

Making the EECBG Program Work for Your Community: Projects with Simplified Applications & Grants Management

This guide identifies a selection of [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#) eligible activities that offer **simplified application, reporting, and administrative labor**. For a full list of eligible projects and programs, see [our program guidance](#).

Vouchers vs Grants: Which application option is right for your community?

EECBG Program grantees may choose to receive their allocation as a **traditional grant** or **voucher**. Vouchers can cover equipment and installation costs or technical assistance. For more information, please see the [EECBG Program Voucher Handbook](#).

Why Vouchers:

- Simplified application process, fewer reporting requirements, and less administrative labor
- Encouraged for allocations < \$250,000
- Eliminates procurement requirements if hiring a technical assistance consultant
- Faster award-making process

Why Traditional Grants

- Maximum flexibility to pursue a range of projects or multiple projects at once
- Covers administrative costs, staff time
- Suited for projects that involve programmatic work (e.g., workforce development, community engagement)
- Provides advance payment option

Strategies for reducing overall administrative burdens

The below sections explain different approaches that can streamline the process for applying, reporting on, and managing the award.

Equipment Purchase and Building Upgrade Strategies:

- **Conduct installations with government staff.** Davis-Bacon Act (DBA) reporting requirements *do not apply* when equipment installation is done by someone already employed by the municipality or Tribe. To that end, consider projects with simple installation scenarios.
- **Upgrades that do not break ground.** Building upgrades that do not break ground may have fewer National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) reporting requirements. Example projects include installing efficient HVAC systems or solar arrays less than 60kW on an existing building.

Planning and Programmatic Activity Strategy:

- **Technical assistance voucher is the most streamlined option:** DOE's shortest EECBG Program application. DOE assigns a technical assistance provider to the grantee (eliminating their RFP/procurement process) and pays provider directly. The provider conducts the work and manages most administrative and reporting requirements. Option includes eight hours of free project scoping.

Example Projects with Reduced Administrative Burdens

This section provides specific examples of projects with limited reporting requirements



Example Equipment Purchases and Building Upgrades Projects:

Grantees can purchase and install equipment via traditional grants or vouchers.

Vehicle purchasing or leasing and micro-mobility. Purchasing or leasing vehicles and investing in micro-mobility options can reduce administrative burdens because they do not require installation or break ground (reducing the need to report on DBA or NEPA) and are not subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements.

- **Ex:** Electric & alternative fuel vehicles, (i.e., electric vehicles (EVs), e-bikes, bicycles, & scooters)

EV charging infrastructure. EV infrastructure projects have limited reporting requirements if installed by government employees. Some EV chargers also do not require breaking ground.

- **Ex:** EV charging infrastructure, particularly chargers with no or low installation requirements (e.g., mobile charging units, plug-in chargers, or wall mounted units).

Building upgrades. Can be done on public or private buildings and are generally allowable if they reduce energy consumption or promote energy efficiency.

- **Ex:** Weatherization (e.g., insulation, upgraded windows), HVAC and controls, appliances, or lighting, or rebate programs to provide these measures to residents.
- **Installation note:** Public building upgrades performed by government employees require less reporting. Contracts between homeowners and installers may not be subject to DBA requirements.



Example Planning and Programmatic Activities:

Can be executed with third-party support (e.g., a consultant or contractor).
Applicable via traditional grant or technical assistance voucher.

Community energy planning projects: Benchmarking whole-building energy use, stakeholder engagement, establishing goals for energy or emissions reduction, or strategy development (e.g., transportation, buildings, renewables, etc.).

Energy audits. A third-party can conduct audits of residential, commercial, or government buildings. These audits can then be used to inform upgrade proposals.

Developing energy efficiency and conservation programs. A third party could develop curricula or other materials for municipality-based programs to promote energy conservation.

- **Ex:** Energy benchmarking, public education and workforce training initiatives, or building operations and maintenance strategies, such as Strategic Energy Management.

What's Next?

Visit the [EECBG Program Formula Grant Application Hub](#) to learn about the application process and resources.
Contact eecbg@hq.doe.gov with questions.