

Regional Energy Management Program Resources

Energy Resources

- **SECO Local Government Energy Reporting:** All energy reporting will be submitted through SECO website.
- **SECO Energy Reporting Help Guide:** A step by step guide of the expected process and documents required to submit SECO Energy reporting.
- **SECO Energy and Water Reporting:** To view specific energy code reports per institution, SECOs page offers additional information on required reporting.
- **Preliminary Energy Assessments (PEAS):** SECO provides energy assessments, at no charge, to best plan for energy reduction efficiency.
- **Technical Assistance for Local Governments:** Eligible entities may request technical assistance with either energy or water related technical matters ranging from basic consultation to feasibility studies.
- **Energy Code Compliance:** Collaboration with SECO/ SPEER and (BCAP) Building codes assistance project, Texas Energy codes Compliance Collaborative initiative was created to provide support towards compliance of State mandated Energy Code compliance
- **Energy Code Adoption:** To better understand the energy code adoption process.
- **LoanSTAR Program:** Revolving loan to finance energy-related, cost-reduced retrofits of facilities supported by the state.
- **Benchmark Energy STAR Portfolio Manager:** Benchmarking is the tool utilized to measure and access your buildings energy performance and helps identify opportunities to cut waste.
- **SPEER Energy Adoption Toolkit:** South Central Partnership for energy efficiency as a resource offers resources to support in the adoption of new energy codes for local governments.
- **City Efficiency Leadership Council (CELC):** CELC is part of SPEER's Local Government Program which is a collaborative network engaging in partnerships and resource exchange to best adopt and expand best energy management practices in the public sector.

- Energy and Building Market Assessment Tool: Commercial PACE application: A user guide provided by the Department of Energy to give a detailed analysis to state and local governments about their potential energy reductions and cost savings based on the type of retrofit and building stock.
- Texas A&M Building Performance Assessment Center: The Department of Energy supports Texas A&M's Engineering program which provides eligible small and commercial buildings, less than 100,000 square feet, access to building energy usage assessments. Through this assessment commercial properties have potential to understand energy cost reductions and savings.
- Texas A&M Industrial Assessment Center: The Department of Energy supports the IAC program allowing manufacturing plants a no cost industrial assessment. Through this assessment Industrial buildings can better understand potentials for energy cost reductions and saving.

White papers & Case Studies

- NCTCOG: Integration of Energy Resilience into Hazard Mitigation Planning
- NCTCOG: Local Government Energy Reporting Requirements in Texas
- Development of an Energy Management Plan for Tarrant Regional Water District
- The City of Lewisville's Energy Consumption Reduction

Funding Opportunities

- Community Development Block Grant Program for Rural Texas
- Economic Development Administration Funding Opportunities
- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE): The PACE Program assists in providing low-cost, long-term financing for water and energy efficiency and conservation improvements to commercial and industrial properties.
- Federal and State Incentives for Renewable Energy Efficiency: Collective database of information on incentives state and federal for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) efficiency. Incentive types can include but are not limited to tax credits, deductions, rebates, grants, low-interest loans, and more.
- Master Lease Program: A lease revenue financing program through the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) that finances capital equipment acquisitions and other potential programs.

- **Energy Savings Performance Contracting:** Financing option guide for K-12 schools comprehensive energy upgrades including multiple measures aimed to achieve significant energy savings.
- **LoanSTAR Program:** The Texas LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program provides low-interest loans to assist Texas public institutions with the financing of their energy-related, cost-reduction retrofit projects. Eligible entities include cities, counties, independent school districts, state agencies, public institutions of higher education and tax-supported public hospital districts.

Solar Energy Financing and Incentives

Federal Incentives

- **Tax Credit for Solar Photovoltaics:** The federal government offers the Federal Investment Tax Credit for residential solar that allows homeowners to deduct 30% of the solar PV system's cost from their income taxes. Learn about the federal tax credit, eligibility, and other common questions & answers from the U.S. Department of Energy.
- **Federal Solar Tax Credits for Businesses:** Business owners are also eligible to receive 30% tax credits to purchase and install solar energy systems. Learn an overview of the Investment Tax Credit and the Production Tax Credit, the eligibility requirements, and commonly asked questions.
- **Bonus Credits:** Some commercial solar projects are eligible for bonus credits on top of the 30% Investment Tax Credit. The Inflation Reduction Act provides up to 20% in bonus credits for qualified solar or wind facilities developed in low-income communities; up to 10% bonus for projects located in "energy communities" that have a historic fossil-fuel economy, high unemployment or are developing solar on a brownfield; and 10% domestic content bonus for projects using the required amounts of U.S.-produced steel, iron and manufactured products.
- **Tax-exempt organizations, including non-profit organizations, schools and government entities, can now take advantage of the federal tax credit through "elective pay" (sometimes referred to as "direct pay.")** The IRS has made available Frequently Asked Questions and an overview of elective pay
- **USDA - Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Loan and Grant Program:** Provides loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for small and large solar generation.

