Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Blueprint Cohorts

Session #2: EECBG Project Planning Basics

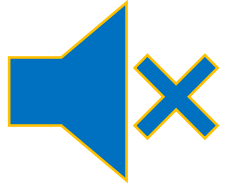October 13, 2023

Happy October!!

What EECBG Program government do you represent, and what is your favorite Halloween candy or Fall food?

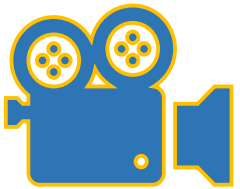*(put it in the chat)*

Virtual Housekeeping

Mute your audio

Use the chat to ask questions

FYI, we're recording!

Agenda

- Welcome!

- EECBG Program Announcements and Reminders

- EECBG Project Planning Basics

  - Vouchers

  - Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy (EECS)

  - Blueprint Example

- Q&A

- Breakouts: Peer Discussion

- Close Out & More Q&A

Welcome from the EECBG Team!

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- **EECBG Program Announcements and Reminders**

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Congratulations to the First Tranche of Formula Awardees!

Yesterday, the Secretary of Energy announced the completion of the first tranche of EECBG awards to the following states:

- Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Ohio, Rhode Island, Washington

And cities:

- Bend, OR; Boston, MA; Harris County, TX; Los Angeles County, CA; Minneapolis, MN; Montgomery County, TX; Nashville, TN and Wagoner County, WY

Biden-Harris Administration Announces $30 Million in Clean Energy Funding to 28 State, Local and Tribal Governments

Click here to read the press release

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm. *Drew Angerer/Getty Images*

Congratulations to the 12 EECBG Competitive Program Selectees!

- ✓ Albany, California
- ✓ Cascade, Idaho
- ✓ Decatur, Georgia
- ✓ Decorah, Iowa
- ✓ Durham County, North Carolina
- ✓ Eagle County, Colorado
- ✓ Exeter, New Hampshire
- ✓ Kittery, Maine
- ✓ Littleton, Massachusetts
- ✓ MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians
- ✓ Nenana, Alaska
- ✓ Peterborough, New Hampshire

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program
12 Competitive Selectees, Awarded $8.8M

Cascade, ID
$200, 000

Kittery, ME
$800,000

Peterborough, NH
$700,000

Exeter, NH
$200,000

Decorah, IA
$1,100,000

Littleton, MA
$300,000

Albany, CA
$200,000

Eagle County, CO
$1,400,000

Durham County, NC
$1,500,000

Decatur, GA
$400,000

MOWA Band of Choctaw
Indians in Alabama
$1,100,000

Nenana, AK
$900,000

Check Out the Cohort Kickoff Meeting from 9/8

On September 8th, 2023 we kicked off the Blueprint Cohorts with an initial meeting that provided key information and gave attendees the chance to meet with some of the people from their cohort group.

In this Kickoff session, we covered:

- ✓ The role of Local Governments, States, & Tribes in the clean energy transition
- ✓ What Blueprints are and the benefits of using them
- ✓ What you can expect from participating in Blueprint Cohorts

Find the recording and slides on the EECBG Program Blueprints Webpage:
https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program-blueprints

Submit your Pre-Award Information Sheet and your Application!

Thank you to everyone that already submitted your **pre-award information** sheet (PAIS) and your application!
> Reminder, to **submit** your PAIS **ASAP** if you haven't yet.

Find it on the EECBG Application Hub and email it to *EECBG@hq.doe.gov*.

Next steps

1. **Grants:** Fill in the grant application in the PAGE system. You will have received an invitation to access PAGE after submitting your PAIS.

2. **Vouchers:** Voucher handbook and templates for the voucher application are now available on the EECBG Program Application Hub

NEW APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 30th, 2024

Find everything you need on the EECBG Program Application Hub:
https://www.energy.gov/scep /eecbg-program-formula- grant-application-hub

Other Federal Funding Opportunities Open Now!

