

2026 ENERGY POLICY

The following requirements apply to all CDFA CDBG, Tax Credit and Clean Energy Fund applications. These policies apply to any project proposing a physical alteration to existing energy systems (building envelope, mechanical systems, lighting, etc.) or for new construction (includes additions and “gut” rehabs).

Intent: Projects will complete appropriate evaluation of comprehensive energy opportunities prior to, or concurrent with, the planning/design of the project to inform a design that:

- 1) Reduces future operating and maintenance costs;
- 2) Improves occupant comfort and health; and/or
- 3) Improves facility durability.

Exceptions: Requests for exceptions to this policy must be addressed in the application’s energy narrative section.

- 1) Projects that will not complete their energy policy requirements prior to application submission must include a plan and timeline for meeting the requirements.
- 2) Projects that will not impact any energy-related building system must briefly summarize the work scope and explain why the energy policy is not applicable.
- 3) Projects significantly impacted by the cost of an energy assessment must explain how these costs materially affect project feasibility and confirm their utility efficiency program was not able to provide support.

CDFA will consider any exceptions or adjustments on a case-by-case basis.

Note: *Italicized Terms* are defined on the next page.

Alterations or New Construction

Requirements	<i>Level II Energy Audit</i> ¹ or <i>Energy Design Charrette</i> if project impacts any energy-related building system Timeframe: <i>Application threshold</i>
	Documented consultation with appropriate utilities for incentives ² Timeframe: <i>Application threshold</i>
	Implementation must meet Current NH State Energy Code
Recommendations (may improve scoring or likelihood of full award)	Project incorporates reasonable recommendations from <i>Energy Audit</i> that exceed current NH State Energy Code
	High performance construction (LEED, Energy Star, Passive House, or Net Zero)
	<i>Commissioning</i> of any new energy system
	<i>Building Electrification</i>
	Installation of Solar Photovoltaics

Water/Wastewater Projects

Requirements	<i>Energy Audit</i> ³ Timeframe: <i>Application threshold</i>
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¹ Consists of an ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit completed by Accredited Energy Professional or Organization.

² Documentation of Consultation with utilities includes a copy of email communications about the project or a document committing incentives.

³ Level I or Level II Energy Audit as recommended by an Accredited Energy Professional or Organization.

DEFINITIONS

Accredited Energy Professional or Organization: Work must be completed or signed off by a professional with one of the following designations appropriate to the work being completed, and with experience having completed at least two ASHRAE Level II energy audits: Professional Engineer (PE), Certification from the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), or certification from the Building Performance Institute (BPI).

Application Threshold: A completed energy assessment report **OR** a clear plan and timeframe for completing the requirements must be included in your application. A “plan” might include a proposal from or email correspondence with an energy consultant describing the energy assessment scope and estimated completion date.

Energy Assessments completed after application must be provided to CDFA prior to:

- Final Design Development; or
- Final equipment specifications (projects without architect/design consultant).

ASHRAE Level I Energy Audit: Includes interviews, a preliminary energy use analysis and a walkthrough of the facility. A preliminary report details low-cost/no-cost measures, areas of concern, and potential capital improvements for further study. This level of detail is adequate for prioritizing energy efficiency projects and to assess whether a more detailed audit is necessary.

ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit: This includes the ASHRAE Level I analysis but adds detailed energy calculations and financial analysis of proposed energy efficiency measures. Energy consumption is broken out by end-use, identifying areas which present the greatest efficiency opportunities. Utility rates are analyzed to determine if there are rate change opportunities. Key building representatives are interviewed for insights into building operational characteristics, potential problem areas, and to define financial and non-financial goals of the audit. This level of detail is adequate to justify project implementation.

The term “Energy Audit” in CDFA’s policy refers to an ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit unless otherwise specified.

Building Electrification: Converting building systems that use fossil fuels (gas, oil, or propane) to high efficiency electric equipment (i.e. air source heat pump) that can be powered by increasingly clean and renewable electricity. This can also include conversion of inefficient electric heating technologies to high-efficiency heating technologies.

Commissioning: A process that verifies and documents that the selected building systems have been designed, installed, and function according to the owner’s project requirements and construction documents, and to minimum code requirements. Refers to the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) requirement for Building Commissioning (Section C408 - System Commissioning). Occupants must be trained on the Commissioning Plan and system operation.

Energy Design Charrette: Consists of a meeting of the design team, utility representative(s) and/or energy consultant to discuss and document energy efficiency opportunities and potential incentives.

ENERGY POLICY CONTACTS

Utility Contacts and Energy Consultants Contact list: <https://resources.nhcdfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/FINAL-CDFA-Clean-Energy-Resources-Auditor-List-and-NHSaves-Contacts.pdf> .