

FY 2025 DIRECT-FUNDING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Frequently Asked Questions

Key Milestones

Activity	Date	Description
Application Window Opens	September 20, 2024	Special Promotions - Bonneville Power Administration (bpa.gov)
Live Q&A	October 24, 2024	LINK
Application Deadline	November 1, 2024	Application packages should be sent to ET@BPA.gov by 11:59pm PST
Project Selection Process	November 15, 2024	Final ranking and prioritization of application submittals.
Award Notification	November 29, 2024	Award/waitlist/ decline notification to the utility of status. Outlines next steps.
Signature deadline	December 10, 2024	Customer signed agreements due.
Approved Advanced Payments	January 17, 2025	Approved advance payments awarded (if approved) and delivered up to 4 weeks after countersignature.
Completion Deadline – UES	June 30, 2025	Submit project completion into BEETS.
Completion Deadline – Custom Project	July 31, 2025	Submit project completion (with completed M&V) into BEETS
Invoice Deadline	July 31, 2025	Utility submits invoice by deadline
Final Payments	Up to 4 weeks after invoicing	Final payments will be processed upon successful M&V (if applicable)

General Questions

1. **What is the purpose of the demonstration project?** BPA's Energy Efficiency Program seeks to identify and capture additional cost-effective energy conservation that is occurring within the region. Through this incentive funding opportunity, Energy Efficiency aims to identify energy conservation projects in small rural utility regions as well as those that benefit disadvantaged communities, but BPA will evaluate all applications.
2. **How does a utility qualify for this funding opportunity?** BPA utilities with an Energy Conservation Agreement can qualify for the demonstration project; however, a utility must demonstrate it will utilize its EEI before September 30, 2025, to be eligible. A utility must indicate on the application, if EEI has already been exhausted, will be exhausted or remaining EEI will be used in tandem with this funding opportunity. BPA will not update Energy Conservation Agreements to reflect the demonstration funding.
3. **Which types of measures are eligible in this program?** Any reportable measure or project that meets Implementation Manual requirements.
4. **How much funding is available and where does the funding come from?** Funding is dependent on BPA's Energy Efficiency's operations budget infrastructure dollars, which funds the Direct Fund Demonstration. Utilities may request up to \$250k per project (application).
5. **Whom should utilities contact for questions? How BPA address inquiries?** Energy Efficiency Representatives will serve as the primary point of contact. Utilities may submit inquiries to their Energy Efficiency Representative via email, which will be answered via email.

Application Submittals

6. **How do utilities apply for the demonstration project?** The application is located at [Special Promotions - Bonneville Power Administration \(bpa.gov\)](https://www.bpa.gov/Special-Promotions).
7. **What does a complete application package entail?** 1.) Signed application with all sections/boxes completed and 2.) Documentation showing the calculation for the submitted measure (BPA approved calculators and C1 forms are acceptable, but not required).
8. **What is the solicitation window and when is the application deadline?** Applications must be submitted during the application window. Applications must be received by 11:59pm PST on November 1, 2024.
9. **What is a project?** An Energy Efficiency Project is the installation or implementation at a stationary source of one or more of the BPA approved conservation measures and/or custom projects in accordance with BPA M&V protocols that is not otherwise required by law or regulation and that results in energy savings at a facility located in BPA's service territory. For the purposes of this application, a project may represent multiple customers or sites when like-UES measures are bundled together.
10. **Can a utility submit multiple projects?** Yes. Each project must adhere to the \$250k project cap for BPA funding. If a utility submits applications for multiple projects, utilities may receive more than \$250k.
11. **Can demonstration funds be used to match other grants and include self-funding or EEI-funding?** Yes. Section F of the application documents the amount requested (not to exceed BPA's willingness to pay) and can include any other sources of funding.
12. **Can projects already be completed? When should projects be completed by?** Yes, but the project must represent savings that have not been reported yet and been completed after October 1, 2021. Projects must be deemed as incremental and completed prior to the completion deadline of June 30, 2025. A completed project is defined as

being installed and operational. Commissioning activities may occur after this date so long as final Measurement and Verification (M&V) can be completed by invoicing date of July 31, 2025.

- 13. How will my project be reviewed, ranked and evaluated?** Applications will be reviewed by a cross-functional BPA team who will make recommendations on project awards to the Energy Efficiency management team. Considerations include but are not limited to Small, Rural, and Residential (SRR) designation, incentive competitiveness, EEI spending history, BPA resource needs and non-energy savings benefits. Any utility may submit project applications; however, preference will be given to projects that meet these criteria.
- 14. When looking at the historical spending of EEI, are bilateral transfers considered as using all funds?** Not necessarily, please provide an explanation in the application. Any explanations in the application help BPA with decision making.
- 15. How does partial self-funding impact the competitiveness of an application?** Self-funding is not required; however, projects acquired lower than BPA's willingness to pay may impact scoring and ranking.
- 16. Do demonstration funding disbursements contribute towards performance payments?** If a project utilizes EEI and Direct Fund Demonstration funding, performance payments can be claimed on the EEI portion. Utilities may propose incentive rates above or below BPA's willingness to pay. Utilities are encouraged to account for administrative costs and end-user incentives through their proposed incentive rate as part of the application submittal. The project selection process is competitive; therefore, projects with a lower acquisition rate will receive higher priority. Project financials is one component of the project selection process.
- 17. If the project is a UES measure, is the funding capped at the UES measure rebate amount?** Yes, payment is always based on the Implementation Manual amounts.

Award to Project Closeout

- 18. When and how will utilities be notified if an application has been selected?** In November, utilities with selected project(s) will receive an award notification outlining which projects were selected, the combined savings, combined funds awarded, and next steps. Depending upon the volume of the awards delivered, an agreement may be part of the award notification or will be sent at a later date. Depending upon volume of applications, some utilities may receive waitlist letters and will be notified if funding statuses change. BPA may reject an application based on incompleteness of application, EEI status or if the project represents an unapproved BPA measure.
- 19. What is an agreement?** An agreement is a legal document that is signed by both parties, which outlines the terms and conditions of the project's incentive. The agreement will specify the maximum amount of funding, project requirements and deadlines, as well as an M&V Plan or other verification report.
- 20. What is a Measurement and Verification (M&V) Plan?** A M&V Plan is a statement of how the energy savings will be measured and verified by accounting for the project's baseline and proposed energy-efficient measures. Since a project may have multiple measures, the plan may have distinct components to calculate savings for each measure. This plan serves as the basis for BPA's incentive payment and leverages existing M&V protocols. BPA expects custom projects will be reviewed by Customer Service Engineers and/or Energy Smart Industrial Partners.
- 21. What if a selected project changes after an executed agreement?** The maximum funding your project may receive is specified in the agreement. BPA appreciates advance notification of all significant changes to your project. If the changes substantially increase or decrease the funding eligibility of the project, contact BPA as soon as possible to request consideration of a modification to your agreement. Modifications to increase the incentive associated with your agreement must occur prior to project completion.
- 22. What happens to unallocated demonstration funds after the application deadline?** If the total amount of awarded projects is less than the demonstration's budget, remaining funds will no longer be available for this funding cycle.

- 23. Will additional funding be available during the rate period?** Additional funding may be available throughout the fiscal year. Utilities will be notified by the EERs if this happens.
- 24. Will I receive a report for completed projects?** Each project will receive a completion report with the final energy savings and disbursement calculations. Agreements representing multiple projects will receive multiple completion reports. If the calculated disbursement(s) exceeds the contracted value of the agreement, a contract modification may be pursued if there are remaining funds in the demonstration budget.