

# BUILT Nonprofits (Building Upgrades Inspiring Local Transformation)

## Office Hours #2

November 6, 2024

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# TechWerx

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*Connecting visionaries, researchers, industry and energy leaders with the opportunities and experts to build the ecosystem, technologies, workforce and infrastructure to enable an equitable and resilient energy transition.*

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# Notes

**NO Artificial Intelligence (AI) Bots are allowed in the meeting, per DOE requirements.**



A recording of this session, along with transcripts and Q&A, will be posted to the TechWerx website in 2-3 business days.

# Introductions



**Haley Harrison**  
Project Lead,  
TechWerx



**Gretchen Gigley**  
Nonprofits Lead,  
DOE Renew America's  
Nonprofits Team



**Isaac Sloan**  
Communications Fellow,  
DOE Renew America's  
Nonprofits Team

## Office of State and Community Energy Programs

- The Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) works with state, local, and Tribal governments, **nonprofit organizations**, schools, and community partners to provide technical assistance and **invest in place-based energy projects** that aim to catalyze local economic development and create jobs, **reduce energy costs**, and avoid pollution.



# Office Hours #1 - Agenda

Overview of BUILT Nonprofits

FAQs

- Eligibility
- Application
- Energy Assessment
- Cost Share
- Overview of BETTER Building Assessment Tool

Q&A

## What is BUILT Nonprofits?

The **B**uilding **U**pgrades **I**nspiring **L**ocal **T**ransformation (**BUILT Nonprofits**) is a funding opportunity for **501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that own and operate their buildings** to receive up to \$100,000 for **energy efficiency upgrades**.

### This is an opportunity to:

- Reduce operational costs,
- Minimize your environmental impact, and
- Increase your budget for the programs that matter most!

### Organizations must have the capacity to:

1. Outline need and benefits in streamlined application
2. Measure and meet energy efficiency goals
3. Provide the 20% required cost share
4. Report results – energy savings and community impact



# Review Criteria



## Criterion 1: Energy Related Impacts of Upgrade (40%)

- Energy Savings\*
- Energy Cost Savings\*
- Emission Reductions\*
- Plan to Measure Energy Impacts
- Specifications or Rationale for Proposed Upgrade

\*Estimates



## Criterion 2: Organizational Capacity and Need (30%)

- Project Team Composition
- Timeline
- Statement of Need



## Criterion 3: Community Related Impacts (30%)

- Justice40 Community Benefits
- Reinvestment to Mission



## Eligibility: Organizations

**For a 501(c)(3) that owns a building used partly for its own office space, with portions rented to other businesses (e.g., a store on the first floor and an incubator space on the second floor), does this usage qualify as 'operating' the building for the purposes of the BUILT Nonprofit grant?**

- ❖ Yes, as long as the nonprofit is operating the building, it is eligible.
- ❖ Anticipated benefits should flow to the nonprofit and be outlined in the application.

# Application: Project Requirements

**Does the size of the grant request have any impact on the likelihood for being selected? Are smaller grant requests more likely to be funded?**

- ❖ Nonprofits are encouraged to apply for all necessary and eligible energy improvement(s), up to \$100,000. Refer to the Review Criteria to understand how applications will be assessed.

**Do energy savings need to be reinvested in future energy improvement projects?**

- ❖ Applicants may choose how they plan to reinvest energy savings. Energy savings may be reinvested into mission-directed spending, building operations, staff expansion, etc..
  - How will this benefit the community and your organization?

# Application: Project Quotes

## Does the application require a contractor quote?

- ❖ A contractor quote is not required for the application but may be submitted if it supports the information in the application.
  - Nonprofits who choose to submit quotes in their application should note the expiration date, as some quotes may expire before the period of performance begins.
  - Projects are anticipated to begin early 2025. Three-month quotes may expire prior to project performance beginning.

# Application: National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)

**Do we need to understand and consider the SHPO consultation and NEPA review prior to applying, or will we get guidance on if/what is required and how to navigate if we're selected?**

More guidance on how to navigate NEPA review and any SHPO consultations will be provided once selected.

# Application: Davis-Bacon Wage Requirements

**Can you explain how to comply with the Davis-Bacon Wage requirement for the BUILT grants? How does this look when an organization has a contractor who simply gives an invoice to us for installation work?**

- ❖ Contractors are not required to be identified at the application stage. Once awarded, contractors will need to comply with Davis-Bacon. TechWerx and DOE will support selected nonprofits with these requirements.

# Energy Assessment: Baseline Energy Use

**For applicants without a baseline for energy use—such as those converting a space to a new use —how should energy improvements achieved through the grant be established?**

- ❖ There is no specific requirement for how to measure energy savings -- Please note that the application asks for estimates.
- ❖ Energy efficient fixtures and appliances may be compared to the traditional alternative fixtures and appliances, for example. Nonprofits may measure from code minimums as a baseline.
  - The support of a technical expert may be used.

