FAQs

**What is NYSERDA looking for in a successful application?**

Successful applications will demonstrate a detailed account of the projects to be implemented and the expected energy savings or emissions reductions associated with these projects, with documentation of all assumption and sources of information from which these savings metrics are derived. The successful applicant will also have experienced personnel resources equal to the task of meeting their carbon savings goal and a demonstrated organizational commitment to energy sustainability.

**How detailed do the project plans need to be?**

We understand that interested applicants may not be able to provide a full engineering analysis for their proposed projects in the amount of time available during the application window. We simply ask that applicants provide transparency regarding the methodology for estimating energy savings and/or generation and identify information sources used to arrive at these metrics. That being said, proposals based on more robust analysis may receive more favorable scoring by NYSERDA’s review team.

**How do I know if I meet the 3 MW size requirement?**

For a single site, sum the peak electric demand on your bill for each month over the last year and divide by 12.

For a portfolio of sites, sum the peak electric demand for each month for each site’s bill and divide by 12.

**How do I know if I pay the system benefits charge (SBC)?**

*If you check your most recent electric utility bill, you should see a surcharge labeled System Benefits Charge or SBC. If this is not present, you might not pay the SBC, and you can contact your utility account manager for confirmation.*
The formula follows the same as with the 3 MW requirement, but this time only including the Commodity Additional Usage demand.

Am I committed to the projects in the proposal? What if these projects can’t move forward due to factors that are currently unforeseen?

We understand that committing to specific projects can be difficult in a large organization with competing priorities. We expect participants to make a good faith effort to execute the projects described in the proposal. If certain projects need to be cancelled or augmented, a participant may be able to substitute an alternate project that is at least as effective as the project being abandoned, but the ultimate decision on these matters will be at the discretion of NYSERDA.

Can I still participate in other NYSERDA or Utility programs?

Yes, as long as the same costs are not being covered by the Carbon Challenge grant and a secondary NYSERDA or Utility program. There are no restrictions on participating in other programs that do not fall within the scope of the Carbon Challenge proposal.