

# Grantline

A resource to assist county officials in locating federal, state and foundation grants available to enhance Illinois communities.



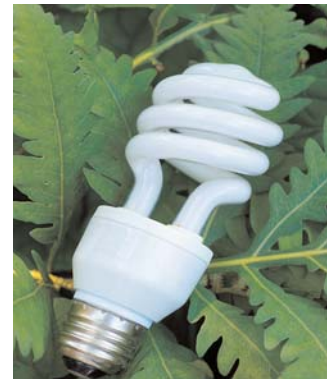
A member service of the Illinois Association of County Board Members

May 2010

## Applications now being accepted for EECBG funds – Counties encouraged to apply

Passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the issuance of guidance regarding Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has generated a tremendous amount of interest in energy projects across Illinois. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has entered into an agreement with the Illinois Association of Regional Councils (ILARC) and their member regional planning commissions to administer the EECBG grant funds to small communities.

**A competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process is now open to all Illinois units of local government that meet the eligibility criteria.** A local government is eligible for funds if the population of the entity is 35,000 or less. County governments that were not awarded a direct block grant by DOE may also apply for funding through this program.\*



### Eligible Activities\* include the following:

- A. Energy efficiency and conservation strategy** – Up to 10% of the block grant funds may be used to fund consultant services to assist communities in developing a sustainable energy efficiency strategy and to identify viable projects and programs to implement that strategy.
- B. Residential and commercial building energy audits** – Communities may provide funding for audits for its residents, businesses and government facilities, but will be encouraged not to duplicate services that may already be offered by the State or utilities.
- C. Energy efficiency retrofits in buildings and facilities** – Communities may use funds to administer programs or pay for their own building projects. They may offer incentives to residences, businesses, and nonprofit organizations for energy efficiency measures in buildings. They may also fund energy retrofit projects in municipal, school, or other local public facilities. The following projects are allowable under this activity:
  - installation of insulation
  - installation of efficient lighting
  - heating, venting, and air conditioning (HVAC) and high efficiency shower/faucet upgrades
  - weather sealing
  - purchase and installation of ENERGY STAR appliances
  - installation of solar powered or conventional garbage compactors with improved efficiency
  - replacement of windows and doors
- D. Transportation energy efficiency** – Applicants may use funds to encourage purchase of hybrid vehicles for local government or school fleet vehicles. The rebate or grant shall not exceed \$5,000 for each vehicle purchased. Applicants may also use funds to pay for part of the cost of plug-in charging stations for electric plus in vehicles. Any such charging station should include solar or other renewable energy supply. Only 50% of the total project costs for the plug-in stations can be paid for with EECBG funds.
- E. Building Code Development and Enforcement** – Applicants may use Block Grant funds to implement the newly mandated Illinois Energy Efficiency Building Act (IEEBA). Funds may be used to support enforcement activities or the local building industry in the requirements of the applicable model code.

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\*The following counties received direct block grants from DOE and do not qualify to make application under this program: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, Madison, McHenry, St. Clair, Tazewell, Will and Winnebago. \*Regional planning agencies may offer all 8 categories or a combination of eligible activities.



## EECBG Grants *continued*

### F. Source reduction, recycling and recycled content procurement –

Recycling projects must lead to documented energy savings to be eligible for funding. Projects such as curbside recycling and community drop off events are encouraged.

### G. Traffic signals and street lights –

Block grant funds may be used to replace traffic signals or street lights with energy efficient lighting technologies, such as LED or induction lighting. Traffic signals are an eligible EEPS measure and, therefore, EECBG funds should only be used if additional funds are needed to make a project viable or if the community is not eligible for EEPS funding. EECBG funds can provide for no more than \$400 per street light.

### H. Government building renewable electricity –

Onsite renewable energy projects that generate electricity from solar, wind, fuel cells, or biomass are eligible for funding. Depending on the project, applicants should first take advantage of any rebates available from the state's Renewable Energy Resources Program (RERP).

## LEVERAGING FUNDS

The applicant's investment for each project applied for must be at least 25% of the total project cost. Applicants are encouraged to leverage other funds including EEPS.

## WHERE TO APPLY

The RFA is now available through your local regional planning agency. For more information visit [www.ilarconline.org](http://www.ilarconline.org).

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are due June 11, 2010.

For more information contact Kelly Murray at 217-528-5331, e-mail [iacbm@msn.com](mailto:iacbm@msn.com) or your local regional planning agency.

## Make sure your county gets their share of Illinois' energy efficiency funds!

Beginning June 1, 2010, the State Energy Office at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will administer over \$40 million of incentives and rebates through the Illinois Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS).

Illinois EEPS is a partnership between DCEO and the state's two largest electric utilities, ComEd and Ameren Illinois. To help reduce the state's overall electric usage by 2.0% by 2015, the utilities provide a substantial budget for rebates to their customers that make electric energy efficiency upgrades.

This initiative was signed into law August 2007. It is among the most ambitious energy efficiency standards in the nation. It requires Illinois utilities to reduce overall electric usage by 0.2% of demand in 2008, escalating to 2.0% by 2015.

DCEO's State Energy Office administers the rebates for all public sector institutions. County governments that are located within ComEd or Ameren Illinois service areas are eligible and should apply to DCEO for their rebates.

