

Energy Efficiency Investment Fund



First State Gardens

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2025 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Prepared by the DNREC State Energy Office
August 2025



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Energy Efficiency Investment Fund

FY 2025 Annual Report

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This report was prepared by the staff of the DNREC State Energy Office, located within the Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy.

For more information on the Energy Efficiency Investment Fund and other resources, visit the DNREC State Energy Office at <https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/energy-office/> or call 302-735-3480.

Abbreviation Guide:

- kWh:** A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a unit of energy, specifically measuring how much energy is used by an appliance or device over time. It represents the amount of energy consumed by a 1-kilowatt (kW) appliance running for one hour.
- MMBTU:** Million British Thermal Units is a standard unit of measurement for heat energy. It is commonly used to quantify the heating content and value of fuels, particularly in the energy industry for things like natural gas consumption, production and pricing.
- Therm:** A therm is a unit of heat measurement equal to 100,000 British Thermal Units (BTUs). It is commonly used to measure natural gas consumption.

What Is EEIF?

The Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF) is a state grant and loan program administered by the DNREC State Energy Office. EEIF supports Delaware businesses, local governments and nonprofit organizations by awarding rebates for energy efficiency upgrades that reduce energy use and lower operating costs. EEIF was established in 2011 when Title 29 §8030 and Title 30 §5502 of the Delaware Code were amended, allocating the first \$5 million of the Public Utility Tax (PUT) to the EEIF program.

<h3>Prescriptive Improvements</h3> <p>For common energy-efficient improvements, this grant includes reimbursements for upgrading and replacing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interior and Exterior LED Fixtures• High-Efficiency Cooling & Heating Equipment• Water Heating Equipment• Appliances and Food Service Equipment• Heating and Lighting Controls	<h3>Energy Assessments</h3> <p>For technical assistance to evaluate your facility for cost-efficient energy upgrades, this pathway provides rebates for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Targeted Energy Audits• Comprehensive Energy Audits
<h3>Custom Improvements</h3> <p>For more complex or unique measures, this pathway is designed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy Management Systems• HVAC Systems and Demand Control Ventilation• Insulation and Weatherization• Process and Manufacturing Improvements• Energy Retrofits & More	<h3>Combined Heat & Power</h3> <p>For large facilities with high annual hours of operation and thermal load, CHP rebates cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microturbines• Reciprocating Engines• Gas & Steam Turbines• Fuel Cells

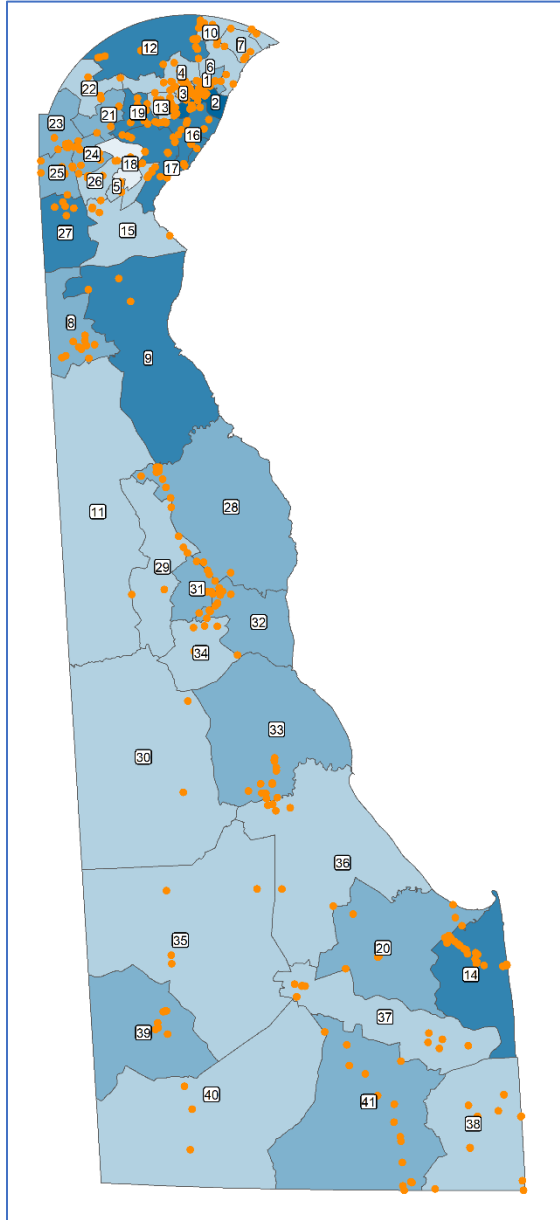
Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy costs. Lower energy consumption reduces pollution, helps mitigate climate change, creates jobs in energy efficiency and drives local economic development. EEIF projects run from basic to highly complex. The most common types of EEIF applications include energy assessments, LED lighting installations, building envelope improvements, mechanical equipment replacements and implementation of combined heat and power (CHP) equipment.

