Iowa Energy Saving Loan Program & Small Business Energy Audit Grant Program

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Thank you for joining!

This meeting is being recorded.



Please use the Q&A function to submit questions. Attendees are muted and chat is disabled.



I will aim to answer questions as they arise. There will be additional time for questions at the end of the call.



Slides and recording will be made available through the program websites.

Agenda



Program Backgrounds and Requirements



Small Business Energy Audit Grants



Energy Saving Loans



Q&A









Program Backgrounds and Requirements

In 2024, Iowa received an award to begin a revolving loan fund promoting building energy efficiency

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program

- Sec. 40502 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- All loans issued through the program **must comply with federal requirements**

BIL goal for the program: "…the state shall provide loans and grants for **commercial and residential energy audits, upgrades, and retrofits to increase the energy efficiency, physical comfort, and air quality of existing building infrastructure.**"

Goal: Identify and implement measures that **lower energy costs and improve comfort** in Iowa's existing buildings.

Qualifying Energy Audit

- Small Business Audit Grant
- $900,000 Available

Upgrades and Retrofits

- Energy Saving Loan
- $5,462,028 Available



Audits – Requirements (1/3)

1. Performed by an auditor certified by a national organization
2. Utilize eligible software, e.g. DOE's Audit Template, or IEDA-approved alternative
3. Identify and recommend lifecycle cost-effective opportunities to reduce the energy consumption of the facility
4. Recommend controls and management systems to reduce or redistribute peak energy consumption

Audits – *Commercial Only* Requirements (2/3)

1. Determine the overall consumption of energy of the facility.
2. Identify the period and level of peak energy demand for each building within the facility and the sources of energy consumption that are contributing the most to that period of peak energy demand.
3. Estimate the total energy and cost savings potential for the facility if all recommended upgrades and retrofits are implemented.

Audits – *Multifamily Only* Requirements (3/3)

1. Compare energy consumption to comparable buildings in the same geographic area
   - Recommend supplementing the Audit Template report with the comparison output of the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager platform to meet this requirement. Email IEDA to discuss other options, as needed.
2. Provide the “Annual Energy & Costs Savings" and "Payback with Incentives" outputs summary from DOE’s Audit Template tool
3. Use the same evaluation criteria as the Home Performance Assessment used in the ENERGY STAR program.
   - Resolving health and safety issues, satisfying customer needs and desires, overall cost-benefit to the customer, and programmatic goals.

Additional Audit Resources

Audit Template is a free, DOE web-based tool for entering building energy audit data, data validation, and exporting energy audit reports.

See the Audit Guide in the Resources section of the Energy Saving Loan webpage for information on how to meet program audit requirements while using Audit Template.

Audit Template Resources
• Start here: Audit Template Quick Start Guide (EE-RLF) • Published trainings: Audit Template Demonstration with RLF Program • Example: Audit Template PDF Report Example
TIP: Request support for the Audit Template.

Eligible Projects

Loan funding is available for projects that meet the following requirements:

1) Each upgrade or retrofit is recommended in a qualifying energy audit completed for the building
2) Is life-cycle cost effective
3) Either reduces the energy intensity of the building **or** improves the control and management of energy use of the building during peak times
4) Addresses at least one of the following:
    a) The energy efficiency of the building,
    b) The physical comfort of the building for occupants, or
    c) The air quality of the building.
5) Satisfy at least 1 criteria in the Home Performance Assessment (multifamily buildings only)

Eligible Projects (Examples)

- Insulation applied to building structures, ducts, hot water heater tanks, and heating pipes.
- Air sealing applied to building structures and/or ducts.
- Programmable and smart thermostats.
- Installation of energy efficient lighting.
- Upgrading existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment.
- Repairing and/or replacing water heating system equipment.
- Energy or water monitoring and control systems.
- Retrofitting windows and doors, installation of energy efficient storm windows and energy-saving window attachments.
- Retrofitting energy efficient pumps and motors for uses such as wastewater treatment plants, where it would not alter the capacity or operation of the facility.
- Installation of Combined Heat and Power System, not to exceed peak electrical production at 300kW.









Small Business Energy Audit Grants

Grant Terms

Grants are available for up to the cost of the audit

- 50% will be paid upon completion of an eligible audit
- Remaining 50% paid when implementation begins on recommended measure(s)

Total funding available: $900,000

Eligible Participants – Small Businesses

Businesses or organizations with between 1 and 50 employees



Applying for audit of a commercial building

Conduct a majority of their operations in Iowa

How to Apply – Small Businesses

Applications will be available on program website. Completed applications emailed to molly.kiick@iowaeda.com.

- Applications require an estimated audit cost.
- Applicants must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from the federal System for Award Management (SAM), if not already obtained. Allow several weeks to obtain a UEI.

IEDA will review applications on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Applications will be accepted through **May 1, 2029,** or as long as funds are available.
- IEDA will notify applicants in writing of the approval or denial of an application.











