

Cleaner, Greener Communities (CGC) Program

Q. Where can I find more information about the Cleaner, Greener Communities (CGC) program?

A. Visit the [CGC program webpage](#) to learn about the program and the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) to learn more about funding currently available.

Q. Is funding available for projects involving natural gas services?

A. Not at this time, as funds are exhausted. However, NYSERDA is currently accepting applications for gas services, and additional funding may be available in the future.

Q. Once an application is submitted for CGC Category 2 funding, when will notification of an award be issued?

Q. Would CGC provide funding for manufacturing of electric vehicle batteries?

A. The applicant should review the [PON 3106 Guidance Documents](#) to understand the eligibility requirements and selection criteria for Category 3 funding applications, and specifically the preferred eligible project type for Electric Vehicle Market Development, which “includes innovative solutions that will complement and not overlap with existing efforts to stimulate and expand the market for electric vehicle purchases in New York State.”

A. Notifications of Category 2 awards are expected to be issued within a few months after they are received by NYSERDA. Applicants may contact NYSERDA at cgc@nyserderda.ny.gov to request an update on the status of their application. NYSERDA will continue to accept applications for Category 2 under PON 3106 on a continuous basis until September 30, 2019, until funds are exhausted, or until the solicitation is revised by NYSERDA, whichever comes first.

Q. My company is working on a project that requires less than \$500,000 in funding. Are we still eligible for Category 3 funding?

A. No. Category 3 funding is only available for projects seeking between \$500,000 and \$3 million in funding.

Q. Are programs that receive CGC funding subject to any timeframe restrictions?

A. Yes. Category 2 and 3 projects must be ready to commence within three months of award notification and should be completed within three years of contract execution.

Q. Is a municipally owned landfill eligible for Category 2 or 3 funding?

A. Yes, if the specific project meets the program requirements. Please refer to the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) and review the guidance documents to determine if your project qualifies.

Q. Why were prerequisites added to CGC Category 2 requirements?

A. With limited program budgets, prerequisites were added to expand sustainable practices and encourage municipalities to take action that encourage energy efficiency, renewable energy and other actions that reduce greenhouse gases.

Q. Is CGC funding available for a program involving a work training program?

A. Possibly. The work training program will need to demonstrate that it is innovative and transformational in its contributions to the reduction of carbon emissions either through direct or indirect influence in areas such as future growth and development patterns. Information on project eligibility can be found in [the Cleaner, Greener Communities Guidance Documents](#).

Q. What is a Green Building Strategy?

A. As described in [Category 2 Required Steps and Project Types](#), a Green Building Strategy is a strategy that minimizes building life-cycle costs through energy efficiency, water conservation, or other renewable and alternative energy technologies. More detailed information on requirements can be found in the document.

Q. What is the payment structure for awarded funds?

A. Payments are issued based on a scheduled milestone payment structure.

Q. Can a project be resubmitted under a different CGC category?

A. Possibly, if it also meets the requirements of the other category. Please refer to [CGC Guidance Documents](#) to see if your project qualifies.

Q. Is cost-share required for all categories of the Cleaner, Greener Communities program?

A. A cost-share of 25% of the total project cost is required for any Category 2 or Category 3 project. Category 1 applications do not require cost share.

Q. Are any infrastructure projects currently being funded through Cleaner, Green Communities grants?

A. Yes. For example, the Town of North Hempstead is working with neighboring municipalities to create a network of Electric Vehicle charging stations.

Q. Is CGC funding available after a project has been completed?

A. No. Category 2 and 3 funding is provided for projects ready to commence within three months of award notification and scheduled to be completed within three years after contract execution.

Q. Under NYSERDA's Category 3: Preferred Eligible Project Types, would a car dealership with a program to provide electric cars to low-income residents qualify?

A. Possibly, depending on project specifics. Category 3 projects that increase deployment of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in New York State are eligible for bonus points. Incorporating a regional network of car

dealerships working together could strengthen the application. Refer to the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) to see if your project is a good fit.

Q. Would building affordable housing qualify for the CGC Category 3 funding?

A. Possibly, depending on whether the project meets the eligibility requirements described in the [PON 3106 Guidance Document](#)s. Visit the NYSERDA [website](#) for additional information on additional NYSERDA programs.

Q. Does CGC provide funds for replacing windows?

A. The CGC program does not provide funding specifically for window replacement, but energy efficiency measures can be components within CGC-funded projects.

Q. Would construction of walking trails be an eligible project type for CGC funding?

A. Possibly, if the project meets the eligibility guidelines for Category 2 or Category 3 funding. Under either category, the project would need to contribute to sustainable development and greenhouse gas reductions, not strictly provide recreational value. Refer to the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) to see if your project is a good fit.

Q. Are private developers eligible for Category 3 of the NYSERDA grant?

A. Yes. Local governments (county, city, town, village, or Indian tribal government or nation located within NYS), private companies, non-governmental organizations, and other entities with projects located in New York State are eligible to apply for funds.

Q. If we are interested in a Category 3 project, does the community also have to go through the Category 2 process?

A. No. Category 3 and Category 2 are separate and established with individual goals and qualifications. Both are competitive and applicants should carefully review the guidance documents before deciding which category to apply under. Please refer to the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) to see if your project is a better fit for Category 2 or Category 3.

Q. Would a regional program to provide energy audits be eligible for Category 3 CGC funding?

A. Applicants should review the [PON 3106 Guidance Document](#)s to understand the eligibility requirements and scoring criteria for Category 3 “Innovative projects or programs,” and review NYSERDA’s other energy efficiency programs to determine whether assistance or funding should be sought through another program.

