

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Superintendents, Business Managers and Facilities Managers  
**FROM:** Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education  
**SUBJECT:** New Funding Opportunity: Renew America's Schools- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law  
**DATE:** December 14, 2022

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## Overview

Official Name "Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - Renew America's Schools"

The Department of Energy (DOE) expects to make a total of approximately \$80,000,000 of federal funding available. DOE anticipates making approximately 20-100 awards under this opportunity. Individual awards may vary between \$500,000 and \$15,000,000.

**Topic Area 1:** High-Impact Energy Efficiency and Health Improvements

**Topic Area 2:** Innovative Energy Technology Packages

**Eligible Uses:** Energy efficiency (envelope, HVAC, lighting, controls, etc.), ventilation, renewable energy, alternative fuel vehicles, and alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure improvements.

**Funding Agency:** [Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#)

## Eligible Entities

An eligible entity (prime recipient) is a consortium of one Local Education Entity (LEAs or Vermont's SU/SDs) and one or more:

1. Schools;
2. Nonprofit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements;
3. For-profit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements; or
4. Community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements.

**Non-public schools:** DOE has indicated that non-public (Vermont's independent schools) schools do not qualify as an LEA.

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## Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact:

Jill Briggs Campbell at [jill.briggscampbell@vermont.gov](mailto:jill.briggscampbell@vermont.gov)

EERE Exchange: applicants must register with and submit application materials through [EERE Exchange](#) and should complete this step as soon as possible.

UEI and Sam.gov: all applicants must have a UEI and be registered in Sam.gov (this process may take several weeks and LEAs should ensure that all co-applicants complete this step as soon as possible).

## **Cost Share Requirement**

This program requires a cost share in the form of cash or in-kind contributions that is at least 5% of the total allowable costs for the project and must come from a non-federal source.

## **Key Dates**

**Concept Paper** – January 26, 2023 (5 p.m. EST)

**Full Application** – April 21, 2023 (5 p.m. EST)

**Anticipated date of Award Notifications** – June 16, 2023

**Period of Performance** – 24-60 months

## **Key Steps in Process**

1. Register in EERE Exchange
2. Identify co-applicants
3. Gather required documents for Concept Paper
  - a. Cover page (1 page max)
  - b. Project description (2 page max) with specific connection to one of the two Topic Areas
  - c. Statement of Need
    - i. Facilities Need: Facilities Assessment or complete the [School Needs and Benefits Assessment Resources](#)
    - ii. Community Need: [Complete Energy Justice tool](#) to produce a school-level report as part of needs assessment for Concept Proposal
    - iii. Fiscal Need and capacity.
4. Submit Concept Paper by January 23, 2023 (5 p.m. EST) through EERE Exchange
5. If selected, submit Full Application by April 21, 2023 (5 p.m. EST) through EERE Exchange

## Resources

- DOE [summary description of program](#)
- DOE [webinar](#) (password: pXsZA2QT) and [slide deck](#)
- DOE [Q&A Spreadsheet](#) (updated as new questions are received)
- DOE [Teaming Partners List](#)
- DOE [Energy Justice Tool](#) (for needs assessment)

## Points of Contact

- DOE: [schoolsfoa@doe.gov](mailto:schoolsfoa@doe.gov)
- Vermont Department of Public Service, Clean Energy Development Fund: [Chris Heine](#) and [Andrew Perchlik](#)
- Vermont Agency of Education: [Jill Briggs Campbell](#)
- [Efficiency Vermont](#)