

Carbon Neutral

Community Economic Development



Program Description

This program supports the planning, design, and installation of economic development projects to operate at carbon neutral or net zero energy performance or to achieve significant greenhouse gas emissions or greenhouse gas equivalent emissions reductions. The Carbon Neutral Community Economic Development program is offered as a competitive program for exemplary, highly replicable, and resilient carbon neutral, net zero energy, or highly impactful emissions reduction projects.

Eligible Applicant Types

Commercial facilities, light-industrial facilities, food processing facilities, wineries, breweries, public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities, healthcare facilities, agricultural facilities, municipalities (local government), State agencies and other State government, not-for-profit corporations, private developers, mixed use, warehouse and distribution facilities in New York State.

Scoring Criteria

- Alignment with regional and state economic development strategies
- Carbon neutral, net zero energy, or significant greenhouse gas emissions or greenhouse gas equivalent emissions reductions performance
- Cost effectiveness and replicability
- Support for Disadvantaged Communities
- Applicant must prove project resiliency

The program supports projects in the following three categories:

Category A – Provides eligible commercial, industrial, and institutional applicants up to \$2 million in incentives, on a competitive basis, for the construction of, or renovation to, existing buildings designed to achieve net zero energy or carbon neutral performance. Applicants to this category must pay into the System Benefits Charge.

Category B – Provides eligible community, campus, or large-scale private development applicants \$1 million to \$2 million in incentives, on a competitive basis, for the planning of large-scale communities, campuses, or developments designed to achieve net zero energy or carbon neutral performance. Applicants to this category must pay into the System Benefits Charge.

Category C – Provides eligible large commercial, institutional, or industrial applicants up to \$2 million in incentives, on a competitive basis, for the planning, design, or implementation of campus or building projects that significantly reduce greenhouse gas or equivalent emissions. Applicants to this category are not required to pay into the System Benefits Charge.



NYSERDA

Success Stories

Wood-B-Ayr Farm

A new state-of-the-art organic dairy barn is being designed as a smart building utilizing high-efficiency ventilation, lighting, and ultramodern robotic feeding, milking, and cleaning systems and will include a composting bedding pack. The project includes installation of renewables for net zero energy performance. The facility will have an educational center for meetings and seminars to train 4-H and other agricultural groups on modern organic dairy farming. The project was awarded \$1 million in 2018 to assist the facility in achieving net zero energy performance.

United Way of Long Island

United Way of Long Island's corporate headquarters proposed project will replace aging natural gas heating equipment with high-efficiency air source heat pumps, efficiency improvements to the building, a solar array, electric vehicle charging stations, and a battery storage system. The proposed project will provide hands-on workforce training opportunities, disaster resiliency and preparedness as well as cost savings to nonprofit companies located at the site. In 2018, the United Way was awarded \$595,000 to achieve net zero energy performance in the existing commercial office building.

Binghamton University

Binghamton University will develop a University-wide Energy Master Plan to meet State University of New York's (SUNY) 1B-2 Program Directive for Net Zero Carbon new buildings and Deep Energy Retrofits of existing buildings, in support of SUNY's energy and carbon reduction goals. The development of the plan will include a feasibility study of Binghamton's six-million-square-foot campus, as well as develop prototype design documents to get to net zero energy performance. In 2019, Binghamton University was awarded \$5,000,000, as a Category B project, to develop the Master Plan to achieve carbon neutral performance within the project boundary.

Buffalo Harbor State Park

New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation is planning the development of Buffalo Harbor State Park Gateway Center, in Buffalo. The 3,000-square-foot facility will be carbon neutral new construction and certified to Passive House standards. The facility will be utilized for park offices, a police station, public bathrooms, year-round comfort stations, and rental space. In 2019, the New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation was awarded \$1,000,000, as a Category A project, to achieve net zero energy performance in a new commercial building.

Basilica Hudson

Basilica Industries will renovate an existing event facility to improve the efficiency of the building, converting to an all-electric heating system, domestic hot water system, and commercial kitchen—making the site carbon neutral and keeping the property in-use year-round. The project will also install two new solar arrays with storage to offset all electric loads of the facility to achieve net zero energy performance. The project is located in Hudson, NY, a Downtown Revitalization Initiative district in the Capital Region. In 2019, Basilica Industries was awarded \$950,139, as a Category A project, to achieve net zero energy performance in an existing commercial building.

Solar Home Factory

Solar Home Factory, LLC will construct a carbon neutral manufacturing facility in Geneva, NY, that will produce modular, net-zero, solar-powered multifamily homes. The Solar Home Factory will be a net zero energy performance facility powered by a rooftop solar array. The project is unique in that both the facility operation and the product it produces will be net zero energy and sustainable. In 2021, Solar Home Factory, LLC was awarded \$1,975,000, as a Category A project, to achieve net zero energy performance in a new manufacturing facility.

Enterprise Lumber & Silo

This Enterprise Lumber & Silo Redevelopment Project will restore and repurpose a vacant masonry and heavy timber-framed building in the City of North Tonawanda, NY to achieve carbon neutral performance. The building will serve as an incubator for entrepreneurial architecture, landscape architecture, and engineering firms. When completed, the new building and the site will serve as a catalyst for further downtown redevelopment, and as a model for carbon neutral construction methods. In 2021, Enterprise Lumber & Silo, LLC was awarded \$300,000, as a Category A project, to achieve net zero energy performance in an existing commercial building.

Ready to get started?

Full program rules, requirements, and guidelines can be found at nyserdera.ny.gov/cn-community-development

