

# News from the Green Communities Division *BIL Update Edition*



## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Notice of Intent - Feedback Sought

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) released a Notice of Intent (NOI) announcing the \$550 million **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) opportunity available to local and state governments.**

The EECBG Program, which received funding through the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**, will support communities to develop and deploy strategies to increase energy efficiency, cut emissions, and reduce energy use.

Municipalities with a population over 35,000 will receive direct formula grants from the DOE, ranging from approximately \$76,300 for smaller communities to \$660,000 for the City of Boston. Communities with a population under 35,000 will have access to funds administered by MA DOER.

DOE is considering offering eligible entities the opportunity to select a **voucher for technical assistance and/or an equipment rebate in lieu of a formula grant.** The intent in offering this option to eligible entities is to: 1) reduce the administrative burden associated with applying for and managing a federal grant, and 2) provide additional resources and assistance needed to accomplish eligible entities' goals. DOE is also considering developing a portfolio of project and program **blueprints designed to leverage other BIL and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) investments**

and streamline the application review and approval process for eligible entities, using proven practices from states, local governments, Indian tribes, and the private sector. In addition, eligible entities may consider teaming up with other entities eligible for formula allocations to align efforts, leverage funding, and reduce administrative burdens.

To expedite the administration of the EECBG Program, to provide feedback, and to indicate your interest in a voucher or blueprint, DOE is offering an opportunity to submit the “[EECBG Program Optional Information Collection Form for Eligible Entities](#),” which will help DOE to plan for the EECBG Program requirements.

Responses to this form are due **December 16**.

To view the EECBG Program NOI, please visit: [Financial Opportunities: Funding Opportunity Exchange](#). To learn more about the EECBG Program, visit DOE’s webpage on the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#).

## **Renew America’s Schools Grants Available**

DOE’s Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) also issued a Funding Opportunity Notice to support **energy upgrades in America’s highest-need K-12 school facilities**. Titled [Renew America’s Schools](#), this substantial investment under BIL will target infrastructural investments in key project areas to reduce energy costs, improve energy performance, reduce carbon emissions, and create safer and healthier learning spaces for students and teachers. Examples of eligible projects include new HVAC and ventilation systems, building envelope and lighting projects, and alternative fuel and renewable energy technologies.

In tandem with the Renew America’s Schools grant program, DOE launched a \$4.5 million prize program called the **Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (Energy CLASS Prize)**. This prize facilitates **capacity-building within school districts to staff and train school energy managers**.

Both programs will concentrate funds in **rural and high-poverty school districts** to lower energy costs, reduce carbon emissions, and build healthier learning environments for students and teachers.

Concept papers are due on **January 26, 2023**. DOE is offering an informational **webinar 1:00 – 2:00 pm, Tuesday, December 6**. [Click here to register](#) for the webinar.

To view the Funding Opportunity Announcement, visit [DOE EERE Exchange](#). For the latest announcements and resources, visit [energy improvements at public school facilities](#).

## **Stakeholder Hour for Commercial and Industrial Programs offered by the Sponsors of Mass Save**

You spoke – and Mass Save listened. The Sponsors of Mass Save is holding another Stakeholder Hour on their Commercial & Industrial (C&I) programs **12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, on Thursday, December 8**. The focus will be on feedback and questions about contractor services, reflecting one of the top issues in response to a survey of C&I customers – which includes municipalities.

Your questions and comments are welcome on this topic. To register for the stakeholder hour and submit your question in advance [please click here](#).

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