



Delaware Energy Efficiency Investment Fund Frequently Asked Questions

Division of Climate, Coastal, & Energy
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For questions or more information, contact:
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What is EEIF?

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) provides grants through the Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF) to help commercial and industrial customers replace aging, inefficient equipment, and systems with energy-efficient alternatives.

The Energy Efficiency Investment Fund intends to increase energy efficiency through retirement and replacement of inefficient equipment. The customer and contractor will retire and dispose of any product replaced due to an Energy Efficiency Investment Fund grant.

We offer four types of grant pathways for businesses like yours to start or continue your energy efficiency journey, including:

- Energy Assessments
- Prescriptive Improvements
- Custom Improvements
- Combined Heat and Power

Who can participate in the EEIF program?

The EEIF Program is available to all non-residential, commercial, and industrial buildings in the State of Delaware. New construction is not eligible for EEIF Funding at this time. Therefore, all applications must be a retrofit of an existing building. EEIF is funded in part by the Delaware public utility tax (PUT) paid by non-residential consumers on their electric and/or natural gas utility bills. For customers who do not pay the PUT, some funding is available from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and merger between Exelon Corp and Pepco holdings (MERGER).

What projects can receive EEIF grants?

There are four (4) grant pathways available to Delaware non-residential entities with existing buildings:

- **Prescriptive** pathway grants are for common energy-efficient improvements such as lighting controls, high-efficiency heating equipment, heating controls, and hot water heating.
- **Custom** pathway grants are designed for non-standard energy efficiency upgrades such as steam systems, building envelope, and chiller and boiler improvements. To see a full list of eligible measures, visit de.gov/eeif.
- **Energy assessment** pathway grants are designed to support single purpose (targeted) energy audits and comprehensive energy audits that help facilities in need of technical assistance to evaluate their facility for cost-efficient measures.
- **Combined Heat and Power (CHP)** pathway grants are ideal for large facilities with high annual hours of operation and high thermal load. The five CHP systems include microturbines, reciprocating engines, gas turbines, steam turbines, and fuel cells.

Please refer to the [program guidelines](#) for more details for the specific pathway requirements and eligible measures.

Are there projects that cannot receive EEIF grants?

The following are not eligible for the custom pathway grant:

- Routine maintenance procedures
- Renewable energy generation (e.g., wind, geothermal, solar, etc.)
- Projects with less than a 6-month simple payback
- Industrial technologies not approved by nationally recognized laboratories
- Power conditioning/power factor equipment
- Equipment studies
- Projects that bring the building up to minimum code requirements
- Other restrictions as deemed appropriate by DNREC
- Projects for residential customers

How can I determine what type of lighting fixture is being replaced?

There are several ways to find out the type of lighting fixture is being replaced.

- If you hired or received a quote from a contractor:
 - The type of fixture may be listed on your quote/invoice

- You can reach out to your contractor to confirm the fixture type
- If you are self-installing the fixture:
 - You can check to see if the fixture type is written or etched on the fixture itself

How do I apply for an EEIF grant?

Visit de.gov/eeif to access the online portal at eeif.smartsimple.com and create an account and submit all required documents for pre-approval through the online portal. Prior to applying, please review the program guidelines for your particular grant's documentation requirements. If you have questions about the application process or need help completing the application, please email EEIF.Grants@clearesult.com or call 302-467-3239.

Is there a deadline for submitting applications?

Applications are accepted on a year-round, rolling basis. All grant awards are subject to funding availability.

How are grants selected?

All grants are provided on a first-come, first-served basis for qualified applicants and projects. With the exception of energy assessments, EEIF grant funding will not cover more than 30% of any proposed project's total costs. Estimated grant awards can be calculated using the application documents on the EEIF website.

Does my project have to be pre-approved?

Yes. All projects must be pre-approved before any equipment is purchased or any work has started. Because there is a limited amount of grant funds available, your funds will be reserved once your application has been pre-approved.

What documentation is required for pre-approval?

Each type of EEIF grant pathway has specific required documents listed on the application. In general, all projects require:

- Completed and signed EEIF application
- Itemized quotes and estimates for all equipment
- Scope of work
- Electric and/or natural gas utility bills

When applying, be sure to double-check the [program guidelines](#) and application for your particular grant's documentation requirements. If you are still unsure, you can contact us at EEIF.Grants@clearesult.com.

What documentation is required for Final approval?

Each type of EEIF grant pathway has specific required documents listed on the application. In general, all projects require:

- Updates of any changes in scope or equipment after pre-approval was issued

- Cut sheets with specific model numbers included for all equipment (if changed after pre-approval)
- Itemized quotes and estimates for all equipment (if changed after pre-approval)
- Proof of final payment

When applying, be sure to double-check the [program guidelines](#) and application for your particular grant's documentation requirements. If you are still unsure, you can contact us at EEIF.Grants@clearesult.com.

How long will EEIF funds be reserved for my project?

Funds are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. How long the funds will be held depends on the grant pathway. If there are scope changes that affect your project's completion, we recommend notifying us as you learn of the changes.

- Prescriptive grant funds are held for 120 days
- Custom grant funds are held for 12 months
- Energy Assessment grant funds are held for 120 days
- CHP grant funds are held for 18 months

If your project is running behind, you may request a one-time 60-day extension prior to your expiration date for most project by contacting us at EEIF.Grants@clearesult.com. DNREC will determine if a reservation extension should be granted.

Your funds will be held starting from the date listed on your pre-approval letter. Failure to submit supporting documents needed by the end of your initial reservation date your funds will be forfeited.

When can I expect to receive my check?

Once your project is complete and final submitted documents are approved, you will receive a final approval letter by email. You can expect to receive the check within 8-10 weeks of receiving the letter.

Are there other DNREC programs that I might qualify for?

DNREC offers several other energy efficiency and climate programs:

- **The Cool Switch Program** incentivizes business to switch to refrigerant systems with lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) impacts. Cool Switch Program participants can apply for and receive EEIF grants based on the energy savings associated with Cool Switch projects.
- The State Energy Program **Revolving Loan Fund** can be used to supplement an EEIF grant project or as a stand-alone loan for installation of energy efficiency measures.
- **Green Energy Program** grants are available for qualifying renewable energy systems installed by applicants whose electricity provider collects funds for the program and offers a grant program for renewable energy projects.

- The **Weatherization Assistance Program** helps income-qualified homeowners and renters cut their energy bills by weatherproofing and improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

For additional information about these programs, please visit <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/efficient-renewable/>.

The Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility, a unique nonprofit organization, also offers several programs to help residents and businesses save money through clean energy and efficiency. Information about these programs is available at <https://www.energizedelaware.org>.

What if my question was not answered?

If your question was not answered in the FAQ, please give us a call at 302-467-3239 or email us at EEIF.Grants@clearesult.com.