October 2023 Edition



Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

OEI Grant Program Opportunities

- A Commission memo has been issued for public comment on the scope of both the 2023 round of Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) and the scope of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG).
- Please note that the scope for both programs have been prepared together for an accelerated Commission decision, but the programs will be run separately.
- Comments are due by 1:30 pm CT on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Submit a comment here.
- Be sure to subscribe to the program dockets (<u>9709-FG-2023</u> for EIGP, <u>9714-FG-2023</u> for EECBG) using EZ-subscribe to receive updates.
- The Commission meeting will be held in-person at the Hill Farms Office building and broadcasted virtually through the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's YouTube channel. To get more details of the Commission meeting, please visit the PSC Event Calendar.

PSC Events
Calendar

EZ-e-Subscribe

PSC Youtube Channel

Focus on Energy Heat Pump Systems

- Focus on Energy recently released an Electric Heat Pump Customer Buying and Operation Guide for Single-Family Homes. The Guide explains how heat pumps work and dispels common myths about them. In addition, the Guide includes information on how to select the right type of heat pumps for your home, take advantage of tax credits and rebates available for installing a heat pump, and best practices for operation and maintenance.
- To read more about Heat Pumps please visit the links below.

Focus on Energy - Heat Pumps

Heat Pump Customer Buying and Operation Guide

Environmental Protection Agency Water System Infrastructure Resilience and

Sustainability Grant Funding Opportunity

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced a new \$19 million grant program opportunity to combat climate change impacts on drinking water. The program will be split into two National Priority Areas including:
 - Small-Scale Investments to Help Drinking Water Systems Implement Resilience Measures. This option anticipates that ten to twenty awards will be made with an estimated total of \$5,700,000.
 - Large-Scale Infrastructure Improvements to Enhance Drinking Water System Resilience. This option anticipates two to five awards will be made with an estimated total of \$13,300,000.
- Eligible Project types include:
 - Planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project that increases resilience of public water systems to natural hazards.
- Eligible Applicants include:
 - Public water systems, water systems located on areas governed by Tribes, and a State, on behalf of an underserved community.
 - Note: For-profit organizations and nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply.
- Applications need to be submitted to Grants.gov by November 6th, 2023.
- For more information on the program and how to apply please visit the link below.

EPA Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability webpage Grants.Gov Webpage

Environmental Protection Agency Clean School Bus Program Rebates

- The Environmental Protection Agency's 2023 Clean School Bus Rebates applications are now open and will close **January 31**, **2024 at 3 pm CT**.
- The rebates are to replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission (ZE) models.
- Eligible Applicants include:
 - Public School Districts
 - Local or state governmental entities
 - responsible for providing school bus services to one or more public school systems, purchase, lease, or contract for service of school buses
 - Public Charter school districts
 - responsible for the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses for that charter school
 - Tribal Applicants
 - Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or tribally controlled schools
 - Third Parties
 - Eligible contractors are for-profit, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entities that
 have the capacity to sell, lease, or contract for service clean or ZE
 school buses or related charging or fueling infrastructure to school bus
 owners or financing.
- For more information on how to apply and the application to apply please visit the links below.

EPA Clean School Bus Program Grants webpage EPA Clean School Bus Online Rebate Forms

Home Energy Rebate Programs Frequently Asked Questions Updates

- The U.S. Department of Energy recently updated the Home Energy Rebate Programs Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.
- The updated sections include new responses under 'Household and Technology Eligibility' and 'Full Program Administrative and Legal Requirements Document' (ALRD) sections. In addition, updates have been made to questions under the sections as well.
- The programs are currently expected to be available to residents in mid to late 2024.
- Visit the links below to review the new and updated FAQs.

Focus on Energy - Home Energy Rebates

Home Energy Rebates FAQs

U.S. Department of Energy Selected Two Long-Duration Energy Storage Demonstration Projects in Wisconsin

- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected two long-duration energy storage demonstrations projects in Wisconsin—the Columbia Energy Storage project in Columbia County, and the Front-of-the-meter Utilization of Zinc bromide Energy Storage (FUZES), a collaborative project between three states including Oregon, Wisconsin, and North Dakota.
- The Columbia Energy Storage project, led by Alliant Energy, will develop the first battery system in the U.S. using carbon dioxide to store and release energy. By using only carbon dioxide, water, and steel, this technology will bypass the need for rare materials and other challenges associated with existing lithium battery storage systems.
- The FUZES collaboration project, led by NextEra Resources LLC, will develop several 10-hour battery energy storage projects using aqueous zinc technology for a front-of-the-meter application for existing renewable energy sites in the Pacific Northwest and Upper Midwest.

DOE Clean Energy Demonstrations Webpage

Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin Webinar

- The Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin will be hosting two educational webinars of interest:
 - Residential webinar "Wisconsin Homeowner Crash Course in Energy Efficiency, Tax Credits & IRA" will be held on November 1st. Click here to register.
 - Small Business webinar "Wisconsin Small Business Energy Management

101: Grants, Programs & Funding Options" will be held on **November 29th**. Click <u>here</u> to register.

Citizens Utility Board Webpage



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 <u>link</u>.

Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

Please reach out if the Office of Energy Innovation can be of assistance. <u>Email Us</u>

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