



GAP IV ENERGY GRANT 2025-2026 OPPORTUNITY

MassDEP's Official Answers to Questions

On August 15, 2025, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MassDEP”) posted the Gap IV Energy Grant 2025-2026 Funding Opportunity (“Gap IV Energy Grant Program”) for the Clean Energy Results Program seeking proposals from publicly-owned drinking water and wastewater facilities, nonprofit agricultural or food producing or food distribution organizations, and small businesses engaged in food distribution or processing. In accordance with the Gap Energy Grant Program’s Estimated Procurement Calendar, MassDEP is holding two Bidders’ Informational Conferences via Zoom; one on August 20, 2025; and the other on September 9, 2025. At each Conference MassDEP informally responds verbally to questions from interested parties. In addition, following each Conference MassDEP accepts written questions submitted via email.

Presented below are MassDEP’s official answers to the questions received during the first Bidders’ Informational Conference, held on August 20, 2025, as well as answers to any questions submitted via email, and received prior to the August 21, 2025, submission deadline. The information in this document is intended to assist all parties interested in applying for funding through the Gap IV Energy Grant Program.

Questions

Q1: “Are solar repair/replacement projects eligible, e.g. if the components are not performing. Can Gap Grant funding be used to repair or replace them?”

A1: A solar array that is no longer functioning or that has been significantly damaged, in whole or in part, and requires replacement, may be eligible for funding. However, the applicant would need to also qualify as an eligible entity and would need to meet all other requirements.

Q2: “Is the Grant IV Energy Grant available to support nonprofit multi-family affordable housing organizations? In particular, are nonprofit multi-family affordable housing organizations who were eligible for MassDEP Gap Energy Grant Opportunities in the 2022-2023 round still eligible for the 2025 round, and if not why?”

A2: No. A nonprofit, multi-family affordable housing entity is not an eligible entity under the Gap IV Energy Grant Program. Prior iterations of the Gap Grant Program, such as the Gap III Grant funding opportunity, did include this sector. However, following that opportunity, other funding resources for non-profit multi-family affordable housing projects have emerged. For example, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) launched its [Affordable Housing Decarbonization Grant Program](#) with funding to support the energy needs of this sector. In an effort not to duplicate other state programs, MassDEP’s Gap IV Energy Grant Program is open only to publicly-owned drinking water and wastewater facilities, nonprofit agricultural or food producing and distribution organizations, and small businesses engaged in food distribution and processing.

Q3: “Is a nonprofit food pantry eligible to apply for a Gap Energy Grant for energy efficiency upgrades to its facility?”

A3: Yes. A nonprofit food pantry is an eligible entity for purposes of the Gap IV Energy Grant Program. A project involving energy efficiency upgrades may be eligible for funding, provided the work meets all requirements for this category of project.

Q4: “Project eligibility question: "ground source EXCLUDING wastewater energy recovery technologies" -- so this is covered in the Clean Energy part of the grant, just not the Energy Efficiency part?”

A4: Yes. Projects involving ground source technologies, excluding wastewater energy recovery technologies, are considered eligible projects under this program. Depending on the nature of the heat pump technology used, a project may also qualify under either the energy efficiency category or the clean energy category. Please see section C. “Eligible Projects”. Please note: the Mass Save® Energy Efficiency Program does provide rebates to eligible customers for different types of heat pump technology installations See:

https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/bus-ways-to-save/ma/ee9043-comm-heat-pump-rebate_fillable-1.pdf

Q5: “A Cape Cod community is currently constructing a new water resource recovery facility (wastewater treatment facility). The facility will include several structures to accommodate headworks, sequencing batch reactors, ultraviolet disinfection, chemical storage and handling, solids storage and handling, denitrification filters and administrative/operations spaces. Work under this project includes demolition, site preparation and finishes, construction of infiltration basins, and utility work for supply of power, natural gas, potable water to the facility. The Owner’s Project engineering firm is

currently determining if this project is eligible for any energy incentive rebates associated with the new equipment to be installed under the project, specifically for the three main buildings at the WRRF (Headworks, Operations, SBR Process). Is this active construction project (scheduled to be substantially completed in April 2027), eligible for MassDEP Gap IV Energy Grant?”

A5: Yes. A municipal-owned wastewater treatment plant is an eligible entity under the Gap IV Energy Grant Program. The municipality that owns the facility may apply for funding. Energy efficiency measures that may qualify as an eligible project include, but are not limited to, the installation of: insulated precast prestressed concrete wall panels; high-efficiency heating and cooling systems; LED lighting; treatment process equipment; variable frequency drives for all pumping systems; and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) equipment and programmable logic computers to efficiently control treatment plant processes. Please note that the applicant would need to identify the energy efficiency area (e.g., building envelope, HVAC, pump and motor systems, etc.) for which they are applying for funding, along with estimated project costs and estimated annual energy cost and electricity savings (kWh).

Q6: “A public wastewater sewer district is considering an evaluation of a new chiller system focused on wastewater treatment plant heat recovery (plant wastewater will be the water source). Is this type of project eligible for MassDEP Gap IV Energy Grant?”

A6: No. Wastewater energy recovery technologies are not eligible for funding under the Gap IV Energy Grant Program. However, such projects may be eligible for funding through other opportunities offered by MassDEP. For example, please refer to MassDEP’s [Wastewater Energy Recovery Pilot Program](#) which is under development but is expected to be release later in 2025.

Q7: “A Central Massachusetts wastewater plant is upgrading their original old (~1970’s) switch gear and Motor Control Center (MCC). Is this project eligible for a MassDEP Gap IV Energy Grant?”

A7: A municipal-owned wastewater treatment plant is an eligible facility, and the proposed project, as described, may be an eligible project provided it can meet all requirements. Also, newer switchgear systems are designed with advanced technologies that can reduce energy consumption by as much as 40% compared to older systems. This could include energy saving measures, such as - high efficiency motors, Variable Frequency Drives (VFD’s), smart controls, integration into comprehensive Energy Management Systems, and reduced demand charges.

Q8: Are roof repairs or roof replacements at a regional wastewater district eligible for a Gap IV Energy Grant?

A8: No. Stand-alone roof repairs or replacements would not be considered an eligible project under the Gap IV Energy Grant Program.

Q9: Does a 42-acre nonprofit farm that operates a food pantry qualify for a Gap Energy Grant. The farm would like to install solar at the farm and at the food pantry.

A9: Yes. A nonprofit farm that operates a food pantry and one that can demonstrate its nonprofit status is eligible to apply for a Gap Energy Grant to support installation of solar panels. Solar panels are an eligible project. The nonprofit farm must also submit an energy assessment that identifies the solar array size, the estimated project costs, estimated annual energy generation, and projected annual cost savings. An up to date filing of its nonprofit status with the Attorney General's Office of Public Charities is also recommended.

Q10: Does a small composting business qualify as an eligible entity under the small business category? Also, would a solar array and static aerated system with blowers and controls be an eligible project and if they were moved to another location would that be allowed under a Gap Energy Grant ?

A10: Thank you for your question. As this question and facts are one of first impression for our program, we would like to review the question and provide a response in our next Official Answer.