Who Does EEIF Serve?

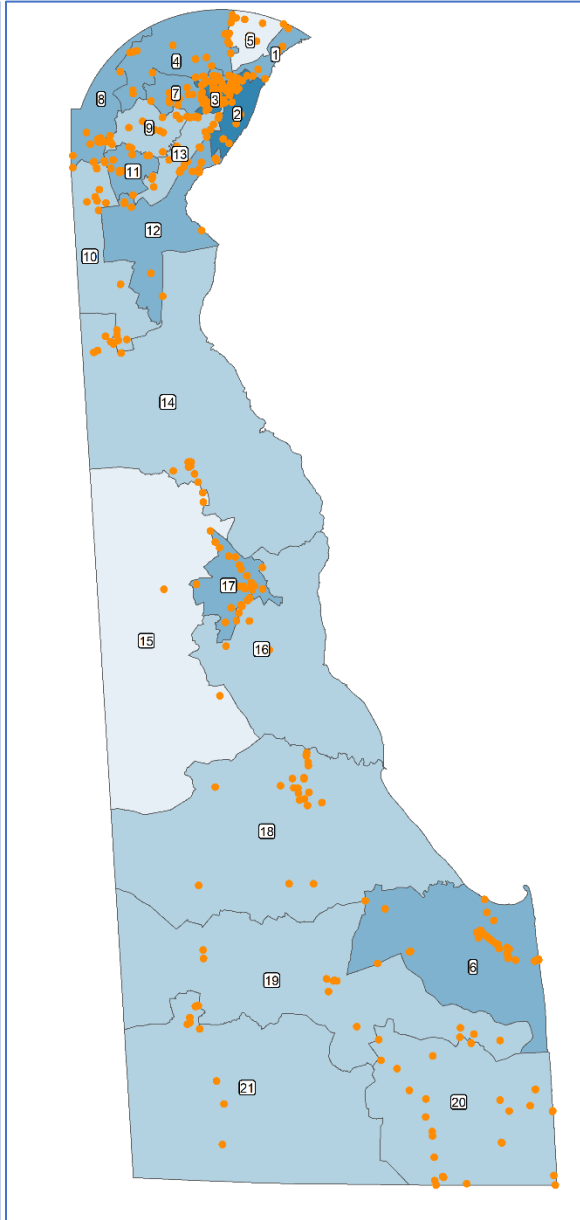
Since its inception, EEIF has served eligible Delaware businesses that pay into the Public Utility Tax, regardless of the facility size. However, in recent years, EEIF has made great strides to continue to focus on assisting small businesses. The EEIF program reserves 50% of its overall budget for small businesses. An applicant is considered a small business if it is not a national chain and either has fewer than 100 employees or uses less than 10,000 kWh of electricity per month. In Fiscal Year 2025, 68% of EEIF projects were designated as small business.

