

## CEC Grant Projects Guide

**Congratulations!** Your community has been awarded a grant through NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program. The next step is deciding what clean energy project you'd like to use the funds to implement.

This guide gives some suggestions for projects you may want to consider based on grant award amount, including commonly funded projects as well as some projects that may be more difficult for NYSERDA to approve. Remember to consult with your [regional CEC coordinator](#) before submitting any applications!

---

### \$5,000 Grant Project Ideas

\*Please note that \$5,000 grants are a little more lenient than the larger awards in terms of what is likely to be approved\*

| Projects to consider  | Projects less likely to be approved  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LED streetlight conversions</li><li>• LED lighting upgrades at municipal facilities (indoor, outdoor, park lighting)</li><li>• Holiday LED lighting</li><li>• Other energy efficiency upgrades at municipal facilities (heat pump installation, insulation, windows, WWTP pumps)</li><li>• EV charging station installation</li><li>• Energy audit, CEC Energy Study, or heat pump technical study at municipal facility</li><li>• Community campaigns/public education on clean energy/sustainability</li><li>• Electric lawn equipment</li><li>• Funding clean energy interns</li><li>• Food waste/composting initiative</li><li>• Bicycle infrastructure (i.e. bike racks)</li><li>• Tree planting initiatives</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any projects unrelated to clean energy or sustainability</li><li>• Projects that fund fossil fuel heating/cooling</li><li>• Projects that involve a municipal rebate/give-away program</li><li>• Projects that have already been completed or are underway</li></ul> |

### >\$5,000 Grant Project Ideas

| Projects to consider   | Projects less likely to be approved  |
|--|--|
| <p>Preapproved Project Categories (refer to grant application calculator)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LED streetlight conversions</li> <li>• Heat pump installation at municipal facilities</li> <li>• Solar installation (owned by municipality)</li> <li>• Building energy efficiency upgrades (including LED lighting upgrades, insulation, windows, WWTP pumps)*</li> <li>• EV charging station installation</li> <li>• EV purchase for municipal fleet</li> <li>• Electric Landscaping Equipment</li> </ul> <p>Custom Projects: Unique projects that demonstrate GHG and Energy savings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean energy projects in <a href="#">disadvantaged community areas</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects without a direct greenhouse gas reduction benefit</li> <li>• Projects without replicability</li> <li>• Sidewalk and bicycle infrastructure projects that do not demonstrate GHG savings or are not cost effective</li> <li>• Planning or zoning projects</li> <li>• Projects that fund fossil fuel heating/cooling</li> <li>• Projects that involve a municipal rebate/give-away program</li> <li>• Projects that have already been completed or are underway</li> </ul> |

\*Note that energy audits are a prerequisite to using grant funds for these kinds of projects if it is a larger grant award with a contract.