



Community Energy Plan Grant Program



New Jersey's
cleanenergy
program™

Create a Community Energy Plan for your local community that aligns with the State's Energy Master Plan.

What is a Community Energy Plan?

Community Energy Plans help communities effectively organize to rapidly lower greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy use and expanding sustainable energy production. A Community Energy Plan establishes priority sustainable energy initiatives based on demonstrated effectiveness, unique local factors, and co-benefits, such as improved local air quality, energy savings for residents, and workforce development. Many of these initiatives involve collaboration between municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, and residents.

A Community Energy Plan is developed by a team of local municipal staff, elected officials, relevant municipal board and commission members, and community representatives. This planning team integrates the perspectives of the broader community with established best practices for effectively lowering greenhouse gas emissions on the local level.



Who is eligible for a Community Energy Plan Grant?

Overburdened Municipalities (see application) are eligible for a \$25,000 grant.

To apply, a municipality must complete the checklist of high-impact strategies listed in the application Appendix 2; provide a preliminary program budget; and approve the application with a municipal resolution.

NOTE: If more applications are received than can be funded, priority consideration will be given based on:

- Status as an “overburdened community” as defined by NJDEP pursuant to New Jersey’s Environmental Justice Law, N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157; and
- Equitable distribution of the grants by region and municipal size and type (north, central, south; urban, suburban, rural).

For more information please visit: NJCleanEnergy.com | Call: 866-NJSMART (866-657-6278)

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What are Community Energy Plan Grants?

New Jersey's Energy Master Plan: Pathway to 2050 established that community-level action is necessary to achieve the state's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050. To support this community-level action, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) is offering Community Energy Plan Grants.

These grants fund the development of Community Energy Plans using specific resources provided by NJBPU, including aggregated community energy data and the Community Energy Plan Template. The purpose of the grant program is to help municipalities quickly and efficiently triage the known practical and impactful strategies to reduce greenhouse gases and promptly proceed to implementation. The grants can be used to compensate the planning team for their time, contract for the services of consultants or other third-party experts, and cover the costs of public meetings and other methods of soliciting public input.

What is required of Community Energy Plan Grant Recipients?

Grant recipients will conduct an in-depth analysis of initiatives to include in their Plan, starting with those identified in the Community Energy Plan Template. Each strategy will require research and vetting to determine if it can be implemented by the municipality. Planning teams are encouraged to consider measures beyond the items listed in the Template, but grant recipients must, at a minimum, carefully consider each strategy in the CEP Template.

Community Energy Plan Grant recipients must conduct at least one public meeting to engage the community in the creation of the Plan and receive feedback from municipal constituents.

The Community Energy Plan must be adopted through a resolution of the municipal governing body, then shared with the NJBPU. For \$10,000 grants, an expenditure report must be submitted at the end of the grant term. For \$25,000 grants, an expenditure report must be submitted quarterly.

Resources

Community Energy Planning Grants

www.NJCleanEnergy.com/CEP

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program

www.NJCleanEnergy.com

New Jersey 2019 Energy Master Plan

www.NJ.gov/EMP

Sustainable Jersey Community Solar Guide

https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Actions_and_Certification/Actions/Municipally_Supported_Community_Solar/Sustainable_Jersey_Community_Solar_Guidebook.pdf

Sustainable Jersey Data Resources

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/resources/data-center/sustainable-jersey-data-resources/>

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program is a statewide program administered by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities that promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy for all New Jersey ratepayers, including residences, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

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