



NJ Cool Program FAQs

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1. My project is not located in Newark, Edison, or Atlantic City, am I still eligible to apply to the program?

The initial pilot program is limited to projects only located in Newark, Edison, or Atlantic City. Additional communities may be added in the future with additional available funding, but formal applications are not being accepted at this time for projects located outside these communities. However, even if not eligible, we welcome you to send a brief description of your project and its location to njcool@njeda.gov to both help inform the future of the pilot and help us see if other NJEDA Clean Energy programs can provide assistance.

2. How do I know if my building is eligible for the program?

Please review the Eligibility Requirements on the program webpage (www.njeda.gov/njcool). Your building occupancy class should be designated on the building's certificate of occupancy or similar existing building permit documentation received from your local government building department. If you are unsure or cannot find this information, please contact your local building department and/or consult with a building design professional.

3. When is the deadline to apply for the grant?

There is currently no deadline. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until all funding is committed, or three (3) years after the date of application launch, whichever is sooner.

4. How will applications be scored or evaluated?

Applications will be reviewed based on a first submitted, first reviewed basis when the application is opened to the public. There is no formal scoring process or competitive evaluation, just a review to ensure that the proposed project meets minimum eligibility requirements. If NJEDA staff have questions, they will follow up with applicants directly, who will have up to 10 business days from the request for additional information to respond and/or resubmit any needed materials or documentation. The timelier and more thorough you are with addressing any issues identified, the quicker we can process your application. Please note that applications may be declined for unresponsiveness to NJEDA's request(s). Additionally, the applicant has the option to withdraw their application from the program.

5. I'm having a hard time finding a Public Works contractor. I'm worried it will make my project more expensive. Why can't I use any contractor?

All contractors for this program must be Public Works contractors registered with the NJ Department of Labor. At a high level, this law guarantees that all contractors and subcontractors whose workers provide hands-on labor for a public works project will be paid prevailing wage. We understand this can present a limitation, but it is not something that can be changed at this time.

There are over 6,000 contractors that are registered with the NJ Department of Labor. The full list can be found [here](#). In addition, we are assembling a list of interested contractors from this eligible pool who

have expressed interest in participating in the program. Please see the program webpage for additional information.

6. I am building a new building that is energy efficient and does not use fossil fuel combustion systems for heating, can I apply for a grant?

No, only projects that are retrofitting, upgrading, or improving existing buildings are eligible to apply for the grant at this time. Please explore other funding opportunities that may be available for new construction.

7. Are there any fees associated with the NJ Cool Program?

Yes. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$1,000 to apply to this program.

8. Where does the program funding come from?

The NJ Cool program is funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). See <https://www.nj.gov/rggi/index.html> for more information about RGGI funding in New Jersey.

9. How do I obtain a tax clearance certificate?

A valid tax clearance certificate is required at the time of application approval. Tax clearance certificates are valid for 180 days after issuance.

Follow the directions in this document if you are not registered: [Getting Started in Premier Business Services](#)

Once you are registered, create an account on this webpage:

https://www16.state.nj.us/NJ_PREMIER_EBIZ/jsp/home.jsp

For additional questions, email businessassistancetc.taxation@treas.nj.gov.

10. I am interested in reducing operating greenhouse gas emissions from my building, but don't know where to start.

See additional resources below to learn about efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through alternative heating and cooling systems and energy efficiency measures. We strongly suggest working with a building design professional or specialized building contractor to evaluate what systems will be most appropriate for your specific building.

<https://www.ashrae.org/about/tfbd-what-is-building-decarbonization>

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/energy-efficiency-buildings-and-industry>

<https://www.energystar.gov/buildings>

11. How is this program different from other energy efficiency programs in the state? Am I allowed to participate in multiple programs with the same project?

While the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the private utilities do have some existing programs that offer rebates for energy efficiency measures in commercial buildings, the NJ Cool program differs in several important ways. It is focused on reducing operating emissions rather than energy efficiency measures. The NJ Cool program also includes funding for replacing the use of high global warming potential refrigerants in cooling systems, which is something not currently covered under existing programs in the state. This program also includes supporting enabling work necessary for alternative building systems to be deployed (i.e., structural upgrades to a roof for rooftop solar panels or upgrading electric panels to install heat pumps). NJ Cool is not just focused on equipment incentives, but also includes supporting the cost of relevant labor and construction materials for eligible projects. The

program intent is to support a “whole building approach” focused on driving emissions reductions across the commercial building sector rather than focusing on incentivizing one type of equipment or building component. As NJ Cool is a geographically limited pilot program, it may be updated in the future as the marketplace continues to evolve.

To prevent duplication of benefits, participants in the NJ Clean Energy New Construction Program (Gut Rehab) or Large Energy Users Program are not eligible to participate in the NJ Cool pilot. Applicants can participate in other programs offered through the BPU or utilities, but the maximum potential NJ Cool grant award will be calculated from total eligible project costs net the amount of any expected incentive payments from state-run or utility energy efficiency programs. There are also several federal tax credits that may be available to support your project that can be utilized in tandem with NJ Cool grant awards. Please consult IRS guidance or a tax professional for additional information.