### What qualifies as a public sector institution?

- federal, state and local government including counties and townships
- public K-12 schools, community colleges, public universities and colleges
- public safety, water and park districts

### How does a public sector institution apply?

Only Public Entities that are located within ComEd or Ameren Illinois service areas are eligible and should apply to DCEO for their rebates. The application is online at [www.illinoisenergy.org](http://www.illinoisenergy.org) under Energy Efficiency.

### What can be done with EEPS rebates?

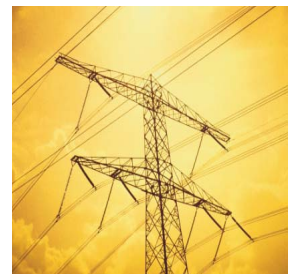
Public sector entities can design new projects or retrofit existing buildings and make these types of electric system efficiency improvements:

- lighting
- motors
- variable frequency drives
- cooling and heating equipment
- traffic signals and exit signs
- plus more

## IT'S EASY TO APPLY!

Just visit [www.illinoisenergy.org](http://www.illinoisenergy.org).

In some cases leveraged EEPS funds combined with the EECBG grant funds could result in 100% of the project costs being covered.



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Local governments with populations under 35,000 and county governments that did not receive a direct allocation from DOE can apply for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding through June 11, 2010. The program is administered for the State Energy Office by the Illinois Association of Regional Councils (ILARC). **To find out which categories are available in your area, contact your local regional planning agency.**

#### **Boone-Belvidere Regional Planning Commission**

(Boone County)  
815/544-5271 • [planning@boonecountyil.org](mailto:planning@boonecountyil.org)

#### **Blackhawk Hills RC&D**

(Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson and Whiteside counties)  
815/625-3854 • [info@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:info@blackhawkhills.com)

#### **Bi-State Regional Commission**

(Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Winnebago counties)  
309/793-6300 • [gmccullough@bistateonline.org](mailto:gmccullough@bistateonline.org)

#### **Champaign County Regional Planning Commission**

(Champaign, Douglas, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Piatt, Vermilion and DeWitt counties)  
217/328-3313 • [schavarr@co.champaign.il.us](mailto:schavarr@co.champaign.il.us)

#### **Coles County RP&DC**

(Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Edgar and Moultrie counties)  
217/348-0521 • [ccrpd@co.coles.il.us](mailto:ccrpd@co.coles.il.us)

#### **Greater Egypt RP&DC**

(Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry and Williamson counties)  
618/549-3306 • [gerpd@verizon.net](mailto:gerpd@verizon.net)

#### **Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission**

(Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne and White counties)  
618/445-3612 • [sarahmann@gwrpc.com](mailto:sarahmann@gwrpc.com)

#### **Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission**

(Kankakee County)  
815/937-2940 • [msadler@k3county.net](mailto:msadler@k3county.net)

#### **McLean County Regional Planning Commission**

(McLean County)  
309/828-4331 • [rnolan@mcplan.org](mailto:rnolan@mcplan.org)

#### **Macon County Regional Planning Commission**

(Macon County)  
217/424-1466 • [jhoffman@co.macon.il.us](mailto:jhoffman@co.macon.il.us)

#### **Metropolitan Mayors Caucus**

(Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties)  
312/201-4508 • [kagasie@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:kagasie@mayorscaucus.org)

#### **Morgan County Regional Planning Commission**

(Cass, Morgan and Scott counties)  
217/243-9404 • [ddouglas@morgancounty-il.com](mailto:ddouglas@morgancounty-il.com)

#### **North Central Illinois Council of Governments**

(Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam and Stark counties)  
815/875-3396 • [sgrosenbach@ncicg.org](mailto:sgrosenbach@ncicg.org)

#### **South Central Illinois RP&DC**

(Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper and Marion counties)  
618/548-4234 • [jpatrick@scirpdc.com](mailto:jpatrick@scirpdc.com)

#### **Southeastern Illinois RP&DC**

(Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline counties)  
618/252-7463 • [sirpdc@clearwave.com](mailto:sirpdc@clearwave.com)

#### **Southern Five RPD&PC**

(Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union counties)  
618/634-2284 • [sfrpc@southernfive.org](mailto:sfrpc@southernfive.org)

#### **Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan & RPC**

(Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Madison counties)  
618/344-4250

#### **Springfield-Sangamon County RPC**

(Sangamon County)  
217/535-3110 • [ssrcpc@co.sangamon.il.us](mailto:ssrcpc@co.sangamon.il.us)

#### **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission**

(Logan, Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties)  
309/673-9330 • [info@tricityrprc.org](mailto:info@tricityrprc.org)

#### **Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials**

(Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler counties)  
217/224-8171 • [s14.trusewych@trrcopo.org](mailto:s14.trusewych@trrcopo.org)

#### **West Central Development Council**

(Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby counties)  
217/854-9642 • [michael.scherer@west-central.org](mailto:michael.scherer@west-central.org)

#### **Western Illinois Regional Council**

(Mason, Menard, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren counties)  
309/837-3941 • [wirc@wirpc.org](mailto:wirc@wirpc.org)