Energy Saving Loans

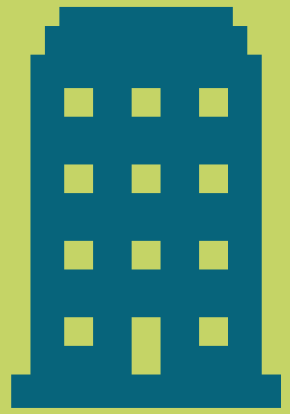
Energy Saving Loan program expansion launched on March 2, 2026

Pilot originally launched in July 2025 focused on Multifamily Affordable Housing

Expansion adds funds and introduces eligibility for commercial buildings

$5,462,028 of funding available for energy retrofits and upgrades

Eligible Participants - ESL



Affordable Multifamily Housing

- Multifamily building with 20 or more units
- Buildings participate in affordable housing programs through IFA including HOME, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and Section 8 programs

Commercial buildings

- Recipient must conduct a majority of their business in Iowa
- Mixed-use, industrial, and institutional buildings may be considered commercial within the program



Loan Terms

- Low-interest rate loans will be available to most borrowers
  - Affordable Multifamily Housing: **0%**
  - Small Businesses (1-50 employees): **1%**
  - All other commercial buildings: **2%**
- 1% Origination Fee
- Loan Terms: up to seven years
- Loans may cover up to 90% of project costs. Loans between $50,000 and $2,000,000 are preferred for this program.
- Loans will generally be structured as subordinate mortgages.

Additional Program Requirements - ESL

- Must comply with federal requirements.
  - Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, including use of LCPtracker by all contractors and subcontractors
  - Build America, Buy America for publicly owned projects
  - 2 CFR 200 Procurement policies
- Must reasonably be completed within two years of project approval.
- Ensure any installed equipment is appropriately sized.
- Project must **not** include any of the following: tree removal, tree trimming, or ground-disturbing activities.

How to Apply - ESL

Applications will be available and accepted through IowaGrants.

- Applications will be accepted through **May 1, 2029,** or as long as funds are available.
- Organizations planning to apply must have or create an IowaGrants account.
    - Allow a minimum of two weeks to register and activate a new account.
- Applicants must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from the federal System for Award Management (SAM), if not already obtained.
    - Allow several weeks to obtain a UEI.
- Applicants must participate in an interview with IEDA before receiving an award

Review the Application Guide for additional detail

Application Components

The application package will include:

- Completed digital application form.
    - Questions requesting descriptions of the work to be performed and their impacts are intended to prompt brief and high-level responses.
- A copy of the Energy Saving Project Cost and Timeline Spreadsheet Template, which includes:
    - List of upgrade measures included in the project.
    - Preliminary project plan with timeline.
    - Itemized project costs.
- Vendor quote estimating cost.
- Completed qualifying energy audit.

Application Review

IEDA will review applications on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Applications will be screened by the program manager for eligibility and completeness.
- IEDA and Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) staff will review the applications, request additional information from applicants when needed, and prepare recommendations for funding.
- IEDA will notify applicants in writing of the approval or denial of an application. If the application is approved, the notice will include conditions and terms of the loan.

Application Approval Criteria

- Each applicant must clearly demonstrate how the proposed project will meet program requirements. Considerations include:
    - The eligibility and quality of the proposed scope of work.
    - A completed project plan.
    - The applicant and project partners.
    - Ability to repay loan.

Summary

Who	Small business with rising utility bills
	Commercial building with upcoming HVAC replacement
	Affordable multifamily property planning upgrades
Why	Lower energy costs with targeted audits and proven upgrade measures.
	Improve comfort & air quality for tenants, customers, and staff.
	Affordable financing: 0–2% loans plus audit grants for small businesses.
	Straightforward process: Audit → Upgrades → Low-interest financing.
	Broad eligibility for commercial buildings and affordable multifamily housing.
	Limited funding—first-come, first-served, so early applicants benefit most.









Q&A

Q & A (1/2)

What certifications are required for becoming a certified auditor?

- To participate, auditors must have an active certification from a national organization. Certification requirements vary by organization. Some qualifying certifications are listed in the box on the right.

Is there an existing contact list of qualified auditors for this program?

- IEDA keeps a list of auditors who have expressed interest in participating in this program. Email molly.kiick@iowaeda.com to request the list.
- Interested auditors should complete the form here: https://forms.office.com/r/xtiJHSFn8A
- Many of the organizations at right also provide resources to locate certified auditors.

- Professional Engineer (PE)
- Registered Architect (RA)
- ASHRAE Building Energy Assessment Professional
- AEE Certified Energy Auditor and Certified Energy Manager
- Building Performance Institute (BPI) Building Analyst Professional (BA-P)
- Building Performance Institute (BPI) Home Energy Professional Energy Auditor
- Building Science Institute (BSI) Energy Code Compliance Specialist
- Building Science Institute (BSI) ENERGY STAR Verifier
- Building Science Institute (BSI) Zero Energy Ready Home Verifier
- Energy Management Association Energy Management Professional
- Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Home Energy Rater

Q & A (2/2)

Are non-profit public buildings eligible? Churches, daycares, etc.

- As long as they meet all other requirements, non-profit buildings are eligible for either program.

I do want to talk through a specific project – Can I reach out individually?

- Absolutely! Email molly.kiick@iowaeda.com or schedule a meeting here: Book time with Molly Kiick

Questions?

Please connect with us.



Molly.Kiick@IowaEDA.com



(515) 348-6219

Small Business Energy Audit Grant Webpage:
https://opportunityiowa.gov/community/energy/grants-funding/small-business-energy-audit-program

ESL Program Webpage:
https://opportunityiowa.gov/community/energy/iowa-energy-saving-loan-program

IOWA™

Economic Development

THANK YOU

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