1 ## Energy Futures Grant
Due: November 10th, 2023

$27 million in financial assistance and technical assistance to support local, state, and tribal government-led partnership efforts that will advance clean energy program innovation.

🖥️ *https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-future-grants*

2 ## Communities LEAP
Due: December 14th, 2023

$18+ million in technical assistance to low-income, energy-burdened communities that are also either disadvantaged or experiencing direct impacts from the shift away from fossil fuels, in support of their community-based clean energy and economic development goals.

🖥️ *https://www.energy.gov/communitiesLEAP/communities-leap*

Public Sector Funding & Technical Assistance Programs
State and Local Solution Center

State and Local Solution Center

✓ See a **list of funding opportunities**
✓ Sign up for **email updates** about funding opportunities

https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/public-sector-funding-technical-assistance-programs

Upcoming Events

Date	Host	Event
October 19th @ 10:30 am ET	NREL	**REopt Web Tool Training** • *Optimizes energy systems & recommends mix of renewables, conventional generation and storage for buildings, campuses, communities, microgrids, and more!*
November 3rd @ 11 am ET	NREL	**System Advisor Model (SAM) Tool Training** • *Models renewable energy systems, including solar, wind, & batteries for a variety of financial markets, both front of meter and behind*
November 13th @ 12 pm ET	NREL	**Engage Modeling Tool Training** • *Models energy systems with high shares of variable generation and storage at small and large geographic scales*
November 17th @ 1pm ET	DOE	**Blueprint Cohort Session #3**
November 28th @ 12pm ET	NREL	**Jobs and Economic Development Impact (JEDI) Models Training** • *Estimates the economic impacts of constructing and operating power generation and biofuel plants at the local and state level*

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EECBG Application: A Review of What's Required

Start by reviewing the *Administrative and Legal Requirements Document* (ALRD) and the *Application Instructions*

	STEP 1:	STEP 2:		STEP 3:
	Pre-Application	**Application Submission**		**Reporting**
GRANTS	1. Submit your Pre-Award Information Sheet (PAIS) 2. Register for SAM & FEDConnect 3. Wait for an email from PAGE	✓ Standard Forms 424/424A ✓ Budget Justification ✓ Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy (EECS) ✓ Applicant assurance letter ✓ Davis-Bacon Assurance Letter ✓ Program Activities File	✓ Link to latest audit ✓ NEPA SOW If applicable: ✓ SF-LLL Disclosure ✓ NEPA Questionnaire ✓ Indirect Rate Agreement	1. Review the new Reporting Guidance Document
VOUCHERS	1. Submit your Pre-Award Information Sheet (PAIS) 2. Review the EECBG Voucher Handbook	✓ Review: Equipment Rebate Application Template and/or the Technical Assistance Application Template*	✓ Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy (EECS)	1. Review: EECBG Voucher Handbook

Voucher application templates are for informational use only and are not to be filled out or sent to EECBG. The final application will be released at a later date and may be subject to change.

EECBG Application: Key Resources

Start by reviewing the *Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD)* and the *Application Instructions*

Webinars

1. Introduction to the Grant Application Process (slides & recording)
2. Introduction to the Vouchers Option (slides & recording)
3. PAGE Training (recording)

Templates

1. Pre-Award Information Sheet
2. EECS (states, local governments & Tribes)
3. NEPA Statements of Work
4. Voucher Application only:
   - ✓ Equipment Rebate Application Template
   - ✓ Technical Assistance Application Template
5. Grant Application only:
   - ✓ Template Activity File
6. Other Templates:
   - ✓ Authorization Letter
   - ✓ Davis-Bacon Assurance Letter
   - ✓ Certifications Regarding Lobbying
   - ✓ SF-LLL Disclosure Form

You can find all this information (instructions, *FAQ's*, webinars, templates, etc.) on the *EECBG Formula Grant Application Hub*

Your EECBG Support System

If you.....