State Incentives

- **Property Tax Exemption** Texas offers a 100% property tax exemption for solar system installations, increasing the value of your property with no affect to your property taxes.
- **LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program:** Low interest financing is available for state, public school, college, university, and non-profit hospital facilities to pursue energy-related cost reduction retrofits for state, public school, college, university, and non-

profit hospital facilities to install solar projects. Borrowers repay loans through cost savings realized from their energy cost-reduction projects.

- **Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE):** Long term, low interest financing is available for commercial and industrial building owners to install solar on their property repaid via a lien on the property. Check if your city/county has adopted PACE.

Local Incentives

Local incentives are available to residential, commercial, and industrial building owners through rebates popularly offered by the utility company or the city. A rebate is a partial refund or discount received after an eligible purchase/installation.

- **CPS Energy- Energy Solar Rebate Program:** Rebates are available for residential solar PV projects with a cap of \$2,500 per project and a \$500 premium for projects utilizing local modules
- **CPS Energy- Solar Rooftop Rebates:** Small businesses, schools, and non-profit organizations are eligible for rebates on installing solar systems. CPS customers can expect to be covered up to \$80,000 or 50% of the cost.
 - \$0.60 per AC Watt for the first 25kW, \$0.40 per AC Watt for kW over 25
 - \$0.10 per AC Watt premium for projects utilizing local modules
- **CPS Energy - New Residential Construction Incentives:** CPS Energy offers free assistance and rebates up to \$1000 to builders and contractors for homes that are built at least 15% more energy efficient than 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) specifications.
- **CPS Energy - Solar Hot Water Rebate Program:** CPS Energy offers rebates for installing solar water heaters. The maximum rebate award is \$2,000.
- **CPS Energy Solar Net Billing:** Customers whose solar panels produce more electricity than they need are able to sell excess energy to CPS for \$0.02 per kWh as a credit on their electricity bill.
- **New Braunfels Utilities - Solar Rebate Program** Customers may earn up to a \$3,000 rebate by installing a qualifying solar PV system on their home or business
- **Bandera Electric Cooperative (BEC) Energy Saver Program:** BEC allows members to finance the cost of a solar system, battery storage, and/or electric vehicle (EV)

charging infrastructure on their bill with zero-down and no interest. Additionally, they offer cash discounts for solar systems installed by BEC.

- **Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) Community Solar Program:** GVEC members are able to purchase local, renewable energy at no cost without having to fund or install a solar panel system on their homes.
- **City of Pearsall's Just Energy's Texas Solar Buyback Program:** Just Energy customers can receive bill credits for excess energy.

Incentives for Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):** Grant recipients may request to use funds to directly pay for community solar subscriptions or solar bills.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP):** Grantees may request approval for solar rooftop systems or solar water heaters as an eligible covered expense through a Special Materials Request (WPN 23-6 Attachment 6).
- **Solar for All Program:** Minority Serving Institutions and Community Based Organizations can apply for grant funding to bring community solar to low-income communities.
- **RE-volv Financing for Nonprofits:** provides solar system financing (solar loans, PPAs, and leases) for nonprofits including schools, food banks, homeless shelters, and houses of worship with no upfront costs.

Solar Loans

- Solar loans allow owners to borrow money from a lender or solar developer to install a solar PV system.
- Property owner owns the installed system.
- Various loan options available with different monthly payments, interest rates, loan lengths, credit requirements, and security mechanisms.

Solar Power Purchase Agreements

- A solar finance company buys, installs, and maintains a solar system on the owner's property.
- Property owner purchases the generated energy on a per-kilowatt-hour basis through a long-term contract at rates competitive with the local electricity prices.

- Benefits: No upfront costs and no responsibility for system operations and maintenance.

Solar Leases

- Property owners make scheduled payment, usually monthly, to a developer who installs and owns the solar system.
- A typical lease term is 15-20 years.
- Benefits: Eliminates most or all upfront costs and transfers operations and maintenance responsibilities to the developer, if specified in the contract.

For more information and a comparison of financing options, explore the Homeowner's Guide to Solar Financing

Environmental Conservation Resources

AACOG RECONYX Illegal Dumping Camera Program

- Application Form for Grant-Funded Illegal Dumping Cameras
- RECONYX Camera Set Usage Agreement
- AACOG RECONYX Camera Program - Results Report

AACOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2022 - 2042

- AACOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2022 - 2042

FY 2024-2025 Regional Solid Waste Grants - Private Sector Notice

- Summary of Applications Received
- Notice to Private Industries

TCEQ Outdoor Burning

- Outdoor Burning in Texas
- 30 TAC 111b Outdoor Burning

Conformance Reviews

AACOG reviews proposed municipal solid waste facility applications submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as part of its conformance review process with regional and local solid waste management plans. AACOG and the 23 other regional planning commissions are provided this opportunity by Texas statute when new facilities are proposed, or a site expands.

