



State Energy Program

Providing energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives for small businesses and industries with the North Carolina 'Main Street' program – ROUND 2

Solicitation No. 2010MainStreet2

The purpose of this Addendum # 3 is to answer additional questions that have been submitted.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Funding Opportunity Issue Date: June 22, 2010

Addendum #3 Issue Date: July 28, 2010

Application Closing Date: 2:00 p.m., Friday, Aug. 6, 2010

13. Question:

Are new 'Low Flow' or 'High-Efficiency' toilets an eligible activity?

Answer: No, they are not eligible.

14. Question:

If a developer is renovating a building that has been vacant for a number of years and is completely gutted, there will be no baseline for energy saved and any post testing will be negligible. Are such projects still eligible and if so how will the scoring be affected due to the lack of any true measurement of impact?

Answer: The 15% energy savings is required and in the scoring system. The Department of Energy requires that State Energy Program funds be used for measurable energy efficiency. Without the ability to measure savings, the application would not score well. Buildings that have been vacant for many years do create a challenge. These types of buildings must be evaluated on a case by case basis. Energy modeling may be used to establish the baseline for the building using a current code building as the starting point. Grant money may be used to pay for the incremental difference between standard equipment and the energy efficiency upgrades. M & V will be used to verify that the building systems that are upgraded achieve the modeled results.

15. Question:

Why is a renewable energy that is far more “economically viable” (solar thermal) and generates much more “significant energy-saving(s)” excluded?

Answer: The Main Street Energy Grant Fund is funded through a US Department of Energy Grant under ARRA. Additionally, all projects are to be completed by December 2011. Solar thermal was not given categorical exclusions by DOE for NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) nor the NC SHPO for NHPA (National Historic Preservation Act). This funding opportunity is not available for projects that are not categorically excluded from NEPA and NHPA. While the universe of projects that DOE may determine to be categorically excluded is not known, it has been our experience that solar thermal projects are not categorically excluded, so this type of project was deemed ineligible.

16. Question:

Page 9, Funding Objectives/Attain Sustainable Energy Savings/Mandatory: Projects need to be economically viable and save at least 15% in energy consumption. Our question is what is the 15% savings measured against? Is it based on certain commercial building standards or does it only pertain to existing operating buildings that have a current documented energy load? They refer to an energy bill analysis. The project we would be submitting is for a historic building with no existing HVAC or Electrical Systems.

Answer: Modeling would need to be done based on square footage, age, and other buildings in the area. This would have to be done by a qualified technical assistance provider.

17 Question:

For main street proposals which implement projects with down town businesses, do we need to submit and maintain utility records for every business for a period of time after the project?

Answer: Utility records (or some type of baseline measurement) for each individual building included in the Project will be necessary in order to establish the pre-Project baseline energy consumption. Measurement & Verification will be done after the project is completed. If a Main Street project uses one of our Technical Assistant providers to perform M&V then the provider will establish a base line energy consumption and then verify the results of the project. It will be the responsibility of the building owners themselves to maintain records after their initial assessment in accordance with ARRA requirements.

18.Question:

Our main street program has been trying to help an organization renovate a building to LEED standards and needs additional funding to make the project move forward. As this building is currently not occupied, there are no utility bills available. For a building which is being renovated to LEED standards, will energy modeling suffice for proving energy savings versus if the building was remodeled to current energy code?

Answer: Please see answer to question # 14.

19. Question:

Can we include upgrades to a building addition in the request for funding?

Answer: yes, but the grant can fund only for the incremental cost of the more efficient energy efficiency measure(s) to be installed in the building additions.

20. Question:

Will the City Strategic Energy Plan be sufficient for the “Strategic Energy Plan” completed? Does the Energy Plan have to include the main street buildings?

Answer: The Strategic Energy Plan may be incorporated into the City Strategic Energy Plan, however the Main Street district component must be specific to the downtown district strategy.

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