



Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

Energy Innovation Grantee Corner

- The Report Template for Energy Innovation Grant Recipients (EIGP) was recently updated to include the ability to request Time Extensions and Amendments to the original grant agreement. This updated document can be found on the EIGP webpage under “Resources for EIGP Grant Recipients”
- The next Quarterly Report for EIGP Recipients for the 2020 and 2021 project years is due **July 15**. Please use the [report template](#) to detail your project progress between April 1st and June 30th. Upload it to the Electronic Records Filing System (ERF) under the award year Docket (9709-FG-2020 or 9709-FG-2021).

[Energy Innovation Grant Program webpage](#)

Focus on Energy

- The 2022 Focus on Energy Evaluation Report is now available on the website. The Program’s independent evaluator reviews Focus on Energy for its impact on energy savings, cost-effectiveness and customer satisfaction. The *Focus on Energy Quadrennial Achievement Report* highlights Focus’ achievements over the last four years.
- According to the evaluation, Focus on Energy delivered \$4.55 in benefits to Wisconsin residents and businesses for every \$1 dollar spent, resulting in economic benefits, reduced energy costs, and reduced emissions. In addition, the overall customer satisfaction rating for 2022 was 9.5 out of a 10-point scale.

[Evaluation Reports - Focus on Energy](#)

Wisconsin Refueling Readiness 2023 Grant Program

- The OEI will be seeking applications for the fourth round of Wisconsin’s Refueling Readiness grant program. The program is designed to address the concern of fueling emergency vehicles during a natural or man-made disaster. The priority of this round is to expand the network of fueling points of distribution throughout the state so that at least one fueling station in each county is wired for a generator to restore power to the fueling area as quickly as possible.

- Eligible costs include transfer switch, tap box, and necessary wiring and appurtenances in order to be able to accept an emergency electrical generator on site.

Eligible Applicants

- Municipally or Native American Tribal Community-owned highway shops,
- Privately, Municipally, and Tribally-owned convenience stores with both unleaded and diesel fuel availability,
- Privately-owned bulk petroleum storage facilities
- All applicants must currently or are willing to include the facility in the county/tribal/local government's emergency plan

Grant Amounts

- Activity 1: Up to \$10,000 for the installation of a tap switch for a typical highway shop or convenience store.
- Activity 2: Up to \$25,000 for Bulk Storage Facilities for the installation of switch gear to enable a bulk storage facility to purchase or rent a generator to provide back-up power to the facility.

Timeline

- Expected to be open **July 2023**
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis, no later than **1:30 pm on December 1, 2023**
- Once you have received a grant agreement from PSC, you have **6 months** to complete the project

How to Apply

- Review full grant details and eligibility criteria in the link below.

[Refueling Readiness Webpage](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture: Inflation Reduction Act Funding

- Recently the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced two new programs to be funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). These two programs are: Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) program and Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program.
- The **PACE program** will focus on renewable power generation from wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower, or biomass as well as storage for or with renewable energy. Applications will be processed on a rolling basis. Eligible Entities include:
 - Corporations, states, and territories, along with their subdivisions and agencies
 - Municipalities
 - Utility districts
 - Cooperatives
 - Nonprofits
 - Indian Tribes
 - Alaska Native, regional, or village corporations
 - Limited Liability Companies or other for-profit entities organized under the laws of any U.S. state or territory.
- Letters of Interest may be submitted between **June 30 through September 29, 2023**.
- The **New ERA program** will focus on the purchasing of clean energy systems, renewable enabling technologies, zero-emissions technologies, and the transmission and renewable generation energy efficiency measures. Applications will be competitively evaluated and grants will be awarded to projects that achieve the greatest greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. Eligible Entities are limited to rural electric cooperatives including:
 - Existing or former USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) borrowers
 - Borrowers of the former Rural Electrification Administration
 - Rural electric cooperatives that serve predominantly rural areas

- Wholly or jointly owned subsidiaries of rural electric cooperatives
- Letters of interest may be submitted between **July 31 through August 31, 2023**.
- The USDA will be holding numerous informational webinars for both the PACE and New ERA programs. Be sure to visit the webinar link below to learn more and to register.

