylighting techniques

- Energy management control systems, thermostats, occupancy sensors, and night setback
- HVAC upgrades, including air handler supply air reset
- High-efficiency boilers, chillers, and burners, including variable speed air compressors and chillers
- Electrical panels
- Permanently fixed ENERGY STAR appliances
- Replacement of windows and doors
- Process heating and cooling equipment and systems
- Steam traps
- Waste heat recovery equipment
- Other energy efficient equipment such as pumps, fans, motors, variable frequency drives, high energy efficiency water treatment equipment (when part of a qualified project), ice storage for peak demand reduction, air handling unit economizers, etc.

Distributed energy resource technologies (which may be included in a project but cannot be the sole component(s) of a project) include, but are not limited to:

- District heating and cooling systems*
- Combined heat and power systems (systems sized to thermal loads)*
- Cogeneration systems (systems sized to thermal loads)*
- Energy storage systems (e.g. backup battery systems)
- Absorption chillers*
- Desiccant humidifiers*
- Micro turbines
- Microgrids
- Biomass systems that include gas generation for internal use or electric generation as byproducts*
- Renewable energy (solar, wind, bioenergy, etc.)*
 - Solar electric, wind electric, and solar thermal projects will require completion of additional application materials and compliance with additional requirements.

*Grantees must comply with size restrictions and adhere to federal requirements such as Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act, Davis-Bacon Act, Historic Preservation, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Waste Stream Compliance. Grantees will be provided with details.

Applications:

- Applications require login using an OH|ID, which provides users with secure access to State of Ohio services and programs. [More info here.](#)
- Applicants will need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number (apply as early as possible), which can be obtained on [SAM.gov](#), as well as a Federal Tax ID (FEIN).
- Applications will need to include project information, the Technical Energy Audit Summary Table, selected energy efficiency measures, a budget table, and required documentation. See the program guidelines for a full list of requirements.

Reimbursement Requests: May be submitted as needed, but all requests must be submitted within 45 days of project completion. Documentation needed: technical documentation (zoning/code inspector's approval certificates, if required by jurisdiction), cost of materials, cost of labor, invoice on contractor letterhead, and proof of payment. Grantees must have an Ohio Supplier ID for reimbursement ([see here](#) for OhioPays). See program guidelines for additional details and a full list of requirements.

Advanced Energy Fund Grant

Advanced Energy Fund Grant Program Guidelines and Application Process (6/1/2024)

Total Funding Amount: \$8.5M for fiscal years 2024 and 2025

Application Period: November 18, 2024, through February 17, 2025 (deadline at 4pm)

Purpose: Fund energy efficiency and advanced energy projects for Ohio eligible entities.

Eligible Applicants: Applicants must be registered with the Ohio Secretary of State as an entity qualified to do business in the State of Ohio. Applicants must be the property owner or hold a long-term lease with an owner that is also an eligible entity. Applicants must submit an ASHRAE Level II energy audit during the application process. The audit must be less than 2 years old and show a minimum of 15% energy reduction and maximum 15-year payback.

- Corporations
- LLC's and Limited Partnerships
- Nonprofits
- School Districts
- Colleges & Universities
- Local Government
- Any combination thereof

NOT Eligible:

- Any work related to new construction or expansion of buildings or facilities.
- Research, development, or demonstration projects
- Non-energy-related upgrades or repair of a building or structure
- To subsidize state tax credits for energy conservation or renewable energy measures
- To purchase land, a building, or structure
- For projects that would require, but have not yet completed, environmental impact statements

Projects & Project Funding

- **Grant awards are a minimum of \$250,000 up to a maximum of \$2,500,000**
- **Matching funds will be determined by ODOD based on project scope and funding request**
- Only expenses incurred after the grant agreement are eligible unless approved by ODOD
- All project components must be new or remanufactured parts with a 1-year+ warranty
- Grantee must meet all applicable permitting and reporting requirements
- Grantee will be subject to site visits by ODOD (as needed), 2 outreach activities, and 2 facility tours
- Grantee shall establish and maintain for at least 3 years records regarding the grant agreement, etc.

Project definition: All eligible work related to the installation and implementation of eligible EEMs and includes adherence to the program requirements of the Advanced Energy Fund.

This grant can fund EEMs and retrofits of existing buildings, energy efficiency improvements in manufacturing processes, equipment and systems, and may be used to finance distributed energy generation systems (cannot be the sole component of the project.) Eligible activities include:

- Insulation (building envelope, ductwork, steam/hot water, equipment, etc.) and weather sealing
- LED lighting or other energy efficient lighting, including daylighting techniques
- Energy management control systems, thermostats, occupancy sensors, and night setback
- HVAC upgrades, including air handler supply air reset
- High-efficiency boilers, chillers, and burners, including variable speed air compressors and chillers

- Electrical panels
- Permanently fixed ENERGY STAR appliances
- Replacement of windows and doors
- Process heating and cooling equipment and systems
- Steam traps
- Waste heat recovery equipment
- Other energy efficient equipment such as pumps, fans, motors, variable frequency drives, high energy efficiency water treatment equipment (when part of a qualified project), ice storage for peak demand reduction, air handling unit economizers, etc.

