



# Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program

Wisconsin League of Municipalities Chief Executives Workshop

August 25, 2023

# Objectives

- 1. Learn about the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program*
- 2. Present examples for how to use EECBG dollars (and/or other federal dollars) to meet your communities' needs*

# About Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC)

# MISSION

The Coalition provides a platform for members to collaborate on overcoming barriers to decarbonization, accelerating local climate change solutions, and ensuring the benefits of the clean energy economy are distributed to everyone throughout the state.

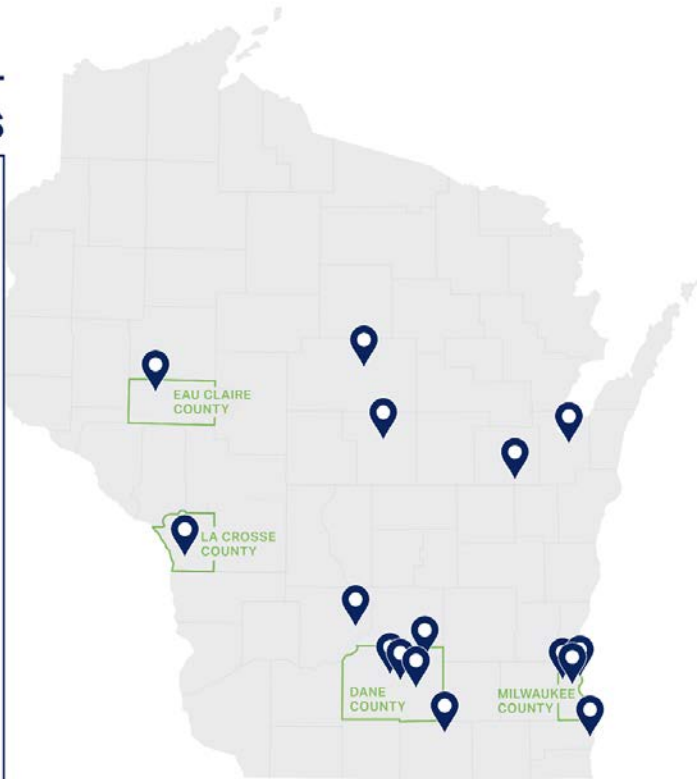
# We represent over 1 in 3 residents in WI

**CURRENT MEMBERS**

- City of Milwaukee
- City of Madison
- City of Eau Claire
- City of Green Bay
- City of Racine
- City of La Crosse
- City of Middleton
- City of Stevens Point
- City of Wauwatosa
- City of Sun Prairie
- Village of McFarland
- City of Wausau
- Village of Whitefish Bay
- City of Baraboo
- City of Appleton
- City of Edgerton

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- Milwaukee County
- Dane County
- Eau Claire County
- La Crosse County



## WLGCC delivers value to members through:

- Facilitating a collective voice on climate & policy issues
- Creating peer-to-peer learning & information sharing opportunities
- Providing resources and tools to achieve deeper impacts across communities

# EECBG Program Overview

*Based on DOE's [EECBG Introductory Webinar for Local Governments](#)*

*(Jan 26, 2023)*

# Broadly speaking, what is EECBG?

1. Block grants with the goal of providing **flexible funding** that allows local governments to...
  - Cut carbon emissions
  - Improve energy efficiency
  - Reduce energy use
2. Administered through Department of Energy's Office of State & Community Energy Programs
3. Total appropriation of \$550 million via Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

# EECBG Funding Distribution

## FORMULA GRANTS

\$431.2 million

2,708 eligible states, territories, local governments, and tribes



1,878 Local Governments  
\$299.2 mil (\$4.2 mil to WI)

What Local Governments are eligible?