USDA Rural
Development -
IRA

PACE and New
ERA Updates

USDA
Webinars
webpage

RENEW America's Nonprofits

- The Department of Energy (DOE) recently issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Renew America's Nonprofits program.
- This FOA seeks applications that address energy efficiency upgrades, enabling scalable impact, create innovative partnerships, and leverage funding and economies of scale.
 - Activities funded under this FOA support investing in projects that enable innovative and sustaining partnership models, leverage funding and economies of scale, and focus on disadvantaged communities and energy communities.
- The link to the Application and the Informational Webinars can be found at the FOA link below.

Funding Opportunity
Announcement

Renew America's Nonprofits |
Department of Energy

Funding Opportunity Announcement

Inflation Reduction Act Direct Pay Guidance

- For the first time tax-exempt and government entities will be able to receive payments equal to the full value of tax credits for building qualifying clean energy projects.
- Eligible Entities include:
 - States, U.S. Territories, Political Subdivisions (cities, counties, etc), Agencies and instrumentalities of state, local, or territorial governments (water districts, school districts, economic development agencies, and certain public universities and hospitals)
 - Tribal and Native Entities including Federally recognized Tribal governments, their subdivisions, and their agencies.
 - Rural Energy Cooperatives including any corporation operating on a cooperative basis that works to provide electricity to rural communities.
 - Other Tax-Exempt Entities including 501(c)(3) organizations, religious or apostolic 501(d) organizations, and all other organizations exempt under section 501(a) of the tax code.
- Visit the site below to learn more about how to apply for Direct Pay.

Inflation Reduction Act - Direct Pay Details

Environmental Protection Agency Clean School Bus Program Grants

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced its Notice of Funding Opportunity for its competitive Clean School Bus (CSB) grant program is now open.
- This grant program is awarding approximately \$400 million to fund the replacement of existing school buses with clean, zero-emission school buses.
- Applications are due to the EPA no later than **Tuesday, August 22, 2023 by 11:59 pm (ET) (10:59pm CT)** to be considered for funding.

[EPA Clean School Bus Program Grants webpage](#)

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant

- Reminder that the DOE extended the Pre-Award Information sheet deadline to **July 31, 2023**. Formula-eligible entities are encouraged to submit as soon as possible to begin the application process.

[EECBG Grant Program Webpage](#)

State of Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan

- The Office of Sustainability & Clean Energy (OSCE) recently published a progress report for the Clean Energy Plan for the State of Wisconsin, here are a few of the accomplishments OEI was involved with:
- Focus on Energy® in collaboration with the DOA Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR) team has developed a unique multi-family solar and heat pump program.
- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) awarded nearly \$10 million in funding for 32 projects with the Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP).

[Clean Energy Plan Progress Report](#)

Woodstove Changeout Program

- The American Lung Association is offering vouchers for the retrofit or replacement of inefficient, higher-polluting non-EPA certified or non-Phase 2 qualified wood-burning appliances with new, qualifying cleaner-burning, more energy efficient heating appliances and technologies.
- These vouchers are valued between \$300 and \$6,000 and are available to homeowners in Northern Wisconsin including the counties of:
 - Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer and Washburn;

- And the Native American Tribal Lands, Reservations, and/or Trust Areas of:
 - the Bad River, the Lac Courte Oreilles, the Red Cliff, the Lac du Flambeau, or the St. Croix Chippewa.
- In order to qualify, the homeowner must complete the linked application. Applications will be accepted until the program completion date or when the program funding is depleted.

Woodstove Changeout
Program webpage

Woodstove Changeout
Program Application

Wood County Solar Project Earns an Envision Platinum Award for Sustainable Infrastructure

- The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) recently awarded an Envision Platinum award to Alliant Energy's Wood County Solar Project, in Saratoga, Wisconsin, highlighting its contributions to sustainable development and clean and renewable energy.
- The Wood County Solar Project produces enough energy to power approximately 40,000 homes annually.
- Visit the link below to read more.

Wood County Solar Project



OEI

OEI will send out regular communications to stakeholders via this newsletter. Please share this email with colleagues and encourage them to join our mailing list at this [link](#).

Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

Please reach out if the Office of Energy Innovation can be of assistance. [Email Us](#)

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