

Vermont Department of Public Service

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

Questions and Answers

Update: June 4, 2024

Q1: In determining a town's energy burden, are you using the 2019 Energy Burden report, or the 2023 Energy Burden report?

A1: Applicants are instructed to use the 2023 Energy Burden Report. See RFP page 14 footnote 10 for the link to the report.

Q2: May grant funds be used toward the assessment, procurement, and installation of solar panels and compatible heating system on/ for municipal buildings?

A2: Grant funds can be used for assessments but cannot be used for the procurement or installation of solar panels or heating systems.

Q3: A Town is interested in learning more about the EECBG grant Category 7: Conservation of Transportation Energy

Presently the Water/ Wastewater Department has one old and one new pick-up truck which are both fossil fuel.

These vehicles are used daily as a source of transportation to all projects & tasks. The vehicles are low mileage and replaced every 10 to 12 years. As we look to decrease energy consumption, we would like to switch the small fleet to electric vehicles where appropriate. We are not classified as a disadvantaged community (however we hear residents feel tax stressed and stretched).

Would the purchase of an electric pick-up truck for the town's water/wastewater department be appropriate for this grant?

A3: Under Category 7: Conservation of Transportation Energy, an example of eligible activities includes improvement of energy efficiency of government vehicle fleets through the purchase of electric, hybrid, or alternative fuel vehicles. Therefore, switching to an electric pick-up truck would be an eligible use of EECBG funds.

Regarding not being classified as a disadvantaged community, communities are comprised of citizens across a range of incomes. PSD will review all applications and strive to meet the requirements for distributing the EECBG resources in accordance with guidance provided by US DOE for disadvantaged communities.

Q4: Looking at the Transportation category 7 as our best fit. We have some action in motion for almost all of bullet points listed, but not enough funding to do it all. Within the example

transportation activities, do you have any particular top priorities? In comparing the value-add between one EV truck, ten e-bikes, or a paths plan, how do you prioritize?

A4: The Department has not defined any priorities within the activities. Per the selection criteria listed in the RFP, programs/activities will be scored based on the following:

Program Characteristics

- Ability to start immediately and complete program within a 2-year period
- Potential for public visibility and/or plan for promoting the project
- Potential for annual energy generation, energy/fuel savings, and contribution to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
- Degree to which proposed activities will help the municipality reduce energy costs and burdens for disadvantaged community members
- Degree to which proposed activities will provide economic and environmental benefits
- Potential number of jobs retained or created

PSD encourages applicants to identify their own municipal priorities, and to identify in their applications how the selected projects will address these priorities.