

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

P-12 SCHOOLS INITIATIVE: GREEN AND CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM (PON 4157)



Who can apply for the P-12 Schools Initiative: Green and Clean Energy Solutions Program?

Publicly or privately-owned Prekindergarten through 12 grade schools in New York State that pay into the System Benefits Charge (SBC) on their electric utility bill. All space within the buildings must be solely occupied by students and staff.

Is this program open enrollment or is it competitive? How much money is available?

This program is open enrollment, meaning first-come, first-served. Currently, there is \$4 million available.

Would private special education or independent public charter schools be eligible to participate in the program?

Yes. As long as the school is located in New York State, serves Prekindergarten through 12 grade students, pays into the SBC on their electric utility bill, and the building(s) are solely occupied by students and staff.

All the buildings within my district have multiple utility accounts/meters and some accounts include SBC while others do not. Would I be eligible to participate in the program?

Only the buildings within the district that pay into the SBC on their electric utility bill are eligible to participate in this program.

Are Nassau County School Districts eligible to participate in this program?

No. Nassau County school districts do not pay into the SBC, which is a program requirement.

How do I find out if I pay into the SBC on my electric utility bill?

If you pay into the SBC fund, you will see a line item charge under the breakdown of costs on your electric utility bill for Systems Benefit Charge. You may also ask your utility company directly.

Can a school apply for Direct Incentives under the program if their local utility company offers a similar type of incentive?

No. A school cannot apply for Direct Incentives under this program if their projects are eligible for incentives under their local investor-owned utility.

Does a school district or charter operator with multiple buildings need to submit separate applications for each building?

No. One application may be submitted for as many schools within the district that pay into the SBC. However, different energy study or design project proposals for each school building must be outlined clearly within the Scope of Work.

Does participation in the program help with Green Ribbon Schools program status?

NYSERDA cannot guarantee that participation in this program will lead to points earned under the Green Ribbon Schools program. However, certain aspects of the Green Ribbon Schools program may be addressed through enrollment in this program.

How do I apply for the free Clean Heating and Cooling Technology Screening?

You can submit the [Attachment A – Green and Clean Program Application](#) to P12Schools@nysERDA.ny.gov and indicate in the email that you are interested in receiving a free Clean Heating and Cooling Technology Screening.

Do NYSERDA FlexTech consultants conduct the free Clean Heating and Cooling Technology Screenings?

The complementary Clean Heating and Cooling Technology Screenings will be completed by ICF, a NYSERDA selected consultant. Schools may work with FlexTech consultants or with a qualified service provider of their choosing for Energy Studies and Clean Heating and Cooling and Net Zero Design projects.

Do we apply for the screening and energy study and then submit a second application when we decide on incentives, or is it a single application process?

A single application is all that's needed. If at a later point you would like to sign up for other offers, you can discuss with your project manager on how to proceed.

We are just wrapping up renovation construction. Can we apply for any eligible rebates at this point in time?

[Direct Incentives](#) may be eligible if installed after the program launch date on November 18, 2019. However, Energy Studies and Clean Heating and Cooling and Net Zero Design projects must be reviewed and approved prior to the start of cost-shared work.

If newly installed equipment qualifies for incentives, such as kitchen equipment, at what point in our process should we submit an application?

For [Direct Incentives](#), the applicant must provide proof of purchase and equipment must have been installed after the Green and Clean Energy Solutions Program launch on November 18, 2019. See the Prequalified Direct Incentives list for more information on how to apply.

How do I apply for the P-12 Benchmarking Program?

If you are interested in the free [Benchmarking Program](#), which provides up to three years of free energy benchmarking services to eligible schools, you can submit a separate Benchmarking Application.

If I am already participating in the P-12 Benchmarking Program, am I eligible for Green and Clean Energy Solutions offerings?

Yes. Any eligible school can apply to one or all offers under the P-12 Schools Initiative.

Who are the Benchmarking Consultants?

The Benchmarking Consultants are TRC and Wendel Energy Services. To see which consultant your school would be working with, view the [Benchmarking Consultant Map](#).

Does the benchmarking service satisfy NYC Local Laws 84 and 87 requirements?

Participating in the Benchmarking Program does not guarantee compliance with Local Laws 84 and 87.

Do benchmarking and design incentives apply to upgrades to the building's distribution network (electrical wiring and infrastructure) as well as generation and end-use (lighting and HVAC) components?

Benchmarking accounts for onsite generation but does not account for distribution or disaggregation of end use components. Project cost sharing up to 75% may be eligible under a design project for electrical wiring upgrades needed to support a clean heating and cooling system or a renewable energy and/or battery storage project (renewable and storage design projects must be paired with an efficiency project to qualify).

How can I become a contractor for this program?

As part of the program, schools may select their own consultant to perform Energy Studies and Clean Heating and Cooling and Net Zero Design projects. NYSERDA does not give out school information for solicitation.

If you are interested in becoming a FlexTech consultant to highlight specialties, please refer to [RFP 3628](#). Participation in RFP 3628 is not required for participation in the program.

Are you able to provide a list of schools that are exploring using this incentive?

NYSERDA does not disclose the list of schools that are exploring using this incentive.

Are there incentives related to solar energy?

Up to 75% - 100% of cost-sharing is available for design costs of solar energy systems when paired with other energy efficiency projects through Net Zero Design cost-sharing.

Incentives for installation are offered through [NY-Sun](#). Your local utilities may also be able to assist with the cost of implementing solar.