



Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program

TIMELINE

- Applications for entities eligible to receive formula funding are now open
- Pre-Award Information Sheets are due by **April 28, 2023**.
- Applications are due to DOE by **January 31, 2024**

ELIGIBLE USES

- Technical Consultant Services
- Energy Audits
- Strategy Development
- Energy Efficiency Retrofits
- Financial Incentive Programs
- Energy Efficiency, Conservation, & Transportation Programs
- Building Codes & Inspections
- Renewable Energy
- Traffic Signals & Street Lighting
- and More

The Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provides assistance to local governments, states, and tribes to **implement strategies to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy usage** and fossil fuel emissions. These funds will be distributed in three ways:

- **Direct Formula Funding:** Larger localities are eligible for a direct formula allocation from DOE. Total allocations have been released. Localities will choose to receive their allocation via a grant or a voucher.
- **State Applications:** The Virginia Department of Energy will receive an additional \$2.6M for EECBGs; at least 60% must go to localities that are not eligible for formula funding.
- **Competitive Grants:** Approximately \$8M will be provided to communities not eligible for formula funding through a competitive DOE process.

RESOURCES

- DOE [EECBG formula Grant Application Hub](#)
- Email [Pre-Award Information Sheets](mailto:eecbg@hq.doe.gov) to eecbg@hq.doe.gov by **April 28, 2023** to receive allocated funds.
- Virginia Energy contact: Bettina Bergoo, bettina.bergoo@energy.virginia.gov

To learn more, visit vaec.org/ or contact info@vaec.org

About Virginia Energy Efficiency Council: Founded in 2012, VAEEC is a 501c3 organization, headquartered in Richmond, whose mission is to advance energy efficiency throughout the Commonwealth.

How to Apply

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORMULA FUNDING

Local governments **eligible for formula funding** are divided into two categories based on population criteria.

- Local Government Alternative 1:
 - Cities that are one of the top 10 most populous cities within their state or that have a population of at least 35,000;
 - Counties that are one of the 10 most populous counties within their state or that have a population over 200,000;
- Local Government Alternative 2:
 - Cities with populations of at least 50,000 or counties with population of at least 200,000

DOE has released [formula funding allocations](#) by locality. These localities can choose to receive their allocation via **grant or voucher**.

- Vouchers can be used for technical assistance services and/or equipment purchase/installation rebates.
- Vouchers provide a lighter administrative burden and are, therefore, recommended for localities with limited staff resources and/or award amounts less than \$250k.

To receive direct EECBG payments, eligible localities must apply.

The application process includes completing a Pre-Award Information Sheet and an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS). [Pre-Award Information Sheets](#) are due **April 28, 2023**. An EECS must be submitted within one year of the effective date of the award. Templates and support are available for the EECS and project concepts. Communities are not able to use their Climate Action Plans to fulfill this requirement.

The full application is due to DOE by **January 31, 2024**. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. Grants and vouchers will be for a two-year project and budget period.

How to Apply

STATE GOVERNMENT FORMULA FUNDING

- These funds are at the state's discretion (i.e. no application to DOE)
- State plans are due to DOE by **July 31, 2023**, which should include how they plan to distribute the 60% of allocated funds to local governments.
- Inquiries can be directed to Bettina Bergoo, Energy Efficiency and Financing Programs Manager at Virginia Energy (bettina.bergoo@energy.virginia.gov).

COMPETITIVE DOE GRANTS

- Regional collaborative approaches will be encouraged. Some ideas are shared on the following pages of this document.
- For the competitive grant application, keep an eye on DOE's [EECBG Hub](#).

APPLICATION RESOURCES & SUPPORT

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy (EECS)

- DOE has provided a streamlined template for localities to use.
- George Mason University offers a [community extension service](#) to help localities develop and implement climate and resiliency action plans. For details, contact Paul Bubbosh (pbubbosh@gmu.edu) and Joel Hicks (jhicks19@gmu.edu).

