

Madison County Main Street Energy Improvement Grant Program

Funding available: \$100,000

Program Description

The Madison County Main Street Energy Improvement Grant Program is open to building owners within the downtowns of the 10 villages and City of Oneida in Madison County. **The grant funds are available for building upgrades related to energy improvement such as heating/cooling upgrades (heat pumps), renewable energy (solar panels), EV charging infrastructure, insulation, LED lighting, etc.** While open to all building owners in the downtowns, a priority is placed on mixed-use building owners with projects that include in their scope of work upgrades to upper floors, especially projects that renovate upper floors that are currently dormant, i.e. unused/unrented.

This program recognizes that the downtowns and main streets in Madison County are challenged by an older building stock. While this older building stock gives our communities' their character, many downtown buildings are perpetually vacant or underutilized as property owners struggle with the repairs and upgrades necessary to maintain or improve these spaces. This is especially true for the upper floors of downtown buildings, which have higher vacancies than ground floors. These reinvestment funds are an opportunity to assist property owners with energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to upgrade and modernize the current building stock and increase the marketability of downtowns. The ability to upgrade and repurpose the existing building stock is crucial to keeping our downtowns vibrant places to live and work.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Madison County Planning Department prior to submitting an application at Jamie.kowalczyk@madisoncounty.ny.gov or (315) 366-2378. All renovations must be complete within 18 months of being awarded. Funding for this program is made possible through NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program.

Application and more information available at www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2800/Main-Street

Available funding:

- Maximum grant award: \$25,000; there is no minimum (however, please note that larger projects are likely to be more competitive)
- A one-to-one match is required
- Grant funding is by reimbursement only and will be paid upon completion of the work

Eligibility:

Madison County Main Street Energy Improvement Grant funds are available to property owners of buildings within the downtowns of the 10 villages and 1 city in Madison County including: Village of Canastota, Village of Cazenovia, Village of Chittenango, Village of DeRuyter, Village of Earlville, Village of Hamilton, Village of Madison, Village of Morrisville, Village of Munnsville, Village of Wampsville and the City of Oneida.

Requirements:

- Applicant must own the building;
- Demonstrate how the proposed upgrade(s) is an energy improvement project;
- Provide a one-to-one match;

- If selected, participants will be required to provide baseline energy data and forecasted energy savings of the project. Participants can take advantage of [NYSERDA's Green Jobs Green New York Energy Study](#) or work with a contractor to provide this information;
- If selected, participants will be required to provide photos of the project (before and after) to demonstrate the results of the program that can be shared with the public (such as posted to the County's website)

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate the following:

- Projects that include in their scope of work upgrades to upper floors used for housing (note, other upper floor uses, such as office uses, are eligible but depending on the applications received may not be as competitive). Additional priority will be given to projects that include in their scope of work complete occupant-ready renovation of *currently vacant* upper story housing units
- Ability to leverage resources and funding from existing energy efficiency programs for the project (applicant is encouraged to check with NYSERDA and their local utility for programs)
- Prime downtown location - While no specific boundaries have been established to define "downtown" in each of the communities, project points will be based on considerations such as walk time and quality of the walk from the property to the commercial core of the downtown; surrounding uses and property conditions; visibility and feeling of connection to the main street and downtown core
- Project readiness

Examples of eligible items available for funding: Funding is available for energy improvement projects that increase energy efficiency and/or reduce energy consumption such as heat pumps, installation of renewable energy (such as solar), electric vehicle infrastructure, insulation, and LED lighting. **Criteria for Match:** Other renovation work, such as structural or façade improvements, related to the overall project can be used as match contribution, but grant funding must be directly related to energy improvement. Building improvements undertaken from the date of August 1, 2021 and onward can be counted towards match. This is to allow more flexibility to building owners with projects currently underway that may want to apply for these grant funds. However, please note in order for prior work to count as match sufficient documentation must be submitted with the application (detailed description of the work, date of the work, cost, status of completion, etc) and that any work done prior to grant selection is at the owner's own risk, i.e. there is no guarantee of selection for the grant funds.

Selection Criteria – up to 100 points:

- Project's ability to reduce energy consumption (30 points)
Points awarded based on the project's ability to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- Project's impact on the building (25 points)
Points awarded based on the project's impact to transform the building or space, i.e. what will the energy improvements mean for the building and the building owner. For example, will it allow the building owner to rent or reuse a currently dormant space?
- Project's location and impact to downtown (15 points)

Points awarded based on the project's ability to create a highly visible project within the downtown that further promotes downtown as a place to live, shop, and work.

- Project readiness and implementation capacity (15 points)

Points awarded based on the ability of the applicant to demonstrate their ability to complete the project within 18 months

- Ability to leverage other funding programs (15 points)

Points awarded for applicants that leverage other funding available such as to improve/increase energy efficiency