

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	September 16, 2024
Action Required:	Appropriation
Presenter:	Tray Biasioli, Climate Program Specialist
Staff Contacts:	Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability Tray Biasioli, Climate Program Specialist Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager FOIA Account, FOIA Officer
Title:	Resolution appropriating funds from the 2024 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) - \$76,840 (2nd reading)

Background

The City of Charlottesville has been notified of a \$76,840 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) award from the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE). Funding for this grant was appropriated through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The City of Charlottesville was a formula recipient for these funds and was notified of funding approval in August 2024. This funding will be transferred to LEAP to fund energy audits for low- and moderate-income households in the City.

Discussion

The purpose of the EECBG Program is to provide funds to units of local and state government, Indian tribes, and territories to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions in their communities. The City's application was written with the goal of leveraging additional federal funds to advance residential energy efficiency and electrification work within the community. EECBG funding will be used to provide LEAP energy audits to low- and moderate-income households, allowing these households to take advantage of income-limited federal rebates through the Inflation Reduction Act.

The grant funding will allow LEAP to perform approximately 160 in-depth residential energy audits. The grant period of performance is up to 2 years, requiring project close-out by August 2026. LEAP anticipates that the audits will be completed within 1 year.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This action is in direct alignment with the City's Strategic Plan Framework's outcome areas of *Climate Action* and *Housing*. These audits will help households reduce energy consumption and associated carbon emissions, as well as improving building durability, indoor air quality, and energy affordability. Additionally, these audits are supported by the City's 2023 Climate Action Plan. Chapter 5 of the Climate Action Plan calls for the City to "*increase participation by low-income households in*

fully funded programs for energy efficiency improvements”, and “develop and identify funding assistance programs designed for mid-income households” (CAP, pg. 41).

Additionally, the funded audits are in alignment with City Council’s Green City Vision and the City’s Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 7 (Environment, Climate, and Food Equity).

Community Engagement

Through the development of the Climate Action Plan, the community provided comments and input supporting energy efficiency in homes to achieve cost savings and GHG emission reductions. As these funds are programmed to provide residential energy audits to identify these opportunities, there will be engagement efforts to connect eligible and interested community members with the audit services.

Budgetary Impact

There is no (\$0) impact on the General Fund. This is a 100% federal grant with no local match required.

Recommendation

Staff recommends City Council approval and appropriation of the funding in the amount of \$76,840 from the DOE EECBG Program.

Alternatives

If grant funds are not appropriated, this federal, formula funding will have to be forfeited.

Attachments

1. Council Memo_EECBG_Resolution