Cities > 35k (24 in WI) or in the top 10 most populated cities in state  
Counties > 200k or in top 10 most populated counties in state



56 States & Territories  
\$123.2 mil (\$2.3 mil to WI)

States MUST pass through at least 60% to non-formula local governments

774 Indian Tribes  
\$8.8 million (\$118,220 to WI)

## COMPETITIVE GRANTS

\$8.8 million

Formula ineligible entities



*This opportunity thru DOE has closed, but see above opportunity via states!*



# Formula Grants: Lots of flexibility – 14 available activity categories!

1. Strategy development
2. Technical consultant services
3. Building energy audits
4. Financial incentive programs
5. Energy efficiency retrofits
6. Energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities
7. Development and implementation of transportation programs
8. Building codes and inspections
9. Energy distribution tech. for energy efficiency
10. Material conservation programs
11. Reduction and capture of methane and GHGs
12. Traffic signals and street lighting
13. Renewable energy technologies on government buildings
14. Programs for financing, purchasing, and installing EE, RE, and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure) measures (NEW)

# So, how do you decide what to do?

DOE encourages local governments to think about these dollars as a “seed investment”

## **Questions to think about:**

- Where is your community at in its clean energy and climate action journey?
- What next investment will best position your community to achieve even bigger outcomes?
- What’s going to build the greatest momentum right now?
- How can this investment bring benefits to vulnerable or under-resourced populations (e.g. low-income, disadvantaged per Justice40)?

# Other Considerations

- Is there a DOE Blueprint available (allows expedited review)?
- Is receiving a voucher for equipment and/or DOE technical assistance (rather than a grant) preferable?

Go to <https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program> for more information and resources (FAQ page is extensive)

# Three Examples

1. Make foundational investments to chart the course
2. Increase momentum through “Lead by Example” projects
3. Increase community awareness & uptake of clean energy incentives

# Community A: Making foundational investments to chart the course

**SCENARIO:** Community A's Common Council recently adopted the goal of achieving carbon neutrality (for municipal operations and the community) by 2050



## **CURRENT OBJECTIVES:**

- Understand the biggest sources of carbon & GHG emissions
- Chart out recommendations and identify projects to work towards climate and energy savings goals



## **NEXT INVESTMENT:**

Develop a comprehensive energy plan

- See DOE's [Blueprint 1: Energy Planning](#)

# Community B: Increase momentum through “lead by example” projects

**SCENARIO:** Community B wants to increase community interest & buy-in for energy efficiency & renewable technologies



## **CURRENT OBJECTIVES:**

- Increase community awareness & demonstrate the value of clean energy projects
- Show staff that projects can deliver cost-effective savings



## **NEXT INVESTMENT:**

Conduct energy audit of city hall, implement EE measures, and share accomplishments with community

- See DOE’s [Blueprint 2A: Energy Efficiency Audits & Building Upgrades](#)

# Community C: Increase community awareness and uptake of clean energy incentives

**SCENARIO:** Community C has completed several projects to save energy for city operations, and is now look for ways to engage the broader community in taking action.



## **CURRENT OBJECTIVES:**

- Increase awareness for ways to save energy, benefits, etc.
- Maximize participation in available incentive programs
- Provide additional support to low income households



## **NEXT INVESTMENT:**

Education & Outreach Campaign with local community organizations to spread word about IRA tax credits & rebates

- See DOE's [Blueprint 2C: Building Electrification Campaign](#)

# Timeline for Local Government Formula Grants

- Pre-award information sheets were due on 7/31
- Full applications due on January 31, 2024
- General turn-around time for DOE Review:
  - Vouchers – 30-60 days
  - Grants following blueprints – up to 60 days
  - Grants NOT following blueprints – minimum of 90 days



# For Non-Formula Eligible Local Governments: State of Wisconsin EECBG Allocation

- Wisconsin will receive \$2.3 million
- A minimum of 60% (\$1.38 million) will go to local governments NOT eligible for formula funding
- The Public Service Commission's Office of Energy Innovation (OEI) will administer these funds
  - State application was submitted on 7/31
  - Once application is approved by DOE (*est. Q4 2023?*), PSC will launch public scoping process
  - Funding opportunity likely available first half of 2024

**See OEI's website to stay updated!**

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/OEI/FederalFunding.aspx>

# THANK YOU!

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