



DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

Collaborative strategies to meet an unprecedented opportunity

As a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, funds have been allocated to the Department of Energy for local governments in the form of the **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program**. The purpose of these funds is to stimulate the economy, create jobs and meet these environmental goals:

- **Reduce fossil fuel emissions** in a manner that is environmentally sustainable
- **Reduce the total energy use** of the eligible entities; and
- **Improve energy efficiency** in the building sector, the transportation sector, and other sectors.

The EECBG provides the local governments with an unprecedented and potentially unique opportunity to access federal funds to promote sustainability, conserve energy and address climate change. Key priorities of the EECBG include:

- Linking energy efficiency efforts to long-term priorities (especially community economic development, community stabilization and poverty reduction efforts).
- Targeting programs and projects that will provide substantial, sustainable and measurable energy savings, job creation and economic stimulus effects.
- To the extent possible, develop programs and strategies that will continue beyond the funding period.
- Develop comprehensive plans that benchmark current performance, set aggressive goals, and monitor and measure results over time.

EECBG funding can be used for a wide-range of projects, such as:

- Program development such as incentive programs for energy retrofits, local engaged carbon offset programs, or transportation demand management programs
- The development and implementation of jurisdiction-wide Energy Management Programs
- Sustainable Facilities Management processes for government buildings, including energy audits, retro-commissioning and upgrades, recycling programs and purchasing policies
- Implementation of jurisdiction-wide energy and emissions tracking systems
- Workforce development and green jobs training programs
- Planning efforts including General Plan Updates, Climate Action Plans, and development of green zoning, building codes and ordinances
- Installation of energy efficient equipment and renewable energy systems

The period of performance for these grants will be 36 months. In keeping with the agenda of the Recovery Act, and supporting the goal of immediate investment in the economy, entities are required to obligate/commit all funds within eighteen (18) months from the effective date of the award. In the event funds are not obligated or committed within eighteen (18) months, DOE reserves the right to de-obligate the funds and cancel the award.

CTG is proposing three phases of support for local governments:

Phase 1. Proposal Preparation

The EECBG program is a unique opportunity for local governments. It has never been funded before, and it is likely that it will never be funded again at this level. This means that there is no existing experience with this program and likely little desire to train internal staff in the details of program implications. CTG is prepared to assist local governments in navigating the application process, including rapidly identifying and refining opportunities and preparing proposals. Potential assistance may include facilitated charrettes and workshops, comparative analysis of project opportunities, development of Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategies (EECS), and proposal review and writing.

Phase 2. Project Planning and Reporting

For local governments with formula allocations above \$250,000, the DOE will initially provide \$250,000 for planning and programmatic activities. The local government will have four months to develop and submit a plan that describes how the EECBG funds will be used to achieve job creation, energy, and environmental goals. Local governments face a significant challenge in rapidly planning for project implementation and developing systematic procedures for rigorous reporting on the Department of Energy's key performance metrics over short-, medium-, and long-term time periods. Local governments will need specific procedures to measure and monitor progress, while tracking and trending key variables over time.

CTG is available to help local government with project planning and systematic assessments that will provide the foundation for project success. Potential collaborative services include the development of implementation plans, assessment of existing monitoring systems (both processes and hardware), design and implementation of monitoring programs, and the deployment of customized information technologies, including CTG's Sustainable Facilities Management System (SFMS). Support provided during this phase may also include various planning exercises to complete a prioritized list of Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategies that results in maximum return with respect to energy savings and job creation.

Potential CTG services that can support local governments in successfully receiving and dispersing EECBG funds include:

- Sustainable Facility Program Development
 - Assess the Performance of Current City Facility Programs in Meeting Sustainability Requirements
 - Assess Current Performance of City Facilities
 - Prioritize Built Environment Energy Efficiency and Conservation Opportunities
 - Develop a Sustainable Facility Program Roadmap
 - Develop a Workforce Development Plan
- Monitoring and Reporting System Deployment
- Climate Action Plan Development
- Energy Master Plan Development

More details on CTG services for Project Planning and Reporting is available upon request.

Phase 3. Project Implementation

The “rubber hits the road” with the implementation of actual projects, whether they are planning processes, such as Climate Action Plans, or on-the-ground action to improve the performance of individual facilities. CTG believes that this includes both training-based implementation, such as CTG’s family of “learn-by-doing” programs, and turn-key services, such as facility audits, retro-commissioning, and LEED consulting.

Additionally, a key requirement from the Department of Energy (DOE) for participation in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will be robust reporting on the following program performance criteria: total energy saved per dollar invested, number of jobs created or retained, amount of renewable energy generated, and GHG emissions avoided. The DOE has indicated that it will distribute the funds in at least three phases to large cities, with each subsequent funding phase based on demonstrated performance relative to program criteria. This requirement will force cities to appropriately prioritize program implementation (projects) based on performance that can be both realized in the field and measured. CTG has developed a family of database-driven tools that can be quickly deployed for the City to meet program tracking and reporting requirements for the DOE, ensuring on-going program funding success and maximizing the return on EECBG dollars.

Potential CTG services that can support the City in successfully implementing EECBG projects include:

- Sustainable Facilities Training Workshops
- Workforce Development Training
- Direct Project Implementation Services
- Climate Action Plan Development
- Energy Master Plan Development

More details on CTG services for Project Implementation can be provided on request.

Bottom Line

The EECBG provides a unique opportunity for local governments to move forward in addressing energy, emissions, and even green jobs. CTG is dedicated to increasing the performance and sustainability of built environments, and it is widely-recognized as a leader in each of these high-priority areas. CTG is ready to help local governments use these funds to make a tangible difference in their community and accelerate the transition to a clean, low-carbon society. CTG can help do this in a way that targets high-impact opportunities and provides the processes and tools required for the rigorous reporting required by the Department of Energy.

For questions or additional assistance, please contact one of the following CTG principals:

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