Q. Should all CGC funding applications be submitted through the CFA?

A. Yes. All CGC applications (Categories 1, 2, and 3) must be submitted through the CFA. For more information on the CFA, visit [Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\)](#).

Q. What are the application deadlines for CGC funding?

A. The application deadline for Category 1 and Category 2 funding requests is 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on September 30, 2019, until funds are exhausted, or until the solicitation is revised by NYSERDA, whichever comes first. The application deadline for Category 3 projects is 4:00 p.m. EST on July 31, 2015.

Q. Would projects involving the implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) infrastructure be eligible to receive CGC funding?

A. Applicants are not restricted from incorporating ITS infrastructure into their proposed projects, but should keep in mind that projects focused exclusively or almost exclusively on the implementation of ITS infrastructure would be unlikely to receive high scores based on the Category 2 or Category 3 selection criteria defined in the [PON 3106 Guidance Documents](#) and the [Category 2 Required Steps and Project Types](#) document.

Q. What is an SBC surcharge and does an applicant need to be paying the SBC to qualify for CGC funding?

A. The SBC, or System Benefits Charge, was enacted in 1998 as a means of ensuring continued financial support for programs providing important public benefits. Specifically, the SBC seeks to fund programs that test, develop and introduce new technologies, strategies and practices that build the statewide market infrastructure to reliably deliver clean energy to New Yorkers. Potential applicants do not need to pay into the SBC to be eligible to receive CGC funding.

General NYSERDA Program Questions

Q. Is there funding available to change out halogen lights in a theatre?

A. Projects focused on the installation of a single technology into a building or site are not eligible for CGC Category 3 funding, nor are projects consisting of a single building that is not part of a larger (multiple buildings) approved community or neighborhood plan. Applicants should consult the [PON 3106 Guidance Documents](#) to understand the eligibility requirements and scoring criteria. If the project is limited to this task, it may be eligible for a Small Commercial Energy assessment or other NYSERDA funding.

Q. I own a small apartment building in Plattsburgh, and would like to perform an energy audit. Are there any NYSERDA programs that can assist me with this?

A. You may be eligible for the Multifamily Performance Program: Existing Buildings. For more information, visit the [Multifamily Performance Program: Existing Buildings webpage](#).

Q. Our non-profit organization would like to expand into new space, and we currently have no heating system. Can NYSERDA help us pursue renewable energy options?

A. This project may qualify as a subcomponent of the New Construction Program, or a gut rehab project. Please contact Sustainable Performance Consulting, Inc. (the New Construction Program Implementation Contractor) for assistance at 585-671-8110.

Q. Are there any programs that can assist with solar and battery implementation projects available through the CFA process?

A. Depending on the project type and scope, projects involving solar and battery implementation may qualify for one of the programs available through the CFA process. Please review the available programs to determine if one is applicable to your project.

Q. Can you qualify the same project for two grant programs, such as the FlexTech Program & New Construction Program?

A. Some projects may qualify for funding through multiple programs. Please review the available programs to determine if one is applicable to your project.

Q. Do all NYSERDA programs require cost-share?

A. Each NYSERDA program has its own requirements. Please refer to the appropriate program webpage on the [NYSERDA](#) website for specific requirements.

Q. Does the commercial designation include Multi-Family and Mixed Use Properties?

A. There are several factors to be considered. Please contact NYSERDA at 518-862-1090 for guidance.

Q. Is the Flex Tech program a form of energy audit?

A. It is similar, but a much more in-depth program that would usually be contracted out to an engineering firm, which will conduct a comprehensive assessment.

Q. Are there any small business opportunities through CFA for Green Jobs-Green New York?

A. No. The Green Jobs-Green New York program does not require application through the CFA. Please refer to [Green Jobs-Green New York](#) to learn how to apply for available opportunities.

Q. Are there any cost benefits to being LEED certified?

A. For most building projects, there is a good possibility that the energy efficiency measures required for LEED certification would yield cost-savings benefits. Visit <http://www.usgbc.org/leed> to learn more about the United States Green Building Council's LEED rating system.

Q. A historic home needs to replace windows and a heating system. Is there any funding available?

A. Many New Yorkers qualify for a free energy assessment through NYSERDA's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program. The assessment will provide a prioritized list of potential energy efficiency improvements to your home. The program also offers low-interest rate financing and financial incentives for qualified measures, including heating system replacement. Windows qualify for financing only, not incentives. In an historic home, the windows must comply with requirements of the State Historic Preservation Office. Please visit the Home Performance with [Energy Star webpage](#) for more

information. NYSERDA's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program does not require application through CFA.

Q. If there are multiple buildings on a farm site (not-for-profit) that need major rehabilitation, which grant would they apply to?

A. Depending on the type of rehabilitation work, there are several programs that may apply. Visit [NYSERDA's website](#) to review the various programs.

Q. Our town has an RFP and would like to start our program prior to getting approval by the CFA committee.

A. In general, NYSERDA does not provide funding for work that has already been completed on projects. However, applicants may request funding for projects which are elements or components of larger projects, programs, or initiatives. It is up to the applicant to define the scope of the project for which funding is requested. Applicants should also note that resources already expended on behalf of projects may not be counted toward meeting the required cost-share match. Therefore, the town may start the program and still be able to apply for funding, but only for project elements or components not already completed.

Q. Are projects already receiving funding from another state agency eligible?

A. Possibly. State agencies cannot be lead applicants, nor can funding be requested for projects led by state agencies. State agencies may, however, be partners in projects receiving CGC funding. State funding sources may not be counted toward meeting the cost-share match requirement of CGC.