

## Minnesota Department of Commerce EECBG

The Minnesota Department of Commerce has provided the UMRDC with funding through their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) program utilizing funds from the U.S. Dept. of Energy.

Local governments may apply to the UMRDC to use the funds for a variety of energy planning and project development uses that result in measurable increases in energy efficiency or renewable energy:

1. Climate and resiliency planning grants
  - a. The UMRDC is available to lead you through a customized process to explore ideas and develop strategies for implementation (see attached).
2. Energy audits on government buildings
  - a. The UMRDC is available to help facilitate a comprehensive audit process with an energy auditor (see attached).
3. Engineering and technical assistance services
4. Other energy-related studies for public buildings and community plans

The UMRDC has approximately \$70,000 available. Local governments can apply for up to \$20,000. No match is required. Projects will be funded based on:

- Funding priority will go to projects located in Disadvantaged Communities as identified in the [Federal Justice40 Initiative](#) which states that 40 percent of the benefits of certain Federal investments go to disadvantaged communities. Four eligible cities in our region meet this criterion (Appleton, Holloway, Ortonville, Benson).
- Having a well-defined project concept in the application including documentation of any previous work to identify and support the need for energy efficiency improvements.
- Showing demonstrated support for the proposed project.
- Identification or allocation of funds that would be available to implement recommendations from the EECBG project.

Projects completed under this program must be completed by March 30, 2026.

Local governments receiving grant funds will be reimbursed for their project after submitting documentation to the UMRDC.

Local governments must follow their standard practice for procuring work under any grant award made from this program.

**Interested local governments will have until March 31, 2025 to apply** to the UMRDC for funding using the attached application.