



Kane County Revolving Loan Fund for Energy Efficiency *National Environmental Policy Act National Historic Preservation Act Acceptable Projects*

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that all Federal agencies consider the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions before making decisions. This is called a NEPA review. The Department of Energy (DOE) has concluded that many types (or classes) of actions *normally* do not have the potential to cause significant environmental impacts and, thus, are categorically excluded from a NEPA review. Many of the types of projects proposed under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) qualify for categorical exclusion (CX) determinations. This is the simplest and quickest method for complying with NEPA. In order to expedite the processing of applications for the Revolving Loan Fund for Energy Efficiency (RLF), Kane County has entered into an agreement with the DOE that includes a list of categorically excluded projects.

However, all applicants must provide a waste management plan prior to receiving funding from the RLF, addressing waste generated by a proposed project. The waste management plan will include the disposal of any sanitary or hazardous waste (e.g., construction and demolition debris, old light bulbs, lead paint, lead ballasts, piping, roofing material, discarded equipment, debris and asbestos) generated as a result of the proposed project.

National Historic Preservation Act

In addition, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that all Federal agencies take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties through Section 106. The DOE has entered into an agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Illinois to streamline the process for grantees. In order to expedite the processing of applications for the RLF, Kane County has entered into an agreement with the SHPO that includes undertakings exempt from Section 106 on properties greater than 50 years old.

Acceptable Projects

Kane County and the DOE have agreed upon a Statement of Work listing acceptable projects that conform to both the NEPA and NHPA requirements. The following projects are acceptable for the Revolving Loan Fund for Energy Efficiency:

- Building energy audits including those completed by consultants;
- Installation of insulation;
- Installation of efficient heating, venting, and/or air conditioning;
- Installation of high-efficiency shower/faucet upgrades;
- Installation of weather sealing;
- Purchase and installation of ENERGY STAR appliances;
- Installation of solar powered appliances with improved efficiency;
- Replacement of doors and windows;
- Development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities limited to:
 - the design and operation of the programs;
 - identifying the most effective methods for achieving the maximum participation and efficiency rates;
 - public education;
 - measurement and verification protocols;
 - identification of energy efficient technologies;
- Development and implementation of programs to conserve energy used in transportation limited to:
 - use of flex time by employers;
 - use of satellite work centers;
 - development and promotion of zoning guidelines or requirements that promote energy efficient development;
 - synchronization of traffic signals;
- Development and implementation of building codes and inspection services and associated training and enforcement of such codes in order to support code compliance and promote building energy efficiency;
- Projects to increase participation and efficiency rates for material conservation programs;
- Replacement of traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient technologies;
- Development, implementation, and installation on or in any government building of onsite renewable energy technology that generates electricity from renewable resources limited to:
 - solar electricity/photovoltaic systems or units on existing rooftops and parking shade structures sized for the load of the particular building it is installed on; or a 60kw system or smaller unit installed on the ground within the boundaries of the existing facility;
 - wind turbine of 20kw or smaller;
 - solar thermal system of 20kw or smaller;
 - solar thermal hot water system sized appropriately for small buildings;

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- ground source heat pump 5.5 ton capacity or smaller, horizontal/vertical, ground, closed-loop system;
- combined heat and power system boiler sized appropriately for the building in which it is located;
- biomass thermal system 3mmbtus per hour or smaller with appropriate Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) installed and operated

The Revolving Loan Fund will not fund projects that would:

threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory or permit requirements for environmental, safety and health, including requirements of the DOE or Executive Orders;

require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment facilities (including incinerators);

disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA(Superfund)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases;

adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to:

- property (e.g., sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, archeological, or architectural significance designated by federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;
- federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat, or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat;
- wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and floodplains;
- areas having a special designation such as federally-and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and federal wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuaries;
- prime agricultural lands; special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region);
- tundra, coral reefs or rain forests