



Partners for Climate Action (PCA) Presents: Building Decarbonization Grants

This PDF contains detailed information about the opportunity.

PCA invites municipalities and nonprofits to apply for funding to undertake the important work of decarbonizing their buildings. Eligibility:

- Either a municipality, a nonprofit, or fiscally sponsored
- Located in Greene, Rensselaer, Columbia, Ulster, Dutchess, or Putnam Counties
- Either the building owner or renters may apply in tandem with the owner if they, too, are a nonprofit

Key Dates

Applications Open: September 5, 2023
Application Deadline: 5pm ET on November 21, 2023
Grants Announced: Mid-January 2024
Funding Period: 1 year, starting in February 2024

Application Amounts & Project Details

Applicants are invited to apply for grants in the range of \$5,000 - \$100,000. PCA has a goal of awarding at least 40% of grant funding to Disadvantaged Communities ([list of disadvantaged communities](#)). We intend to fund a variety of applicant types (municipality, nonprofit, school, library, and faith-based organizations).

Apply for one of three stages (A, B, or C):

- A. \$5,000: [ASHRAE](#) Level 1 or Level 2 energy studies of specific building(s)**
 - a. Open to municipalities, public schools, and colleges. Note: nonprofit organizations should use [Green Jobs - Green NY Energy Studies](#), which requires a \$100-\$500 match.
 - b. Using the Building Decarbonization Grant for matching is encouraged.
 - i. A couple examples: NYSERDA [FlexTech](#) requires municipalities or college campuses to match 50% of a \$10k energy study, so an applicant could apply for a \$5,000 Building Decarbonization Grant to cover the match. A public school district takes advantage of the 75% cost-share funding through the NYSERDA [P-12 program](#).

- c. The energy stud(ies) must be completed by the end of the 1-year grant period.
- d. If accepted, grantees will be asked to share the energy study results with PCA—we're excited to see the potential CO2e reduction!

B. \$5,000 - \$15,000: Engineering/design and/or grant writing services necessary to secure additional funding for implementation

- a. The engineering/design must be completed by the end of the 1-year Building Decarbonization Grant period.
- b. We strongly encourage grants for larger projects to be applied for by the end of this 1-year grant period.
 - i. For example: a municipality uses the Building Decarbonization Grant to complete engineering and design for the retrofit of their Town Hall's HVAC, and they use that work as part of their application for NYS funds through the CFA due July 2024.
- c. If the Building Decarbonization Grant will be used in conjunction with other secured funding—which we welcome—applicants must provide a letter of commitment for internal funds or proof of another grant award.
- d. If accepted, grantees will be asked to share estimated CO2e reductions in their final report.

C. \$5,000 - \$100,000: Implementation projects

- a. These are projects that get a building to greater energy efficiency and remove the need for fossil fuels.
 - i. For example: replacing an oil burning furnace with heat pumps, installing solar, switching to Energy Star appliances or induction stoves, increasing insulation, and/or other efficiency projects, etc.
 - ii. Projects cannot be for natural gas conversions or replacing fossil fuel equipment with new, more efficient fossil fuel equipment.
- b. If the Building Decarbonization Grant will be used in conjunction with other secured funding—which we welcome—applicants must provide a letter of commitment for internal funds or proof of another grant award.
- c. Construction of the implementation project must be at least underway if not completed by the end of the 1-year Building Decarbonization Grant period.
- d. Applicants are encouraged to include data in their application that is as specific as possible about the estimated emissions and cost savings reductions.
- e. If accepted, grantees will be asked to share estimated CO2e reductions in their report at the end of the 1-year grant period and, a year after that, actual CO2e reductions. Grantees are encouraged to benchmark their buildings pre and post upgrades.

- f. Collaborations between municipalities, institutions, or nonprofits are encouraged but not required. Strong applications will include a plan for how to showcase your project to your community.
 - i. For example: a church applies for an Energy Star freezer and an induction stove for the food pantry that operates out of its parish hall; a municipality applies to decarbonize their town hall and partners with a nonprofit applicant to run an event showcasing the building to the community; a school uses the grant to build ground-mounted solar and lets a local farmer graze their sheep there.

PCA hopes to build a cohort of diverse types of institutions at various stages of the decarbonization process for enhanced learning and collaboration.

Grant Details

PCA wants to make this grant process as simple as possible. That said, there's no time to lose in this climate crisis. We want to see action!

- Upon notification of awards in January 2024, PCA's fiscal sponsor, the New World Foundation, will need grantees to provide some paperwork and financial information. The funds will be wired to the grantee organization's bank account in February 2024.
- Timeline for spending the grant funds:
 - If Stage A and B projects are not completed or if the full award is not spent during the 1-year grant period, funds must be returned to the New World Foundation.
 - Ideally, Stage C implementation projects are completed by the end of the 1-year grant period, but must at least be under construction.
- Upon the completion of the 1-year grant period, you will be asked to fill out a grant report comprised of a few questions, including:
 - How were funds deployed (including plans to spend any remaining funds, in the case of Stage C applicants).
 - An update or any additional information on the CO₂e reduction from your project.
- Administrative costs (including salaries) can be requested as part of the grant, up to 10% of the project cost.
- For Stage B applicants: Please include the amount needed for grant writing costs in your request and your budget, if you should need it.
- For Stage C applicants: Up to \$2,000 can be used towards community engagement activities and materials showcasing the project; if so, include these in the budget.
- PCA may award funds at less than 100% of the requested amount.

Added Support

We offer programming to set our grantees up for success:

- Monthly virtual office hours (Details coming soon as we secure partners to join.)

- Monthly virtual guest speakers highlighting their decarbonization projects, green jobs creation, and other opportunities related to building decarbonization.
- Three field trips to inspiring building decarbonization projects in the Hudson Valley.
- PCA mixers (networking events in the Hudson Valley), Morning Coffee Series (webinars), and Get Outside events (outdoor group learning activities).

**Good luck with your application and don't leave it to the last minute!
Deadline 5pm November 21, 2023**

www.climateactionhv.org/decarb-grant

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