Project or Program Development

- DOE has provided project blueprints to help further streamline the award process by producing a step-by-step roadmap of high-impact energy projects or programs based on proven practices.
- Blueprints were designed to 1) guide grantees toward a effective projects/programs; 2) focus DOE's technical assistance; 3) support grantees as they leverage other federal investments; and 4) streamline the application review and approval process.

Collaborative Approaches

Due to limited funds available, localities are encouraged to **team up with neighboring jurisdictions** or peers for cost-sharing purposes in order to maximize local or regional impact. Teams are able to collaborate on regional activities, work in parallel on similar proposals, or create programs to service multiple jurisdictions, including:

- Create a financing program for residential energy retrofits and rooftop solar to serve communities across Virginia
- Stand up a revolving loan fund for building and transportation electrification projects across a utility territory
- Design and execute innovative programs that lower energy burdens for residents
- Hire a shared energy manager to support projects across several communities
- Establish an energy efficiency workforce training program to serve neighboring communities
- Create a regional clean energy infrastructure strategy

Each entity will receive its own EECBG allocation to co-invest with other localities to jointly fund program activities. If pursuing a grant award, teams will submit a single joint application. Each entity must submit its own EECS.

COLLABORATION SPOTLIGHT

In Pennsylvania, five municipalities opted to work together to share an [energy manager position](#). Services were tailored to each municipality's needs and goals and included energy benchmarking, energy audits, energy management plan creation, and energy conservation measure specification and implementation assistance.