To provide a proper review of a site application, AACOG developed a conformance review process and checklist that guides organizations for compliance with solid waste plans throughout the region. The process focuses on ensuring sites do not adversely impact human health or the environment by determining a proposed site's impacts upon counties, cities, communities, groups of property owners, or individuals in terms of compatibility of land use, zoning in the vicinity, community growth patterns, and other factors associated with the public interest.

Each organization requesting a new site or site expansion will need to download and submit the Conformance Review Checklist as well as, the items listed below to AACOG. The project will then be reviewed by AACOG's Resource Recovery Committee (RRC) and AACOG's Board of Directors.

- Notify City Council District along with contact/meeting date with official and/or staff
- Notify County Precinct along with contact/meeting date with official and/or staff
- Maps (should be part of checklist information)
- Photos (before and after; for landfills, information is needed on what the property looked like before the clean-up and after the clean-up)
- Test results of soil sampling
- Conformance Review Checklist

Closed Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Inventory Recommended Procedures and Forms

The procedures and forms presented in this document are provided to the councils of governments (COGs) as recommendations to be presented to the Resource Recovery Committee (RRC) and AACOG's Board of Directors. Each organization requesting the removal of a Closed Landfill from the Closed Landfill Inventory, will need to download and submit the Closed Landfill Removal Revision Form as well as provide the items listed below to AACOG.

- Notify City Council District along with contact/meeting date with official and/or staff
- Notify County Precinct along with contact/meeting date with official and/or staff
- Maps (should be part of checklist information)
- Photos (before and after; for landfills, information is needed on what the property looked like before the clean-up and after the clean-up)
- Test results of soil sampling
- For landfill removal from CLI, proof that below the surface of the property is clean/clear of debris
- Closed Landfill Removal Revision Form
- Closed Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Inventory Recommended Procedures

Project Funding

Grant funds will be assigned for each fiscal year within one RFA. Grant funds are available to local governments, public schools and school districts, and general and special law districts created in accordance with state law, and with the authority and responsibility for water quality protection or municipal solid waste management. Funds may be used for projects under seven categories:

- Household hazardous waste management
- Local environmental law enforcement
- Litter and illegal dumping clean-up and community collection events
- Source reduction and recycling
- Citizens' collection stations
- Educational and training programs
- Closed Landfill Inventory App

Recycling Centers

- Atascosa – Jourdanton City Yard: (830) 769-2220
- Atascosa Recycling: (210) 708-9262
- Bexar County – ABC Recycling: (210) 436-5222
- Bexar County – BFI Acco Recycling Center with Republic: (210) 223-2618
- Bexar County – Bitters Recycling: (210) 207-6428
- Bexar County – Bracken Recycling: (210) 651-0870
- Bexar County – CMC Recycling: (210) 227-3141
- Bexar County – Great Northwest Recycling: (210) 523-8155
- Bexar County – National Steel Recycling: (210) 227-4687
- Bexar County – Community Recycling with Republic: (210) 625-3637
- Bexar County – SA3 Community Recycling: (210) 538-2056

- Bexar County – STS Electronic Recycling: (210) 841-5704
- Bexar County – WM San Antonio Recycling Facility: (210) 253-8943
- Comal County: (830) 643-3781
- Comal County – Mesquite Creek Landfill: (830) 625-7894
- Comal County – New Braunfels City Recycling Center: (830) 221-4040
- Comal Iron & Metals: (830) 625-4920
- Frio County – Dilley Metal Recyclers: (325) 642-3949
- Gillespie – Fredericksburg City Landfill: (830) 997-3459
- Gillespie – Fredericksburg Metal Recycling: (830) 990-4400
- Gillespie – Fredericksburg Recycling Center: (830) 997-7521
- Guadalupe – Kingsbury/ Republic Services: (830) 303-9317
- Guadalupe – Marion/ Republic Services: (830) 420-3517, (830) 420-2810
- Guadalupe – Seguin / Republic Services: (830) 420-3517, (830) 420-2810
- Karnes County – Citizens Collection Site: (930) 780-2003
- Karnes County – K.C. Recycle Center: (830) 780-2200
- Kendall: (830) 537-4542
- Kerr County – Kerrville Recycling: (830) 634-2687, (830) 634-2686
- Kerr County – Kerrville with Republic Services: (830) 257-8000, (830) 522-3062, (830) 200-9078
- Kerr – Scrap Solutions: (830) 367-1775
- Medina – South Texas Refuse Disposal: (830) 426-4260
- Wilson County Collection Facility: (361) 730-5195