

Workforce Development for Facility Managers – Funding Justification and Details

EERMC Communications Subgroup

5/1/2018

Workforce Development

up to \$40,000

Gaps in knowledge and training for building operators, facility managers, and maintenance crews have been identified by OER and other stakeholders as a barrier to adoption of zero-energy and highly-energy efficient buildings. These funds would support much-needed workforce development, which will help transform the market for energy-efficient buildings. This education is especially urgent as the construction needs from the Rhode Island Schools Assessment are prioritized and implemented.

Opportunity

This funding would enhance access to and leverage existing funding for Building Operator Certification for building operators and facility managers.

Building Operator Certification (BOC) is a nationally-recognized training program to teach building engineers and maintenance personnel how to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings.¹ The BOC credential represents completion of 74 hours of training on HVAC systems, electrical systems, lighting, data collection, environmental regulations, and code compliance. Furthermore, the eight BOC classes are each an opportunity to educate attendees on energy efficiency benefits, programs, and policy. BOC training provides the additional benefit of peer networking, which enables channels of communication and continued peer education following the completion of the training.

While National Grid currently offers a reimbursement for select facilities managers, BOC courses are not enrolled to capacity with Rhode Island facilities managers. Under-enrollment indicates the current reimbursement could be enhanced to incentivize additional participation.

We propose leveraging current funding to fully incentivize a Rhode Island-based BOC training in Fall 2018. This training would be open to school facilities managers, municipal facility managers, facility managers for multi-family affordable housing, and facility managers for non-profit, community-based organizations, all with buildings that use more than 1.5 million kWh annually.² We would limit incentives to only attendees who have not taken a BOC training in the previous five years.

Funding Details

Group	Existing Incentive through National Grid	Enhanced Incentive through EERMC	Estimated Total Cost*
School facility managers	100% reimbursement, limit 1 per district	100% reimbursement for additional managers	\$1895 per manager; goal of 5 managers covered through existing incentive and 10 additional managers covered under EERMC

¹ <https://www.theboc.info/>

² This threshold is set to be consistent with existing thresholds to qualify for National Grid reimbursement.

			incentive (\$18,950 from EERMC)
Municipal facility managers	50% reimbursement	100% reimbursement	\$948 per manager, goal of 10 (\$9,480 from EERMC)
Affordable multi-family housing facility managers	0% reimbursement	100% reimbursement	\$1895 per manager, goal of 3 (\$5,685 from EERMC)
Non-profit, community-based organizations (greater than 50,000 SF)	50% reimbursement	100% reimbursement	\$948 per manager, goal of 6 (\$5,685 from EERMC)
Total			Up to \$40,000

*Goals should be adjusted to reflect relative need, while maximizing potential impact of EERMC dollars.

The training will be coordinated through existing channels, with additional lunchtime presentations and modules on energy efficiency benefits, programs, and policy in Rhode Island coordinated by the Office of Energy Resources (all made publicly available).

The training will be cross-promoted by National Grid, Block Island Power Company, Pascoag Utility District, the Office of Energy Resources, the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council, at minimum, to ensure full enrollment.

The EERMC's funding leveraging existing funding sources has the ability to train 34 Rhode Island facilities managers in building operations to decrease energy use, leading directly energy and cost savings from energy efficiency and conservation, while simultaneously cultivating a peer education network.