

Office of Energy

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Bureau of Safety and Sustainability/Office of Energy




About the Office of Energy

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

 Land >

 Air >

 Water >

 Safety & Sustainability >

*We safeguard environmental quality, consistent with the social and economic needs of the State,
so as to protect health, welfare, property, and the quality of life.*

The Office of Energy advances energy efficiency, resilience, and clean energy initiatives across Illinois through strategic public-private partnerships and interagency collaboration.



About the Office of Energy



- ▶ Funded by state and federal programs
 - ▶ Federal: U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ Team of seven located in Springfield, IL
- ▶ Experiencing period of growth driven by increased federal funding



Collaboration, a Key for Success

- ▶ State Energy Offices
- ▶ Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- ▶ Illinois Finance Authority
- ▶ Illinois Commerce Commission
- ▶ Illinois Power Agency
- ▶ Illinois Department of Corrections
- ▶ Illinois Green Economy Network
- ▶ Universities
- ▶ And more....

Collaborating ensures that programs are complementary, funding gaps are addressed, and resources are deployed effectively without duplication.



Office of Energy Programs

- ▶ Residential
- ▶ Business and Industry
- ▶ Government and Public Institutions
- ▶ Energy Codes



Residential Programs

- ▶ Energy Assessment Program
- ▶ Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Program
- ▶ IRA Home Energy Rebate Program

Energy Efficiency Assessment Program

Currently Closed

Who Can Apply

- ▶ Illinois public housing authorities, units of local government (municipalities, counties, or townships) and nonprofit organizations that manage properties serving residents that receive rental assistance, housing choice vouchers or utilize subsidized housing assistance programs.
- ▶ Awards will be made on a first-come, first serve basis to applicants meeting all eligibility criteria. Awards will range from \$5,000 to \$60,000.



Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Program

Currently Open



Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program

The Energy Efficiency Trust Fund (EE Trust Fund) was established to benefit residential electric customers through projects determined to promote energy efficiency in the State of Illinois, with an emphasis on low-income households.



Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Program

Currently Open

Eligible applicants include Public Housing authorities, units of local government (municipalities, counties or townships) and nonprofit organizations that manage properties participating in federal, state or local rental assistance, housing choice vouchers, or subsidized housing assistance programs.

Projects may include single family or multifamily properties of up to 40 dwelling units. (A dwelling unit is defined as a structure or part of a structure used as a residence by a single family.) Upgrades to common spaces and/or health and safety improvements must not exceed 20% of the total funding request. Project activities must include improvements or retrofits identified in an energy efficiency assessment conducted in the past 5 years.

Project Examples

- ✓ Window replacement
- ✓ HVAC retrofit/upgrade
- ✓ Insulation replacement/installation
- ✓ Programmable thermostat installation
- ✓ Indoor/outdoor lighting upgrades
- ✓ High efficiency appliances (e.g. ENERGY STAR)

IRA Home Efficiency Rebate Program

Future Program

Collaboration with IL DCEO. The program provides energy efficiency rebates to low-income households, defined as those earning less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) or those that are categorically eligible. Rebates are available for both single-family and multifamily residential properties.

Rebate Tiers:

- Up to **\$8,000** for homes achieving **20%–34%** modeled energy savings
- Up to **\$16,000** for homes achieving **35%** or greater modeled energy savings

In addition, households may receive up to **\$1,500** to cover the cost of exhaust and ventilation system upgrades, if required to meet health and safety standards.

DCEO is currently providing multifamily energy auditor training to over 70 community action agency auditors.

**This program needs approval to launch by U.S. DOE.*



Business and Industry Programs

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Programs

- ▶ Clean Industry Concierge
- ▶ Biomethane Utilization Program
- ▶ Fluorinated Gas Reduction Program



Illinois was awarded a grant that totals more than \$430 million to implement its Climate Pollution Reduction Grant plan. The grant will fund projects in five priority areas: Accelerating Clean & Efficient Building Adoption; Deploying Clean Transportation & Freight; Kick-starting Industry Decarbonization; Expanding Climate-Smart Agriculture; and Keeping Clean Power Goals on Track. The projects together will reduce more than fifty-seven million tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the next twenty-five years.