Distributed energy resource technologies (which may be included in a project but cannot be the sole component(s) of a project) include, but are not limited to:

- District heating and cooling systems*
- Combined heat and power systems (systems sized to thermal loads)*
- Cogeneration systems (systems sized to thermal loads)*
- Energy storage systems (e.g. backup battery systems)
- Absorption chillers*
- Desiccant humidifiers*
- Micro turbines
- Microgrids
- Biomass systems that include gas generation for internal use or electric generation as byproducts*
- Renewable energy (solar, wind, bioenergy, etc.)*
 - Solar electric, wind electric, and solar thermal projects will require completion of additional application materials and compliance with additional requirements.

*Grantees must comply with size restrictions and adhere to federal requirements such as Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act, Davis-Bacon Act, Historic Preservation, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Waste Stream Compliance. Grantees will be provided with details.

Applicants who completed energy efficiency upgrades may request funding solely for a distributed energy project if the energy audit confirms the building has been made as energy efficient as reasonably possible. This grant may not be used for stand-alone Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

Grant funds may also replace traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient options like LEDs.

Applications:

- Applications require login using an OH|ID, which provides users with secure access to State of Ohio services and programs. [More info here.](#)
- Applicants will need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number (apply as early as possible), which can be obtained on [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), as well as a Federal Tax ID (FEIN).
- Applications will need to include project information, the Technical Energy Audit Summary Table, selected energy efficiency measures, a budget table, and required documentation. See the program guidelines for a full list of requirements.

Reimbursement Requests: May be submitted as needed, but all requests must be submitted within 45 days of project completion. Documentation needed: technical documentation (zoning/code/**electrical** inspector's approval certificates, if required by jurisdiction; **NABCEP/OCILB approval certificate if solar is installed**), cost of materials, cost of labor, invoice on contractor letterhead, and proof of payment. Grantees must have an Ohio Supplier ID for reimbursement ([see here](#) for OhioPays). See program guidelines for additional details and a full list of requirements.

- [Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-grantmaking-program) for EPA Region 5 (our region):
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-grantmaking-program>
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- These organizations are able to assist with a variety of needs!
 - The Great Lakes Environmental Justice TCTAC ([Great Lakes TCTAC](#)):
 - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-thriving-communities-grantmakers-subgrants>
 -
 - “provides information on current federal funding opportunities, helps to navigate which opportunities match your needs, and offers guidance throughout the application process. Sometimes, we can offer additional support by partnering with community organizations on concept development and planning, engineering consultation, GIS mapping, or post-award grant management. [Learn more about our services.](#)”
 - Blacks In Green Justice TCTAC ([BIG Justice TCTAC](#)): “aims to empower communities and help them advance environmental justice by providing tools and resources to address environmental challenges. The center is an important resource for communities to build capacity, identify solutions, obtain relevant training, and foster collaboration to address environmental injustices.” They have less information on their website, but do have some useful guidance information in [Resources](#) as well as an [Intake Form](#) if you are seeking technical assistance. Also, just noticed under Partners at the bottom of their main webpage that Green Umbrella is listed, so you might reach out to your GU contacts to see if they know what sorts of technical assistance the BIG Justice TCTAC can provide.
 - Environmental Protection Network: Although not selected as a TCTAC, EPN has been involved in tracking a lot of the IRA resources. The Great Lakes TCTAC lists a couple of helpful EPN trainings/office hours coming up:
 - EPN’s Budget Office Hours – Every Other Monday: <https://greatlakestctac.umn.edu/node/696>
 - EPN Sam.gov Registration Office Hours – Every Other Wednesday: <https://greatlakestctac.umn.edu/node/366>
- [EJ Thriving Communities Grantmakers Subgrants](#) for EPA Region 5 ([Great Lakes TCGM Program](#))
 - Region 5 has \$40M to distribute to organizations working in and for underserved communities in the Great Lakes region. “The program’s goal is to lift up community-led innovation and strengthen community-based groups by breaking down barriers to federal funding. All grants will be given to environmental and public health efforts in underserved communities as defined by the EPA...Eligible projects must focus their budget, efforts, and benefits in one or more areas considered disadvantaged.”
 - I believe that FCGG and any of the houses of worship could be considered eligible applicants based on the eligible applicant category “Community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations” being called out as different from another eligible applicant category “philanthropic and civic organizations with 501(c)(3) nonprofit nonprofit status”.
 - They aim to distribute 45% of funds to urban communities, making up to 206 grants, with 83 in this first coming year. **APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 31, 2025 will be considered in the first round of reviews.**
 - [There are 3 tiers, described on this page.](#)
- The City will be doing another round or two of the [Seeds of Change grant](#) in 2025