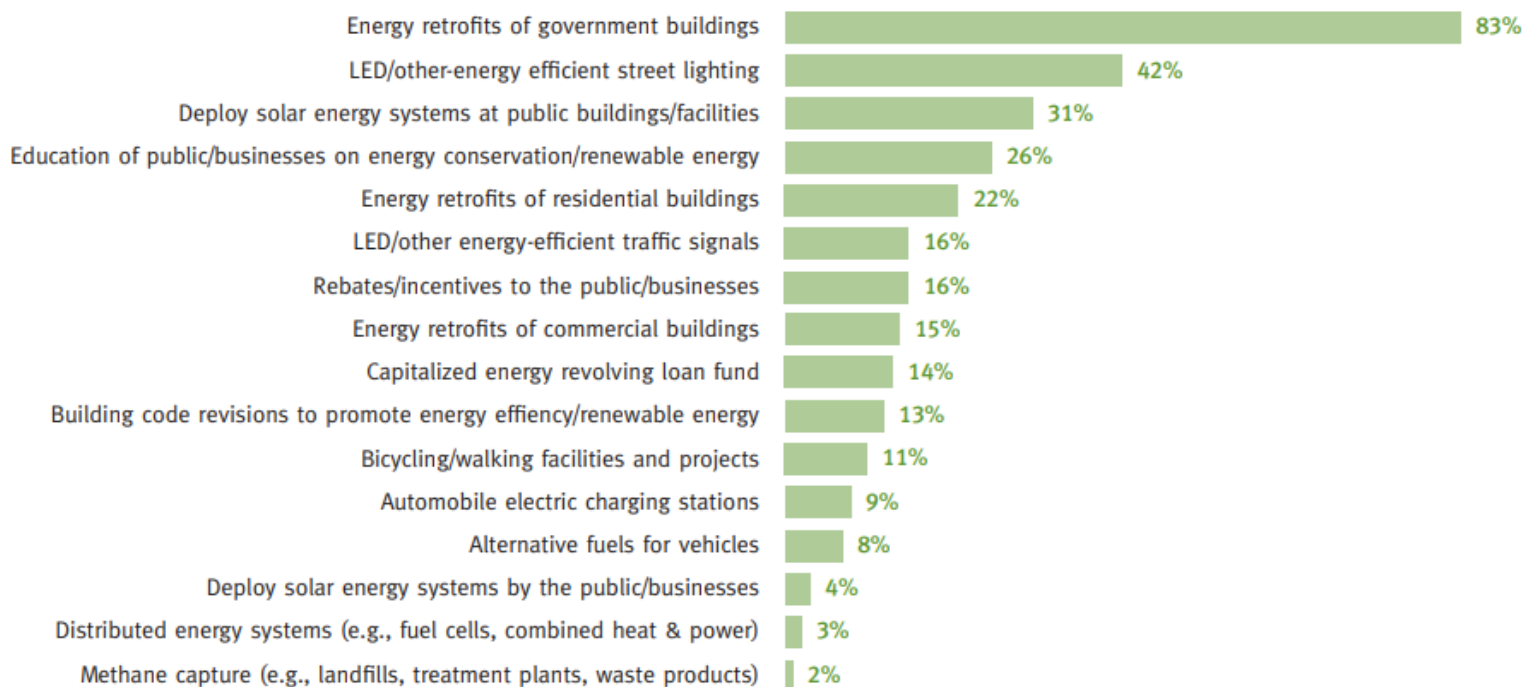
Past EECBG Success

After EECBG funds from the **2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** were dispersed, the Conference of Mayors [surveyed 204 U.S. mayors](#) representing cities across the country of varying population size, to determine how these funds helped further city initiatives to **reduce energy use, deploy new energy technologies, and curb emissions**.

- 62% of cities developed new programs,
- 55% implemented planned policies or programs not previously funded, and
- 50% advanced or continued existing policies or programs already underway.

How Did Cities Use EECBG Funds

(percentage of cities)



Source: Mayors Climate Protection Center, *Successful City Initiatives with EECBG Funding* (February 2014)

We have collaborated with partner organizations to research successful projects and programs from the 2009 ARRA EECBG Program. We highlight those case studies on the following pages.

Visit the Department of Energy's **EECBG Program Formula Grant Application Hub** for additional details.

2009 ARRA Case Studies: Public Buildings

Making public buildings more energy-efficient through Energy Audits, Strategic Planning, Conservation Programs, Energy Managers, and Energy Savings Performance Contracts



- The [Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission](#) used their 2009 EECBG funds for a **collaboration** to perform **energy audits** on 50 public buildings in the region, prepare **energy conservation studies** for each, and make **recommended improvements** that increased energy efficiency and conservation. Each locality involved was provided with a foundation for a **local energy plan** and recommendations for further energy efficiency projects.
- In 2009, EECBG funding allowed the [City of Norfolk, VA](#) to develop and implement the City's **energy strategy**, produce a **Baseline Assessment and Roadmap**, and hire an **Energy Management Administrator** to implement the recommended strategies.
- The [Town of Cary, NC](#) used their 2009 EECBG funds to hire a **sustainability manager**, then conducted energy-efficiency **building audits and retrofits**, purchased **alternative-fuel vehicles**, and established an **LED street light pilot** project.
- [Huntington, WV](#) developed an **Energy & Operational Savings Program** with their 2009 EECBG funds, which includes a 15-year **energy savings performance contract** (ESPC) that is expected to save approximately \$4.8M in total operating costs for the City. Measures for the fourteen-building project include LED lighting, HVAC system improvements, control system upgrades, water conservation efforts, traffic signal retrofits, and building repairs.

2009 ARRA Case Studies: Residential Programs

Creating Efficient Homes Through Energy Efficiency Systems for Housing Assistance Programs and Financial Incentives for Home Improvements and Repair



- The [North Carolina Triangle J Council of Governments](#) created the **Partners in Home Preservation** collaborative to **unify the processes for housing assistance programs**. Utilizing their \$249,999 award, they developed customized, collaborative tools for inter-organizational home repair and energy efficiency upgrades.

- [Rock Hill, SC](#)* established two **financial incentive programs** for energy-efficient home improvements:
 - [Smart Switch](#): EECBG funds allowed the City to offer residents a Smart Switch unit at no cost to the customer. The unit controls the flow of electricity to major appliances for short periods of time during peak demand.
 - [SmartChoice Rebates & Loans](#): This program offers residents cash rebates, low-interest loans, and an "all-electric" billing rate for replacement of both electric water heaters and heat pumps. A Smart Switch load management device must be installed to qualify.

