

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment



Green Building Fund Grant
Net-Zero Energy Project Design Assistance
RFA #2020-2008-USA

Q&A 01/14/2020
Updated : N/A

Meeting Location: DOEE Offices and Conference Call

Attendees & Contact Information:

Name	Organization	Email
Casey Studhalter	DOEE	Casey.studhalter@dc.gov
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Main Points/Discussion:

Introductions (All)

Attendance and contact list is included above.

Grants Overview (Casey Studhalter – DOEE)

A brief overview of the grant program included in this RFA was reviewed, including the outcomes, deliverables, and scoring criteria. Greater detail is provided in the RFA available on the DOEE website, <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1449581>.

Questions and Answers:

1. Q: How are projects expected to demonstrate their commitment to pursue NZE?

A: Applicants are welcome to provide whatever demonstration of commitment is appropriate to their project. For example, a letter of commitment, codified project goals, or examples of previous projects demonstrating the capacity to deliver NZE performance.

2. **Q:** Is there a definition for net-zero energy (NZE) or an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) target that applicants need to adhere to?
A: There is no set definition for net-zero energy or EUI target to be utilized for the purposes of this grant; however, the draft 2017 DC Energy Conservation Code contains Appendix Z, which will be DC's net-zero energy voluntary code and serves as a working definition for net-zero energy performance. Appendix Z is included as an attachment on the [RFA webpage](#).
3. **Q:** What is the timeline for completion of deliverables?
A: All work supported by this grant must be completed by September 30, 2020. The building project itself does not need to be complete by then, but all grant supported activities need to be completely closed out.
4. **Q:** What is the total amount one applicant can request?
A: Applicants can request up to \$20,000 per project.
5. **Q:** Do projects need to be located in the District of Columbia?
A: Yes.
6. **Q:** Is this RFA related to the DCRA Net-Zero Energy Program?
A: This grant and [DCRA's Net-Zero Energy Program](#) are complementary programs but unrelated. Participation in one program does not impact participation in the other.
7. **Q:** Are private individuals able to apply for the grant, or does the lead applicant need to be a business entity?
A: In order to receive funding from the District, the lead applicant would need to have a business license, Certificate of Good Standing, Tax ID, and DUNS numbers.
8. **Q:** What projects were awarded in the FY19 NZE Project Design Assistance grant?
A: Four projects were awarded in FY2019. All of them happened to be affordable, multifamily projects
- a. **Q:** What was the size of the multifamily projects?
A: They were also all low- to mid-rise projects, ranging from 13 to 70 units in size.
- b. **Q:** Would you fund similar mid-rise multifamily projects?
A: Yes
9. **Q:** What is the timeline for review?
A: Announcements will be made 6-8 weeks after the deadline.
10. **Q:** What happens if DOEE receives fewer applications than the planned five awards?
A: DOEE may extend the application period or award less than five awards.
11. **Q:** Is the grant specifically targeting new construction, or can a major renovation project apply?
A: There is no minimum project scope to be eligible to apply.
12. **Q:** Is there preference for Certified Business Enterprises (CBEs) in the application process?
A: No.
13. **Q:** One of the scoring criteria states "The project represents a significant reduction in potential greenhouse gas emissions". If all projects are net-zero energy, how would their GHG emissions vary?
A: One example would be a large, multifamily building compared to a single family residential building. The GHG savings of a large net-zero building are likely to be much greater than the

GHG savings of a small, single-family net-zero building. Applicants are invited to make the case in their applications for how their project is maximizing the GHG emission reductions.

14. Q: Are there any resources available to help support projects pursuing NZE and high-performance green building?

A: DOEE has produced a collection of NZE project guides – one general, one focused on multifamily residential buildings and a third on NZE design charrettes. These are all available on the [Green Building Fund grant page](#) under “Tools for Deep Green Building in DC”.

15. Q: Does the building owner need to be part of the project team?

A: No.

Project Specific Guidance

DOEE is unable to provide project specific guidance during the application process. Please refer to the RFA and associated appendices as well as this Q&A document, all available [on the RFA webpage](#).

Appendices and Application Guidelines

- Cover sheet – Required for all applications
- Budget Template –
 - General categories remain as they are. (Contractors, personnel)
 - Adjust other categories for the budget needs
- PCA – Promises Certifications and Assurances
 - The PCA contains the terms that apply to the Applicant if awarded to the grantee, and should be reviewed carefully.
 - If an advance payment is anticipated, it must be planned and requested in the Application and will be considered after the award.
 - Reimbursements go to Accounts Payable and DOEE
- Email is encouraged for all questions, GreenbuildingRFA.Grants@dc.gov. Questions may be submitted for response until COB January 24, 2020. Questions and Answers will be posted to the DOEE website regularly.
- **Applications are due by 4:30pm on January 27, 2020.**