

# **PRE-MEETING AGENDA**

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**Casper City Council**  
**The Lyric, 230 W Yellowstone Hwy**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**



	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Beginning Time</b>	<b>Allotted</b>
1.	Judge's Quarterly Update	5:30	10 min
2.	Youth Empowerment Council	5:40	10 min
3.	Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Application	5:50	5 min
4.	Agenda Review	5:55	5 min
	Approximate Ending Time		6:00 p.m.


**\* Reminder \***

**Please silence cell phones during the City Council meeting.**

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May 26, 2023

MEMO TO: J. Carter Napier, City Manager   
FROM: Pete Meyers, Management Analyst  
SUBJECT: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Meeting Type & Date:  
Council Pre-Meeting  
June 6, 2023

Action Type:  
Direction Requested

Recommendation:

That Council authorize staff to submit an application for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) in the amount of \$119,850.

Summary:

The City of Casper is expected to spend \$5.6 million on energy in Fiscal Year 2024, including about \$3.2 million for electricity, \$1.9 million for gasoline and diesel, and \$561 thousand for natural gas. By itself, the General Fund will have \$1.6 million of energy costs in FY24; this comes to about 3% of the General Fund's total budgeted expenses.

The federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IJA), which was passed in the fall of 2021, included \$550,000,000 of funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG). The EECBG program is awarded to states and local governments, and it seeks to fund projects that will reduce energy consumption. The size of each grant is determined by population; Casper's award will be \$119,850. There is no local match requirement for this grant.

Because the grant is non-competitive, the award is effectively guaranteed so long as the City complies with the rules of the program. There are three fundamental requirements that Casper must meet in order to claim these funds:

1. **The City must adopt an energy conservation plan.** The energy conservation plan is supposed to be a document that will outline a goal and a strategy that will lead toward reduced energy consumption, increased on-site energy generation (typically wind, solar, or methane recapture), reduced greenhouse gas emissions, or some combination of the above. The goals typically include a headline objective that is very high level and very long term (the suggested time horizon is success by year 2050).
2. **The City must coordinate with other local EECBG program recipients.** The grant asks for nearby recipients to coordinate with one another. Natrona County will also be receiving a grant through this program (\$75,740) so the City will try to coordinate with them, as appropriate.
3. **The City must select a project (or projects) that are compliant with the EECBG program and the adopted energy conservation plan.** Many types of grant-funded project are allowed. A complete list of compliant activities has been attached to this memo, but some highlights include:

1. Building Code revisions to promote energy conservation (Acceptable use #7 C)
2. Trails, bike lanes, and pathways (Acceptable use #7 D)
3. Traffic signal synchronization (Acceptable use #7 E)
4. Electrification of the City fleet (Acceptable use #7 F)
5. Support for recycling programs (Acceptable use #10)
6. Methane recapture at the landfill (Acceptable use #11)
7. Upgrading streetlights to LED's (Acceptable use #12)
8. Solar on City government buildings (Acceptable use #13 A)

Preliminarily, staff's recommended project would be to add solar cells to a City owned building, presumably either City Hall, the Casper Business Center, or the Casper Recreation Center. Adding solar to a government-owned building is one of the acceptable uses, and Rocky Mountain Power does have a reverse metering program (reverse metering reduces the power bill by netting out the amount of power that is generated on site). This is a preliminary recommendation at this time partly because other projects might prove to be more advantageous, but also because building-mounted solar is not always appropriate. The roof of the selected building would have to be evaluated to ensure that it could handle the weight, and the cells would have to be angled so that they maximize exposure to the sun while minimizing exposure to the wind. The modernity of the building's wiring would also have to be taken into account.

City staff will return to a future council meeting with a proposed energy conservation strategy, along with an application for an EECEBG compliant project. Applications must be submitted by January 31, 2024.

Financial Considerations:

The amount of the grant is predetermined at \$119,850, and the grant is generally awarded on a reimbursement basis. There is no matching requirement.

