

Category (2) Retaining Technical Consulting Services

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Retaining technical consultant services to assist the eligible entity in the development of such a strategy, including—

- A. Formulation of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and energy usage goals;
- B. Identification of strategies to achieve those goals—
 - a. through efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption; and
 - b. by encouraging behavioral changes among the population served by the eligible entity;
- C. Development of methods to measure progress in achieving the goals;
- D. Development and publication of annual reports to the population served by the eligible entity describing—
 - a. the strategies and goals; and
 - b. the progress made in achieving the strategies and goals during the preceding calendar year; and
- E. Other services to assist in the implementation of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- This activity area refers to retaining technical consultant services to assist the eligible entity in the development and implementation of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy, including developing methods to measure progress in achieving the goals identified in the strategy, and developing and publishing annual reports, such as dissemination of energy plans and progress updates.
- This category is only available to eligible entities that are units of local government or tribes that received funds under the EECBG Program.
- The activity for which the eligible entity is seeking to retain technical consulting services must support one or more elements of strategy development and implementation developed under Category 1.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Formulation of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and energy usage goals, methods to achieve those goals or measure progress, and the publication of annual reports discussing progress
- Identification and development of an equity-centered strategy to achieve 2030 carbon neutral goals through the energy efficiency and conservation strategy
- Developing a detailed roadmap, as part of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy, to reduce costs and improve energy efficiency in communities and households with high energy burdens
- Development of internal metrics and evaluation system for strategies and measures in the energy efficiency and conservation strategy that address clean energy and climate resiliency objectives in the community
- Strategic planning for electrification of government transportation fleets

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- [Blueprints 1-6](#): Each of these blueprints can be used as a guide towards select EECBG Program activities. The key activities described in each blueprint, including planning and data analysis, can be conducted either by a member of the EECBG Program grantee's internal staff or by external contractors or consultants.
- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory can provide interested EECBG Program eligible entities with direct technical assistance and customized support around energy planning including goal development and options analysis. Eligible entities can submit a request for TA by emailing NREL directly at EECS_TA@nrel.gov. Funding is limited; requests will be considered based on available funding and type of support requested.
- The technical assistance voucher pathway may also be a good option for entities that are primarily interested in obtaining technical support services, such as planning, analysis, and strategy development related to this category.¹³
- Additional technical assistance around specific technology areas is available through various DOE offices and national laboratories. For additional information, visit the [EECBG Technical Assistance webpage](#).

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Consider local objectives, staff capacity, and support needs when selecting consultants. Look for firms with prior expertise and knowledge of local or tribal government energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification or sustainability programs, including development of place-based strategies.
- Consider selecting eligible firms that reflect diversity in their business ownership and staff, understand local community needs, and are experienced in place-based approaches.
- Engage underrepresented or underserved groups to ensure that their needs are considered and addressed during technical consultant service delivery (e.g., community input sessions, equitable access to programs and financial opportunities.)

¹³ For formula-eligible local governments and tribes only. Entities must select either a grant or voucher for their EECBG formula award.