Project Location and Total Rebate Amounts Paid by Legislative District

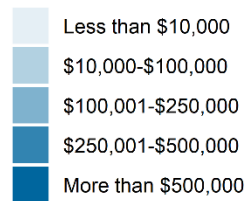
House District



Senate District



EEIF Projects



• Project

FY 2025 EEIF Accomplishments

- **Enhanced Accessibility of Program Information:** Updated the DNREC EEIF webpage and supporting documents to improve navigation and make program information more accessible for applicants and participating contractors.
- **Streamlined Application Process:** Implemented improvements to the online application portal, making the application process more streamlined for applicants and reducing administrative barriers.
- **Incentive Alignment and Expansion:** Conducted a review to align with programs offered by peer administrators in other states. This resulted in increased incentive levels, the addition of new measures and the restructuring of existing measures.
- **Ongoing Stakeholder Communication:** Distributed quarterly updates on program offerings and incentive changes to previous customers, contractors and industry professionals that operate throughout the state.
- **Contractor Network Development:** Continued to cultivate and expand the EEIF participating contractor network, allowing customers to find qualified professionals for their projects. Held a virtual webinar for contractors in the EEIF Participating Contractors Network.
- **Statewide Outreach and Awareness:** Promoted the EEIF program at events throughout the state, including “Open For Business” events with the New Castle and Kent County Chambers of Commerce and events held by the Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership (DEMEP), Choose DE Prosperity Partnership, Delaware Division of Small Business, Delaware Small Business Development Center, Green Building United, Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Delaware Chapter, USDA Department of Agriculture Rural Funding and the Spring Manufacturing & Policy Conference.
- **Targeted Sector Engagement:** Conducted focused outreach to small businesses, car dealerships, senior and assisted living facilities, hospitals, property management companies, real estate companies, private schools and academies, churches, industrial parks, national chains, big-box retailers, hotels, pharmaceutical companies and financial institutions.
- **Trade and Contractor Engagement:** Engaged with contractors in trades such as lighting, heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and energy auditing space, including ABC Contractors of Delaware and statewide trade unions to support project development and delivery.

EEIF Fiscal Year 2025 Metrics

Individual Projects Supported	394
Rebates Supported	\$4,829,153
kWh Avoided Annually	15,107,362
Annual Energy Cost Savings	\$1,920,146
MMBtu Avoided Annually	33,209
CO2 Emissions Saved (mtCO2)	12,188

Equivalent to:

Homes energy use for one year	1,372
Gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year	2,650
Gallons of gasoline consumed	1,371,437

What Are People Saying About EEIF?

Barkley Heating & Air

"EEIF has been very beneficial not only for us as the contractor, but for our customers as well. Thank you for making this process easy for us, we look forward to working with the program!"

- Projects Supported: Naaman's Dental, 1st Presbyterian Church, IG Burton Toyota of Dover, Creekside Dental, Sayers Jewelers, St Peters Church
- EEIF Rebate: \$49,550
- Annual Electric Savings = 19,156 kWh
- Annual Gas Savings = 1,649 therms

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

"The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Wilmington has worked twice with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. We received a grant for the conversion to LED lighting. Recently the EEIF program offered significant assistance in the application process for a HVAC grant. The feedback we received in the application process was critical to our receiving the award."

- EEIF Rebate: \$38,375
- Annual Electric Savings = 49,547kWh
- Annual Gas Savings = 153 therms

Siegel Jewish Community Center

"The EEIF program has significantly helped to enhance our facilities, aiding us in providing brighter, more efficient indoor and outdoor lighting. With reduced energy consumption, longer-lasting bulbs and a smaller environmental footprint, it is a sustainable project that benefited our members, guests and staff alike. We truly value the EEIF program and look forward to continuing to work with them on future projects. The implementation team has been a tremendous help to providing great guidance and assistance. I hope to have the opportunity to work with the program again."

- EEIF Rebate: \$8,130
- Annual Electric Savings = 149,295 kWh

What's Next For EEIF?

- **Expand Program Offerings:** Expand program offerings by exploring operation-based or demand-driven pathways tailored to meet the unique needs of industries, such as an agricultural incentive pathway, to provide tailored rebates for Delaware's agricultural sector.
- **Focus on Inclusive Outreach:** Continue targeted marketing and outreach efforts to involve more diverse small businesses by joining local commerce associations and attending in-person events.
- **Provide Educational Opportunities:** Host online webinars for customers and contractors who want to learn more about how they can participate in the EEIF program and build a contractor network.
- **HVAC Participation:** Conduct program outreach efforts focused on increasing customer participation for HVAC related projects by connecting with contractors and customers.



