



## Minnesota Grant Opportunity for Commercial & Industrial Building Energy Improvements – 2010

(Note: This is a summary by Energy Smart of the program details. See the official RFP for all details and all necessary forms:

<http://www.commerce.state.mn.us/EnergyRFP/CommInd.pdf>)

### Timeline – Dates to Know:

Activity	Date/Time
Request For Proposal Release Date	December 21, 2009
Questions Due from Applicants	January 15, 2010 by 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST)
OES Response to Applicants Questions	January 22, 2010
Notice of Intent Due Date and Time	January 29, 2010 by 4:00 p.m., CST
Grant Application Due Date and Time	February 12, 2010 by 4:00 p.m., CST
Short-list Notification to Applicants	March 12, 2010
Projected Grant Start Date	May 3, 2010
Grant Completion Date	April 30, 2012

**Background:** The federal stimulus bill gave money to state governments earmarked for energy-savings initiatives. Minnesota is using \$4.1 million of its federal funding to provide grants to commercial, industrial and nonprofit property owners planning to make substantial energy-efficiency and/or renewable-energy improvements in 2010 and 2011. Some of the money will be given directly to property owners making energy improvements and some will go to 501(c)3 nonprofits and economic development organizations seeking to create their own grant funds.

### Eligibility:

To be eligible for an improvement grant, an applicant must:

- own a commercial, industrial or non-profit property for which they are planning energy improvements

- be based in Minnesota
- match at least 50% of the project's total projected cost.

**Funding Opportunities:** Grant recipients are eligible for funding of up to \$500,000; the minimum grant amount depends on the project's projected cost and how of the total funding the grantee can provide. (Organizations receiving grants for improvements will be expected to match at least 50% of the project's total cost.) The state plans to give out 25 to 50 grants in all.

\*\* All grant-funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2011.

**Eligible Energy-Efficiency Projects:**

- Facility systems optimization (commissioning or re-commissioning)
- Facility systems control improvements;
- Lighting efficiency improvements;
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems modifications;
- Exterior envelope improvements; and
- Motor and pump efficiency improvements.
- Ground-source heat pump systems of no more than 5.5 ton rated capacity used to heat or cool a facility

\*\* NOTE: A proposed energy efficiency measure must (1) have a simple payback that is no less than 2 years and no greater than 15 years.

**Eligible Renewable-Energy Projects:** Property owners will also be eligible for grants to help pay for certain renewable power sources, including solar voltaics and wind turbines. See the RFP for more details.

**Proposal Process:** Questions on the grant program are due to the Minnesota Office of Energy Security by Jan. 15, 4 p.m. CST. Applicants then must file a letter of intent by Jan. 29, describing basic information about their business, the energy improvement project, and estimated grant request amount. A full proposal and application is due by Feb. 12 that includes many details about the project, its budget and the business. It also requires signing some other forms.

**Need help?** Energy Smart can help Minnesota businesses figure out whether they would qualify for the grant program and answer basic questions about the process. For help, call Program Manager Jill Curran at (651)292-4653.