Oversight/Project Responsibility:

Mark Harris, Associate Engineer II

Attachments:

Table: City of Casper Budgeted Energy Expenditures, by Fund  
 Summary of Eligible EECEBG Uses, per Department of Energy Guidance

*City of Casper Budgeted Energy Expenditures, by Fund*

Fund	Electricity	Gasoline/Fuel	NaturalGas	Total Energy Costs FY24 Budget	Percent of Funds Spent on Energy (vs. total fund expenses)
General Fund	\$ 904,331	\$ 575,850	\$ 103,027	\$ 1,583,208	3%
Metro Animal	\$ 13,000	\$ 45,260	\$ 8,700	\$ 66,960	4%
Weed and Pest		\$ 14,000		\$ 14,000	2%
Public Transit	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	7%
Public Safety Communications	\$ 3,500			\$ 3,500	0.1%
Water Distribution	\$ 385,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 500,000	3%
Water Treatment Plant Ops	\$ 880,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 970,000	22%
Wastewater Collection	\$ 7,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 500	\$ 32,500	0.4%
Wastewater Treatment	\$ 360,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 82,000	\$ 462,000	5%
Refuse Collection		\$ 431,625		\$ 431,625	4%
Balefill	\$ 165,970	\$ 344,800	\$ 61,560	\$ 572,330	6%
Aquatics	\$ 72,481		\$ 96,729	\$ 169,210	14%
Municipal Golf	\$ 46,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 6,398	\$ 79,398	8%
Ice Arena	\$ 78,000	\$ 600	\$ 13,976	\$ 92,576	14%
Recreation Center	\$ 50,000	\$ 600	\$ 18,420	\$ 69,020	7%
Hogadon	\$ 120,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 21,811	\$ 171,811	16%
Sports and Athletics	\$ 71,250	\$ 28,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 104,250	9%
Fleet Maintenance	\$ 44,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000	\$ 84,000	2%
Buildings and Structures	\$ 665	\$ 6,215	\$ 3,000	\$ 9,880	1%
All Other Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Citywide Total	\$ 3,201,197	\$ 1,853,950	\$ 561,121	\$ 5,616,268	3%

***Summary of Eligible Uses of EECBG Funding, per Department of Energy Guidance:***

- (1) Development and implementation of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy
- (2) Retaining technical consultant services to assist the eligible entity in the development of such a strategy, including—
  - (A) formulation of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and energy usage goals;
  - (B) identification of strategies to achieve those goals—
    - (i) through efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption; and
    - (ii) by encouraging behavioral changes among the population served by the eligible entity;
  - (C) development of methods to measure progress in achieving the goals;
  - (D) development and publication of annual reports to the population served by the eligible entity describing—
    - (i) the strategies and goals; and
    - (ii) the progress made in achieving the strategies and goals during the preceding calendar year; and
  - (E) other services to assist in the implementation of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy;
- (3) Conducting residential and commercial building energy audits;
- (4) Establishment of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements;
- (5) The provision of grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing energy efficiency retrofits;
- (6) Development and implementation of **energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity**, including—
  - (A) design and operation of the programs;
  - (B) identifying the most effective methods for achieving maximum participation and efficiency rates;
  - (C) public education;
  - (D) measurement and verification protocols; and
  - (E) identification of energy efficient technologies;
- (7) Development and implementation of programs to **conserve energy used in transportation**, including
  - (A) use of flex time by employers;
  - (B) satellite work centers;
  - (C) development and promotion of zoning guidelines or requirements that promote energy efficient development;
  - (D) development of infrastructure, such as bike lanes and pathways and pedestrian walkways;
  - (E) synchronization of traffic signals; and
  - (F) other measures that increase energy efficiency and decrease energy consumption;
- (8) Development and implementation of **building codes** and inspection services to promote building energy efficiency;
- (9) Application and implementation of **energy distribution technologies** that significantly increase energy efficiency, including—

- (A) distributed resources; and
- (B) district heating and cooling systems;

(10) Activities to increase participation and efficiency rates for material conservation programs, including **source reduction, recycling**, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency;

(11) The purchase and implementation of technologies to **reduce, capture, and**, to the maximum extent practicable, **use methane and other greenhouse gases** generated by landfills or similar sources;

(12) **Replacement of traffic signals and street lighting** with energy efficient lighting technologies, including—

- (A) light emitting diodes; and
- (B) any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency;

(13) Development, implementation, and installation on or **in any government building of the eligible entity of onsite renewable energy** technology that generates electricity from renewable resources, including—

- (A) solar energy;
- (B) wind energy;
- (C) fuel cells; and
- (D) biomass;

(14) **Programs for financing energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-emission transportation** (and associated infrastructure), capital investments, projects, and programs, which may include loan programs and performance contracting programs, for leveraging of additional public and private sector funds, and programs that allow rebates, grants, or other incentives for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure) measures; and

(15) **Any other appropriate activity, as determined by the Secretary**, in consultation with—

- (A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (B) the Secretary of Transportation; and
- (C) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.