

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Commercial Refrigeration Grant Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Version 1.1 (March 2025)

The purpose of this document is to clarify and explain certain requirements of the Commercial Refrigeration Grant Program (Program). Before reading this document, please review the [program requirements](#) and other background information, available on MassDEP's web site via <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-massdep-commercial-refrigeration-grant>. If you have questions about the Program, please email climate.strategies@mass.gov.

This version is an update from version 1.0, which was published in January 2025. New or revised material is marked with an asterisk.

Q1 – Who can apply for funding?

A1 – Any entity that owns or operates a retail food location (e.g., grocery store, convenience store, or other location whose primary function is to sell food products directly to consumers), food bank, or nonprofit institution that utilizes commercial refrigeration equipment at that location in Massachusetts may apply for funding. See Q2 for more information on commercial refrigeration equipment.

Q2 – What is commercial refrigeration equipment?

A2 – Commercial refrigeration equipment is equipment designed to store and display chilled or frozen goods for sale to consumers. Examples of commercial refrigeration equipment include supermarket systems and refrigerated food dispensing equipment. Additional descriptions and examples are available from [US EPA](#) and [US DOE](#). Commercial refrigeration equipment does not include transportation refrigeration units (TRUs), or refrigeration equipment used in industrial process or wholesale operations.

Q3 – When is the application deadline?

A3 – Applications are reviewed and approved on a first-come first-served rolling basis. The application period will remain open until all the Program's funding has been awarded.

***Q4 – How is incremental cost calculated?**

A4 – The incremental cost of ultra-low-GWP technology is calculated by comparing the cost of conventional HFC technology of the same capacity. For example, if a new conventional HFC commercial refrigeration system cost \$100,000 and the new ultra-low-GWP refrigeration system cost \$150,000, the incremental cost would be \$50,000. The Program only provides funding for incremental costs.

***Q5 – What are common ultra-low-GWP refrigerants?**

A5 – Program funding is only available for projects that use ultra-low-GWP (<10) refrigerants. Examples of commonly used ultra-low-GWP refrigerants include propane (R-290), carbon dioxide (R-744) and ammonia (R-717). Table 2 on pages 7-8 of the [Program Requirements](#) has a list of refrigerants and their GWPs.