**The City of Rock Hill owns and operates its own municipal electric, water, and sewer utility.*

2009 ARRA Case Studies: Transportation & Workforce Development

Making Transportation More energy-Efficient Through Green Fleet Purchasing, Mass Transit, and LED Street Lighting



- The [City of Alexandria, VA](#) used a portion of its 2009 EECBG funds for a **Green Vehicle Fleet purchase program**. The funding allowed the City to replace its conventional fleet vehicles with hybrid models.
- The [City of Winston-Salem, NC](#) created a **streetcar system** with its 2009 EECBG funds to complement other mass transit proposals in the City and region.
- The [City of Gastonia, NC](#) used its 2009 EECBG funds to purchase **electric vehicles** for park and recreation and police use, and to convert pedestrian signal heads to **LED lighting**.

Developing Workforce Training Programs for Technicians and Small Businesses



- The [City of Raleigh, NC](#) created a **Green Building Training Program** using its 2009 EECBG funds to empower technicians and small business owners with the knowledge and skills to market themselves in the green economy.

2009 ARRA Case Studies from Across the Country

Additional examples of how 2009 EECBG funds were spent in localities across the country.

- [Ada County, ID](#): upgraded **HVAC and lighting** systems and installed **on-site photovoltaic** systems for County facilities; reviewed **energy code plans** for local builders
- [Snohomish County, WA](#): studied the solar potential of county facilities
- [City of Lake Oswego, OR](#): retrofitted **outdoor lighting**, established an **energy and emissions management system** for City facilities, and conducted a **community greenhouse gas emissions inventory**
- [Town of Pittsfield, MI](#): performed an **energy audit** for the town's administration building, installed **energy-efficient blinds** to reduce heating and cooling costs, and launched a number of **educational and outreach programs** within the community
- [City of Warren, MI](#): improved **building performance** of City facilities and developed a **workforce initiative** to meet the needs of Michigan's emerging green economy
- [San Antonio, TX](#): established the Energy Efficiency Fund to **provide capital for energy-efficient retrofits** at City facilities



Maximizing Your Allocations

The following revenue streams provide **additional funding opportunities** you can pursue for similar energy efficiency, resiliency, and renewable energy projects and programs. These opportunities can potentially be **leveraged or stacked** with EECBG funds to **expand project scope** or **increase benefits** to your community.

ELECTRIC GRID

- [*DOE Program Upgrading Our Electric Grid and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency*](#)
- [*DOE Energy Storage Demonstration Pilot Grant Program*](#)
- [*DOE Energy Improvement in Rural and Remote Areas*](#)
- [*DOE Energy Storage Demonstration and Pilot Grant Program*](#)

ELECTRIFICATION

- [*DOT Capital investment Grants*](#)

ELECTRIC VEHICLE & TRANSPORTATION

- [*EPA Clean School Bus Program*](#)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- [*DOE Weatherization Assistance Program*](#)
- [*DOE Buildings Upgrade Prize \(Buildings UP\)*](#)
- [*DOE Clean Energy to Communities \(C2C\) Program*](#)
- [*EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants*](#)
- [*EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*](#)

Up-to-date details and additional funding opportunities can be viewed on the **VAEEC [*Federal Funding Opportunities & Resources*](#) spreadsheet.**

Connect with the VAEEC

The Virginia Energy Efficiency Council is the voice for the energy efficiency industry in the Commonwealth.

Founded in 2012, VAEEC is a 501c3 organization, headquartered in Richmond, whose goal is to **facilitate discussions and share resources to advance energy efficiency throughout the Commonwealth.** We engage our diverse group of over 100 members to **identify barriers to and opportunities for energy efficiency advancement, and to develop strong, fact-based, and balanced industry voice** before local, state, and national policymakers and regulators. Our vision is for energy efficiency to be an integral part of Virginia's economy and clean energy future.



To learn more about the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council and the work we do, visit VAEEC.org, contact info@vaeec.org, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

The VAEEC would like to acknowledge the following partners who contributed to this resource:

National League of Cities (NLC)

Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA)

Southeast Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN)

Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)