Have questions about:	Have questions about:	Need technical support:

Have questions about:

1. The status of your PAIS, PAGE account or application
2. Voucher information
3. Application requirements

Have questions about:

1. Blueprints & Blueprint Cohorts
   - *"Does my project fit into a blueprint?"*
2. Community Energy Fellowship
3. Other technical assistance
   - *"How do I incorporate J40 principles into my project?"*

Need technical support:

developing your Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy (EECS)

Grant Management Team
EECBG@hq.doe.gov

Technical Assistance Team
TechnicalAssistance@hq.doe.gov

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
EECS_TA@nrel.gov
- 10-20 Hours

Attend Our Bi-weekly Office Hours! Sign up here
https://forms.office.com/g/yc3H3xQeEE

EECBG Application: A Review of What's Required

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Ask the Expert: Voucher Program with Allison Robinson

Q: When will the voucher application be available?

A: **November 2023!** Look for an email with more details once the application portal is live

Q: What do we need to include in our voucher application?

A: The full voucher application will become available once the application portal is live. For now, check out the Voucher Handbook and Voucher Application templates for a preview of the information you may need in your voucher application.

Learn more about Vouchers:
1. *Voucher Handbook*
2. *Equipment Rebate Application Template*
3. *Technical Assistance Application Template*

Ask the Expert: Voucher Program with Allison Robinson

Q: What are the limitations of choosing the voucher option?

A: There are a few limitations to consider:

Technical Assistance Voucher	Equipment Rebate Voucher
✓ Vouchers may not be sub-granted ✓ TA Voucher recipients may not select their own TA provider – the provider will be DOE's TA administrator ✓ TA vouchers cannot cover staff time ✓ Activities must fall within the NEPA Determination of allowable activities	✓ Vouchers may not be sub-granted ✓ Vouchers cannot be used to cover administrative staff time however; it can be used to cover in-house installation costs.

Q: How do vouchers work with the blueprints?

A: You can choose to utilize a blueprint whether you're choosing the grant option or voucher option! Remember, you don't have to follow all the key activities in a blueprint.

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Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy (EECS)

Requirements for Local Gov's & Tribes:

- ✓ A description of the goals for increased energy efficiency and conservation in your jurisdiction
- ✓ A plan for the use of the grant to assist you in achieving those goals

AND, for local gov's only:

- ✓ Take into account any plans for the use of funds by adjacent eligible units of local governments that receive grants under the EECBG Program;
- ✓ Coordinate and share information with the State to maximize benefits

How to Submit Your EECS if You're a Local Gov. or Tribe:

For the grant option, you must submit your EECS through one of two methods:

1) *With your application through the PAGE system when you apply, or*
2) *Not later than 1 Year after the effective date of the award*

For the voucher option, you must submit your EECS with your application.

EECS Template

What are your government's existing energy efficiency goals?

Will you follow a blueprint? How will this blueprint help you meet your goals?

Provide a description of your project & the category of eligible work it falls under.

How will you coordinate, partner, and engage with key stakeholders: other governments, utilities, community groups, labor unions?

How will you finance your project over time and/or leverage additional funds?

Are you incorporating J40 principles into your project? How does your project serve DACs?

Ask the Expert: EECS & NREL Support with Nathan Wiltse

Q: Do all the questions in the template need to be answered?

A: If you are planning on submitting your EECS with your EECBG application, only Part A is required, and Part B is optional. If you intend to submit your EECS within 1 year of submitting your EECBG application (grants only), then Part A and B are both required.

Q: Does a Climate Action Plan (CAP) meet the requirements of the EECS on its own?

A: No! The CAP could inform the EECS, but the EECS includes information more specific to your EECBG project and grant implementation

Q: I don't see the EECS section in the EECBG Application in PAGE. Where can we find it?

A: The EECS is also known as the "Strategy File" in PAGE.

Reach Our to NREL for EECS Support:
EECS_TA@NREL.gov

Ask the Expert: EECS & NREL Support with Nathan Wiltse

Q: We're interested in receiving EECS support from NREL, what does this entail?