**Note:** Benchmarking is not required at the application stage, only energy saving estimates related to the investment.

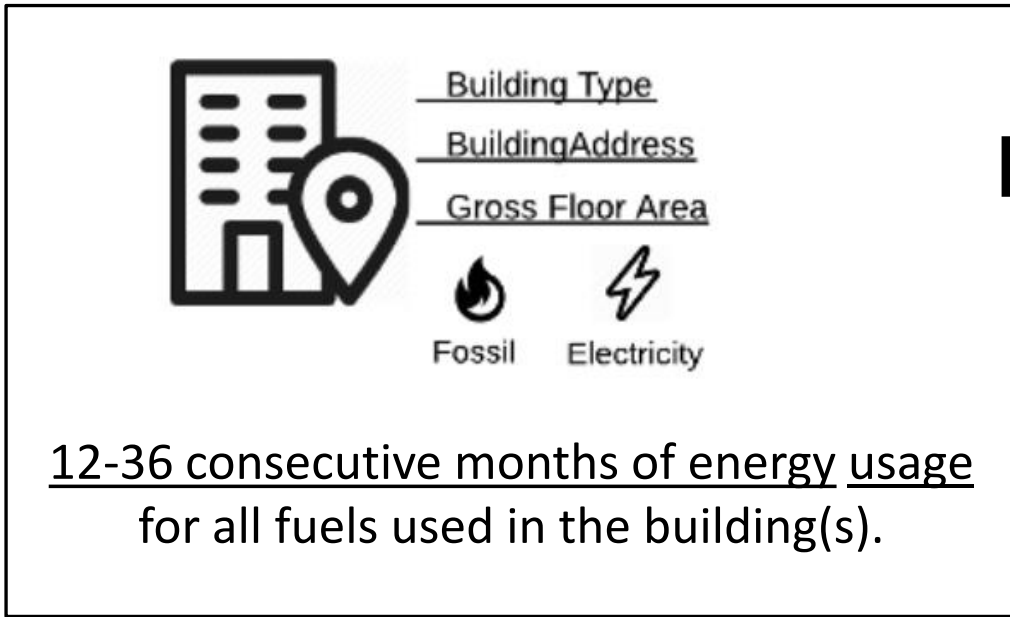
# Energy Assessment: BETTER Tool

## My building type is not listed in BETTER, what should I do?

- ❖ Option 1: Select the closest available space type that aligns with your building's energy use patterns and schedule.
- ❖ Option 2: If you have data from multiple facilities available, use the 'Generate benchmark statistics' option in portfolio analytics to create benchmark statistics from your data.
- ❖ As of 10/25/24, Worship Facilities are included as a building type option in BETTER.

**Note:** BETTER reports should be uploaded as a PDF. Save the webpage through print to PDF or by including screenshots.

# Application: Justifying energy improvements with BETTER

Building Type  
 Building Address  
 Gross Floor Area  
 Fossil Electricity

12-36 consecutive months of energy usage for all fuels used in the building(s).

Cost Savings (USD / \$):  
**2,506,975**  
**21.4 %**

- [Reduce Equipment Schedules](#)
- [Reduce Lighting Load](#)
- [Reduce Plug Loads](#)
- [Decrease Heating Setpoints](#)
- [Increase Cooling System Efficiency](#)







# Questions about BETTER?



# Cost Share: Allowable Cost Share

**Can payments made to construction project management firms and private energy auditors meet the cost share requirements?**

- ❖ Payments made for the energy equipment or installation can be used for the cost-share requirement. Since this grant cannot pay for work performed ahead of the grant period of performance, energy audits for the application cannot be counted as cost-share.

**Cash cost share can also be from the...**

- ❖ Operating Fund
- ❖ Endowment
- ❖ Rebates and Incentives

# Cost Share: Documentation

**Is there a preferred form of documentation that you would like to see to demonstrate the in-kind cost share?**

- ❖ Applicants should provide a cost share letter of commitment, specifying the amount of cost share that will be provided and the source. Details on how to document cost share will be provided after selections are made.
  - ❖ Ex: A letter from a contractor donating labor with the estimated cost
  - ❖ Ex: Board member who can replace lighting submits letter.

## Post-Award: Contracting and Invoicing

**Can the funds be used for equipment purchase within 12 months, but NOT installation? Or does the grant require purchase AND installation?**

- ❖ The grant requires the purchase and installation of energy improvement(s). The grant funding may cover the cost of equipment; however, proof of installation must be provided within the grant period.

**Can you provide more information on payments and the milestone structure?**

- ❖ Payments will be made directly to the nonprofit based on progress towards milestones. These milestones (and associated deliverables and percent of total award amount [\$] to be paid) will be determined during negotiations.

# Key Dates





# Questions about BUILT Nonprofits?



# Thank you!

For more information and to apply, go to:  
<https://www.techwerx.org/opportunities/SCEP-BUILT>

Direct questions to  
[info@techwerx.org](mailto:info@techwerx.org)



Scan the QR code to take a quick post-webinar survey and share your feedback with us!

**This recording, transcript and FAQ will be uploaded to the TechWerx website.**