Clean Industry Concierge

Future Program

- ▶ Will help Illinois industrial facilities navigate, coordinate, and access funding opportunities, get support in designing and implementing decarbonization measures, and provide strong guidance on industry best practices in efficient and cost-effective low-carbon technologies and processes.



Biomethane Utilization Program

Future Program

- ▶ The Biomethane Emissions Reduction, Capture, and Utilization Program prioritizes the development of localized, distributed biomethane utilization systems, aiming to significantly reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and develop regional supply chains specifically for its deployment in high-value end uses, such as industrial heat, sustainable aviation fuel, and maritime transport.



Fluorinated Gas Reduction Grant Program

Future Program

- ▶ The Fluorinated Gas Reduction Program, which has high GHG reduction potential for Illinois industry, aims to mitigate the impact of fluorinated gases, which have high global warming potential and long atmospheric lifetimes.
- ▶ Moving systems in the commercial refrigeration sector from fluorinated refrigerant systems to CO2 based systems.



Government & Public Institutions Programs

- ▶ Public Water Infrastructure
 - ▶ Public Water Supply EE Program
 - ▶ Resilient Energy for Wastewater Infrastructure
- ▶ Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant
- ▶ Energy Benchmarking and Efficiency at Community Colleges
- ▶ Public Building Energy Efficiency Grants



Public Water Infrastructure Program

Public Water Infrastructure Energy Efficiency Assessment Program

Over the past 8 years, the Illinois EPA has partnered with the EnergySense Resilience Center and the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center to improve the energy efficiency and resiliency of publicly owned water and wastewater plants across Illinois through no cost energy assessments. The program has provided valuable professional development training for plant operators, engineering vendors, and other allied industry professionals, and shared energy efficiency and resiliency best practices at industry conferences. The PWI Energy Efficiency Assessment Program was developed by the Office of Energy with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program.

281

Facilities assessed

63,705,000

Identified annual kWh savings

\$6,019,000

Estimated annual financial savings

432,243

Potential annual Greenhouse Gas emissions (MTCO₂e) avoided



Public Water Supply Energy Efficiency Grant Program

Currently Open



Public Water Supply Energy Efficiency Grant Program



The Illinois EPA Office of Energy is awarding funding to support energy efficiency upgrades at public water supply (PWS) facilities, also referred to as drinking water treatment plants.



Public Water Supply Energy Efficiency Program

Currently Open

The initial round of funding opportunity awarded \$483,000 to three Illinois PWS facilities, enabling upgrades such as lighting and control systems, pump or drive replacements, and HVAC modifications. These improvements are projected to save over 715,000 kWh of electricity annually.

Funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) State Energy Program (SEP) supplemental funding available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Application Details

- ✓ Publicly owned public water supply (PWS) facilities are eligible for program awards.
- ✓ Eligible projects must be based on recommendations from a third-party energy efficiency assessment.
- ✓ Applications will be scored on a competitive basis.
- ✓ Awards will range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 with a 10-20% cost share requirement based on geographical location.
- ✓ The application period will close on May 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CST.



Resilient Energy for Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program

Currently Open



Resilient Energy for Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program

The Resilient Energy for Wastewater Infrastructure (REWI) Grant Program funds the implementation of solar energy and battery storage at publicly owned wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs).



Resilient Energy for Wastewater Infrastructure

Currently Open

Wastewater infrastructure is vital for maintaining public health, environmental safety, economic stability and overall community functionality. Key benefits of resilient infrastructure include minimizing service disruptions, managing risks more effectively, and creating more cohesive system-wide planning strategies.

The REWI Grant Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) State Energy Program (SEP) from supplemental appropriations authorized under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Application Details

- ✓ Only publicly owned WWTPs in Illinois are eligible for program awards.
- ✓ Applicants must register in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) portal prior to completing an application.
- ✓ Applications will be scored competitively with scoring to be completed within 90 days of application close.
- ✓ The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) closes on April 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. (CST).
- ✓ Awards will range from \$200,000 to \$2,000,000.



Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program

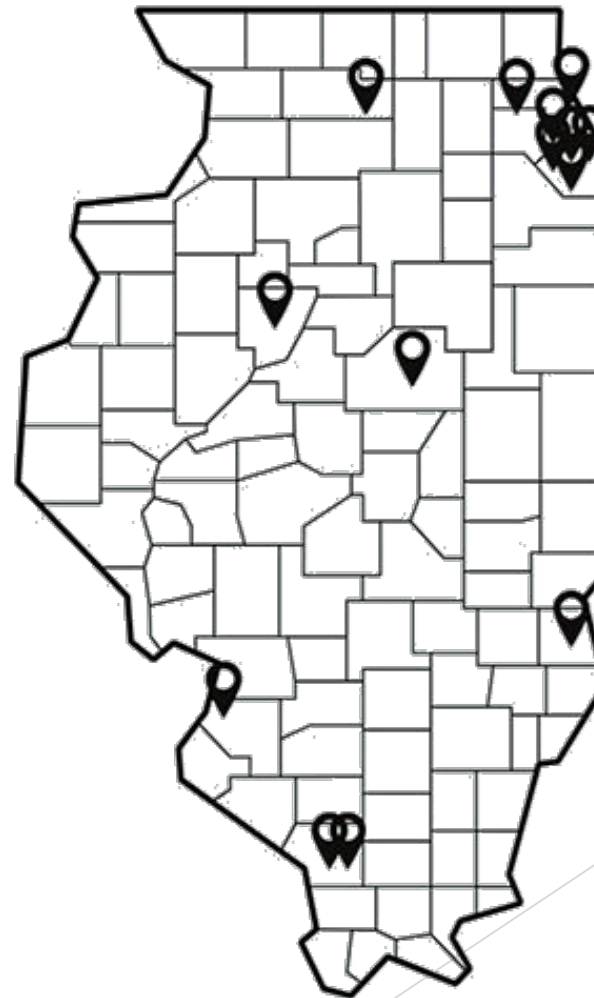
Currently Closed

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program was available to municipalities and counties for the completion of energy or climate action plans, energy efficiency building audits, and/or building upgrades. Funding for the EECBG Program comes from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Illinois EPA Office of Energy administered the State's formula funding allocated by the U.S. Department of Energy.

\$2.8 M Awarded

4 Rounds of funding

14 Grantees awarded



Public Building Energy Efficiency Grant Program

Future Program

- Eligible projects must include energy efficiency upgrades identified in an energy efficiency assessment or audit conducted within the last 5 years.
- Examples of eligible projects include:
 - Building envelope insulation
 - Window replacement
 - Lighting upgrades (indoor and/or outdoor)
 - Programmable thermostats and occupancy sensors
 - Heating and cooling system retrofit
 - High efficiency appliances



Energy Benchmarking & Efficiency at Community Colleges

In progress

- Partnership with Illinois Green Economy Network
- Program distributes technical assistance for energy consumption benchmarking and efficiency planning, along with funding for project implementation to qualified members of the Illinois Green Economy Network with a focus on financially constrained institutions.
- The program encourages participants to analyze past, present, and future energy consumption behaviors and best management practices while providing opportunities for energy efficiency projects, inter-disciplinary collaboration, workforce development.
- Currently 5 community colleges are participating in the program.

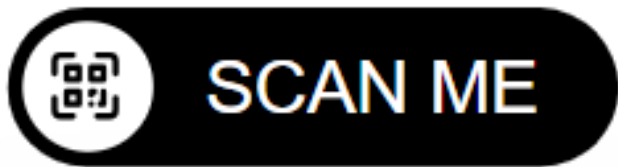


Energy Code Training and Technical Support

What is an Energy Conservation Code?

- ▶ Illinois is part of a nationwide movement to codify energy efficient and sustainable standards in design and construction by adopting an energy conservation code (energy code). Energy codes are a set of rules that specify how buildings must be constructed or perform. An energy code creates uniform and enforceable requirements for new buildings and modifications of existing structures. In Illinois, local government and municipalities adopt and enforce energy codes for their jurisdictions. Communities that adopt energy codes cut air pollution, reduce future energy consumption, and control energy costs for residents and businesses.
- ▶ Partnership with Energy Sense to provide training and technical support.





Questions?

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