A: NREL EECS TA can assist with a wide range of activities; help you craft language, perform analyses, provide templates, review your EECS, & more! E.g.:

- *Thinking of municipal retrofits? We can help you identify which buildings to focus on*

- *Looking to finance with a revolving loan fund? We can match you with an expert to work through fund structures and interactions with tax credits and other incentives*

- *Don't have an existing climate or energy plan? We can help you identify key goals*

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Townsville: Selecting Blueprint Key Activities

Meet Susie!

Energy Manager

Townsville
$240,000

Blueprints	Key Activities
2A: Energy Audits & Building Upgrades	1. **Building Energy Assessments** • Gather energy data • Benchmarking 2. **Energy Audits** • Select buildings • Determine audit level & type • Funding source • Hire an auditor 3. **Building Upgrades**
6: Workforce Development	1. Workforce Needs Assessment 2. Program Design and Curriculum Development 3. Stakeholder Engagement 4. Paying Trainers & Trainees

images: Flaticon.com

Townsville: Expanding Your Project Idea With Blueprints

Blueprints

2A: Energy Audits & Building Upgrades

6: Workforce Development
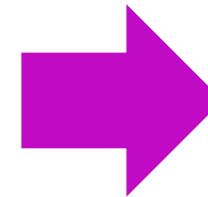
Key Activities

1. **Building Energy Assessments**
   - Gather energy data
   - Benchmarking
2. **Energy Audits**
   - Select buildings
   - Determine audit level & type
   - Funding source
   - Hire an auditor
3. **Building Upgrades**

1. **Workforce Needs Assessment**
2. **Program Design & Curriculum Development**
3. **Stakeholder Engagement**
4. **Paying Trainers & Trainees**

Expanded Project

Benchmark all municipal buildings & conduct audits across buildings with the highest potential for savings.

Prioritize buildings that serve the community.

Parter with a local community college to Pilot an energy auditor training curriculum.

images: Flaticon.com

Blueprint Key Activities Help Inform Application Requirements!

Key Activities

1. **Building Energy Assessments**
   - Gather energy data
   - Benchmarking
2. **Energy Audits**
   - Select buildings
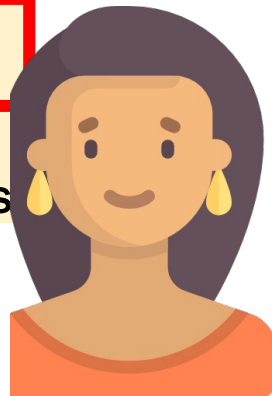   - Determine audit level & type
   - Funding source
   - Hire an auditor
3. **Building Upgrades**
1. **Workforce Needs Assessment**
2. **Program Design & Curriculum Development**
3. **Stakeholder Engagement**
4. **Paying Trainers & Trainees**

Develop and refine your:

- Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy (EECS) **(Grant & Voucher**)
- EECBG Activity File **(Grant**)
  - Project description
  - Project milestones
    - *E.g., Q3: Benchmark 70% of city buildings, Q4: Finalize Training Curriculum*
  - Process metrics
    - *Attachment 1:* EECBG Process Metrics
    - *Attachment 2:* Eligible Activity Areas & their Recommended Process Metrics
- Budget **(Grant**)

Determine if your project is compliant with federal regulations outlined in the ALRD *(Grant & Voucher):*

1. Davis-Bacon
2. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA
3. Build America Buy America (BABA)

X No! Construction, alteration, and/or repair of public buildings or works
- *DBA assurance letter template*

✓ Yes! Falls within a blueprint

✓ Yes!< $250,000 = exempt from BABA requirements

Images: Flaticon.com

Townsville Maximizes Their Impact Beyond the Grant Period

- ✓ Build the foundation for municipal retrofits through data collection and benchmarking

- ✓ Demonstrate the importance of efficiency upgrades by leading the way in municipal facilities

- ✓ Encourage retrofits across building types over time by building out the workforce

- ✓ Maximize benefits to the community through workforce training, targeting community spaces, & more!

images: Flaticon.com

Q&A

Breakouts

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⬇

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developing your Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy (EECS)

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EECS_TA@nrel.gov
- 10-20 Hours

Thank You !!