Maryland
Energy
Administration

Larry Hogan, *Governor*
Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*
Mary Beth Tung, *Director*

Funding Opportunity Announcement
Data Center Energy Efficiency Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Program

Program Description: The Maryland Energy Administration ("MEA") Data Center Energy Efficiency Grant Program ("DCEEG") provides grants on a first-come first-serve basis to encourage the implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency technologies in Maryland data centers. DCEEG is open to all commercial, industrial, state/local government, or non-profit data centers in Maryland with an overall data floor facility size of at least 1,000 square feet.

For the purpose of this program, a data center is defined as a facility used to house only computers, servers, networking systems, IT components, and supporting infrastructure. It may also be a specifically designed and equipped facility to meet the needs of high-density computing equipment or server racks used for data storage and processing. The Data Center space includes sophisticated computing and server functions; it excludes server closets and computing training rooms.

Grants are designed to cover up to 50% of the net customer cost (up to $300,000), after other incentives and grants have been applied, for innovative and cost-effective energy efficiency solutions. If you are unsure if your facility qualifies, please reach out to
david.giusti1@maryland.gov

Type of Grant Program: The FY22 DCEEG Program is a first-come, first-serve grant program, subject to funding availability and restrictions; grants will be awarded to eligible applicants upon competitive review of applications.

Application Deadline: MEA will be accepting applications until 5:00 PM EST, February 11, 2022 or when funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

Program Budget: Approximately $600,000, restrictions apply and MEA reserves the right to adjust this budget based on funding availability.

Eligible Applicants: Any existing or new construction commercial, industrial, state/local government or non-profit data center located within the State of Maryland with an overall data floor facility size or at least 1,000 square feet. Stand-alone, in-house, and embedded data centers are available.

Eligible Activities*: Eligible measures include, but are not limited to, the following where energy efficiency and demonstrable reductions of energy use can be determined. MEA encourages the submission of innovative concepts that can provide quantifiable energy savings.

- Server virtualization
- Air flow optimization
- Server decommissioning and consolidation
- Aisle containment
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrades
- Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) upgrades
- Building Management Software (BMS) and Energy Analytics
- Lighting
- Sensors
- Building insulation and envelope improvements

  *Additional measures can be considered on a case-by-case basis

Minimum Criteria:
At minimum, each proposed project must meet the following requirements:
- Be located in Maryland.
- Be located in a data center with a data floor facility size of at least 1,000 square feet.
- Be able to identify, track, and monitor data facility Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE).
- Be cost effective in combination with energy savings. Projects shall have a simple payback period less than the average useful life of installed measures.
- Be undertaken by a commercial, industrial, state/local government, or non-profit entity; and,
- Consist of energy efficiency measures that can be fully installed by December 2023.
- Completeness, accuracy, and reasonableness of energy savings calculations and cost estimates. All cost estimates and electricity savings projects are subject to review and approval by MEA.
- Proposed solutions must be comprehensive and address more than one significant energy consuming system.

Projects that replace antiquated equipment that is operating beyond its effective useful life will not be awarded. MEA also reserves the right to select applications that allow for a broad diversity in the project portfolio including, but not limited to, geographical diversity, and organization type.

Review Process: FY22 DCEEG Applications will be accepted and considered for funding in the order in which they are received. Applications meeting the minimum eligibility requirements described in the Minimum Criteria section above and all rules, restrictions, and requirements described in the Funding Provisions, Requirements, and Restrictions section below, will be awarded funding until the Program budget is exhausted, subject to funding availability

The review process will consist of three (3) steps:

1. The MEA DCEEG Program Manager will perform an initial eligibility review.
2. The application will undergo a detailed review of technical specifications and economics.
3. The application will be reviewed by a team of MEA staff with relevant experience to ensure the findings in steps 1 and 2 are accurate.

Partial awards: Partial awards may be awarded under the Program. Full grant awards will be for approved projects, based on ranking, from highest to lowest. If sufficient funds are not available to fully fund a project, the applicant will be given an option to accept partial funding, based on budget availability, for the project as originally submitted. If the applicant does not accept partial funding for the project, MEA will offer the remaining funding to the remaining approved but unfunded applicants in order of ranking (highest to lowest). MEA will follow this process until all funding has been expended, or until all remaining approved applicants have rejected the offer. While MEA anticipates using the full amount of allocated funds for this program, MEA reserves the right to obligate some, all, or none of the FY22 DCEEG budget based on the quantity, quality, and eligibility of applications received.

Required Application Documents:
- MEA Application: Please note that the name on the MEA Application must match the name and address listed on the applicant's W9 form.
- A copy of the initial utility program application (if applying to local utility program)
- Contractor bid(s)
- Data Center Energy Audit or similar document demonstrating verifiable cost and energy savings
- For New Construction, a document detailing the cost-estimates of baseline equipment (ASHRAE 90.4-2019 or local jurisdiction building code requirement) and incremental cost difference of proposed system
- Most recent Power Usage Effectiveness value or a copy of the Data Center Profiler (DC Pro) PUE Estimate
- Most recent (12) consecutive months of utility bills
- Certificate of Status from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation ("SDAT"): Applicants must be in Good Standing with the State of Maryland at all times
- Proposed leveraged funds (If available)
- Provide a brief narrative, floor plan, and/or schematics, photographs of the data center.

Submission Instructions: MEA is encouraging the use of electronic applications to streamline processing and reduce environmental impacts. If you cannot apply electronically, please contact MEA no later than five (5) days prior to the application deadline to work on an alternative method to submit an application. Applications must be submitted no later than January 21, 2022, 11:59 P.M. EDT, unless the Applicant has contacted MEA regarding an alternative application method and that method has been authorized in writing by MEA.

Application packages should be submitted electronically to MEA via email to:

>>>Datacenters.MEA@maryland.gov<<<

Grant Program General Provisions: MEA grant programs are covered by general provisions that apply to all energy programs. A copy of the General Provisions document is available on [MEA's website](#); this document will be incorporated into all FY22 grant agreements issued by MEA.

In addition to the general provisions, the following funding qualification applies to this program:

- MEA reserves the right to obligate all or none of the FY22 DCEEG budget, based on the quantity, quality, and eligibility of applications submitted to MEA.

Administrative and General Requirements:
- **Facility Ownership:** Eligible Applicant organizations must either (a) own the facility or facilities where the energy efficiency measures will be installed, or (b) lease the facility under a leasing agreement which permits modification to the premises by the Applicant Organization and/or have legal written permission to install the system from the property owner.
- **Permitting and Inspections:** An applicant organization selected for funding under this incentive program must apply for and obtain all permits and certificates required of all local, State, and federal authorities having jurisdiction for its project, and must adhere to all applicable rules, restrictions, terms, conditions, and timeliness imposed by these authorities.
- **Funding Availability:** MEA reserves the right to obligate all or none of the FY22 DCEEG Grant Program budget, based on the quality and eligibility of Application Packages submitted to MEA.
- **Award Execution Deadline:** An applicant organization selected for an award under this Program must be able to enter into a Grant Agreement with MEA by no later than 5:00 P.M. EDT, April 29, 2022.
- **Payout:** MEA will not disburse award funds to any project which has ordered equipment and/or commences system construction prior to the effective date of the Grant Agreement with MEA.

Questions can be directed to Program Manager, David Giusti at David.Giusti1@maryland.gov or via phone, (410) 913-2387.