

Solicitation No. 2010SEPComIndNonprofit1
**“Energy Efficiency Projects for Commercial, Industrial
and Large Nonprofit Sectors”**

Questions and Answers

July 21, 2010

1. Question:

I just wanted to confirm that local units of government are not considered eligible applicants for this solicitation.

ANSWER: Correct. As stated in the Eligibility Section on Page 2 of the Funding Opportunity, Energy efficiency upgrades are for 1) Commercial, 2) Industrial and 3) Qualified Non-Profit facilities. For the purposes of this Funding Opportunity, “Qualified Non-Profit” means a facility that houses a registered 501(c)(3) entity and that includes at least one building of at least 20,000 square feet. Further guidelines can be found in the Eligibility Requirements Section on Page 8 of the Funding Opportunity. However, please see Funding Opportunity for Energy Efficiency in Governmental Buildings [local governments, public K-12 schools and community colleges] - Solicitation No. 2010LocalGovtEduc2 for possible local government grants.

2. Question:

Page 13, Item 3 under Required Forms (Solar Electricity/Photovoltaic) of the solicitation indicates that an “appropriately sized system or unit on rooftops and parking shade structures; or a 60 kW system or smaller unit installed on the ground within the boundaries of an existing facility.” Can systems located on existing rooftops and/or parking lot shade structures exceed the 60kW limit? Please define “appropriately sized.”

Answer: For rooftop units, “appropriately sized” is governed by the structure that is being upgraded, e.g. whether the system will fit within/on the existing structure. For ground level units, 60-kW is the maximum allowed system or unit size. The purpose of the examples is to reiterate the fact that projects requiring a NEPA review will be categorically denied. See http://www.energync.net/wdocs/arraWebinar/NEPA_program_guidance_notice_10-003.pdf for additional NEPA information.

3. Question:

On page 16 under Energy Saved there is a formula explaining how points are calculated and awarded for BTU’s saved. Is the same formula used for calculating kWh saved (e.g. “two points for each 1,000,000 kWh above 5,000,000 kWh’s - or fraction thereof - per \$1,000 of grant funds for a maximum of 30 points”) or is there a different formula?

Answer: The calculation will vary depending on the project and the type of energy the project will be displacing, i.e. natural gas, electricity, etc. However, we would recommend converting kWh savings into BTUs, there are 3,413-BTUs per kWh. See the Monitoring and Verification Section of the Application Requirements Section on Page 11 for additional information. Note that a

baseline for all utilities used for the previous twelve months is needed for any calculations.

4. Question:

We are interested in the possibility of upgrading our existing parking lot lighting to energy-efficient fixtures. We would also like to explore the possibility of installing solar panels on the roofs of our centers for the purpose of using the energy and/or selling the energy back to the grid. Would either of these projects meet the criteria for a grant under the program below?

Answer: Yes, those types of projects would be considered under this Funding Opportunity.

5. Question

We are very interested in applying for a grant to bring our twenty+ year HVAC system in our classroom building up-to-date and functional. My question is, “As an educational facility that is open to the public, we would like to create an educational component that talks about the use of natural resources, including energy efficiency and conservation.” Could a portion of the grant be used to create this educational component or is the grant restricted to construction only? Our goal is to physically upgrade our HVAC and building in order to reduce energy load and create a better learning environment while at the same time educating the public about their need to upgrade their own homes and businesses.

Answer: This Funding Opportunity will only address building structures, so the educational component would not be eligible. Upgrading the HVAC system would be an eligible project as stated in the Required Forms Section of Application Requirements on Page 13 of the Funding Opportunity; Energy efficient retrofits, including the installation of energy efficient lighting in existing buildings, HVAC upgrades, weather sealing, replace of windows and doors, etc. in a Commercial, Industrial or Large Nonprofit structure. If the facility is a public school, please review the following solicitation for eligibility - Energy Efficiency in Governmental Buildings [local governments, public K-12 schools and community colleges].

6. Question:

Would installing an energy efficient air conditioning system in a 265,000 sq/ft facility that currently has no air conditioning fall under this program or is it more for upgrading current systems to be more energy efficient?

Answer: Retrofitting the facility to be energy efficient is the goal of this Funding Opportunity. Note that adding an air conditioning system would most likely increase energy consumption, which would not meet the goals of the Funding Opportunity. Also see Answer #5.

7. Question:

I need help opening the web page from the link in the announcement.

Answer: Solicitations are posted on www.energync.net under the Announcements section.

8. Question:

We have extensive flat roof surface areas. The roofs are covered with a black roofing material that is a tremendous heat sink in the summer. As a result, energy consumption for air conditioning is greatly increased. A significant degree of the heat sink could be eliminated by installing a more reflective surface. This could be accomplished by replacement of the roof with a white roofing material or the painting of the black roof. The project would generate contractor jobs and the sale of commercial materials. It also would involve the installation of a passive energy conservation measure that could be easily renewed in the future. Is this the type of projects that you are soliciting?

Answer: Yes, a proposal could be submitted for this type of project. Also see Page 13 of the Funding Opportunity for project examples. Note that the award thresholds on Page 2 of the Funding Opportunity.

9. Question:

What are leveraged funds? Are borrowed funds (bank loan) used to complete the project considered leveraged funds?

Answer: Borrowed funds are considered leveraged funds. The bank borrowed funds would represent your capital investment in the project. See the Funds Leveraged Section on Page 16 of the Funding Opportunity.

10. Question:

If I apply and am approved for the NC grant money, does this disqualify me from applying for the Federal grant money as well?

Answer: Check the restrictions under the “Eligibility Requirements” and “Funds Leveraged” (or similarly titled) sections of both solicitations. You are eligible to apply for funds at the State and Federal levels that are not American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds. The ARRA money cannot be used as leverage to obtain additional ARRA funds, whether from the State or Federal government.

11. Question:

In the explanation of the energy saved point system, both examples are per \$1000 grant funds. Can you please further explain how the grant fund portion is used in point allocation for energy saved?

ANSWER: See Question #3.

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