



Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

## Wisconsin Refueling Readiness Grant Program

- The Wisconsin Refueling Readiness (WRR) program is designed to address the concern of fueling emergency vehicles during a power outage. Eligible applicants include private entities and municipal, county, and tribal communities with fueling stations or bulk storage facilities.
- About \$48,000 of the \$150,000 grant budget remains! Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must be submitted to the PSC Grants System no later than **1:30pm CT on April 30, 2024**.
- Take a look at the Application Instructions and FAQ document on the program webpage, linked below.

WRR Webpage

## Rural Energy Start Up Program

- A review of the submitted applications for the Rural Energy Startup Program is underway, with decisions expected in the spring of 2024.
- \$2.3 million in funding was available during this application period and over \$1.48 million of available funding was requested.
- Subscribe to Docket [9714-FG-2023](#) to receive updates on RESP.

RESP Webpage

## Grid Resilience Grant Program

- The application period for the program closed on February 16, 2024. OEI received 20 applications from 17 electric utilities—12 cooperatives, four municipal utilities, and one investor-owned utility—requesting just over the \$9.7 million budget available in the inaugural grant round.
- Applicants submitted additional, project-specific information as part of the Phase Two on April 5, 2024.
- The Commission is expected to make decisions on the grant awards in the

spring of 2024. In person and virtual attendance options are available. See the PSC Events Calendar for more information.

- Subscribe to Docket [9713-FG-2022](#) to receive updates on the Grid Resilience Program.

[Grid Resilience Program Webpage](#)

## Focus On Energy Energy Efficiency Excellence Awards

- Each year, Focus on Energy awards Energy Efficiency Excellence Awards to customers who have participated in Focus and have demonstrated a commitment to energy efficiency or Trade Allies that go above and beyond in the delivery of Focus resources to customers.
- This year's awardees have been announced and are now available to view on the Focus on Energy website. Visit the link below to view the 2024 winners.

[2024 Energy Efficiency Excellence Awards Webpage](#)

## Department of Energy Technical Assistance Now Available to Facilities Interested in Onsite Energy Program

- The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office recently released a new program called Onsite Energy Program. This program provides technical assistance, market analysis, and best practices to help industrial facilities and other large energy users increase the adoption of onsite clean energy technologies.
- The program supports the U.S. Industrial sector and other large energy users, such as campuses, hospitals, and other sites with significant energy loads year-round in determining which onsite clean energy technologies would work best for them and help them in the transition to the identified onsite clean energy technologies.
- As part of the program, the DOE launched a network of Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs) to provide manufacturers with access to regional and technical expertise across the country. The TAPs cover:
  - Battery storage; Combined heat and power; District energy; Fuel cells; Geothermal; Industrial heat pumps; Renewable fuels; Solar photovoltaics; Solar thermal; Thermal storage; Waste heat to power; Wind power and more.
- Additionally, as part of DOE's Industrial Research and Assessment Center Implementation Grants Program, small and medium-sized manufacturers may receive grants of up to \$300,000 to implement recommendations made by the Onsite Energy TAPs.
- To learn more, visit the links below.

## Department of Energy's 2023 Renew America's Schools Prize

- The Department of Energy (DOE) is now accepting submissions for the 2024 Renew America's School Prize, a \$180 million investment in K-12 public schools across the country.
- Like the 2022 Renew America's Schools grant, the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize funding will help districts build capacity, perform energy audits, and plan/implement energy improvement projects across a portfolio of school facilities.
- The program implements a prize-to-cooperative-agreement funding model to streamline the application process, expedite the award process, and provide winners earlier and more targeted support.
- Recently there was an informational webinar held discussing the program background, goals, submission requirements, and next steps. A recording of the webinar and the presentation slide deck are available to review.
- Submissions for "Phase 1: Portfolio & Team" are due **4pm CT on June 13, 2024**.
- To learn more about the program and to view the recorded webinars, visit the link below.

2024 Renew America's School Prize Webpage

## U.S. Department of Agriculture Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made funds available under the Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects program. This program provides grants to qualified nonprofits to establish revolving loan funds that can provide financing to extend and improve water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.
- Loans can be used by eligible water and wastewater systems for:
  - Pre-development costs for water and wastewater treatment projects; and
  - Short-term small capital improvement projects that are not part of the regular operations and maintenance.
- Applications must be submitted electronically using [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and are due no later than **11:59pm ET on May 1, 2024**.
- To learn more about this funding opportunity and requirements, visit the link below.

USDA Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects  
Webpage

# Governor Evers Signs Historic Legislation to Support and Expand Wisconsin's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

- Governor Evers recently signed Senate Bill 791 and 792, now known as 2023 Wisconsin Acts 121 and 122, respectively, which enable the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to receive and administer more than \$78 million in federal funds under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to bolster the state's electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure.
- The two bills together will allow the state to make significant progress toward improving EV infrastructure, ensuring charging is quicker and easier and EV charging stations are available to support drivers across the state.
  - [Act 121](#) unlocks more than \$78 million in National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funds available to Wisconsin over the next five years. The Act also changes current law to allow businesses to offer EV chargers that sell electricity by the kilowatt hour.
  - [Act 122](#) creates a new EV infrastructure program at WisDOT, enabling the department to receive and administer the more than \$78 million in NEVI funds. WisDOT will primarily use these funds to support businesses that want to offer EV charging near Wisconsin's major highways.
- To view the press release, please visit the link below.

[Press Release](#)



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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