



Small Business Energy Conservation Program

Supporting Energy Conservation
Initiatives for Northern Business

Small Business Energy Conservation Program

By pursuing innovative solutions to energy generation and conservation, northern enterprises will be able to better manage and reduce their costs of energy consumption, positioning the Northern Ontario business sector for stronger growth. This program is designed to assist northern businesses to capitalize on these opportunities. In achieving these objectives, the provincial government will also encourage the private sector to pursue clean internal generation capacity that will reduce their demand on external energy sources.

Who is Eligible

New or existing small to medium sized enterprises that have fewer than 100 employees may be eligible under this program.

What is Eligible

The program has three distinct elements. Examples of eligible businesses that may be successful in qualifying for funding under the "Small Business Energy Conservation Program" are listed under each element below:

1. Energy Retrofit Planning
 - Energy audits, energy management plans and other project facilitation measures that are designed to consider energy retrofits.
 - Small businesses that intend to retrofit office and hospitality building space are eligible. The hospitality sector includes hotels, resorts and restaurants.

2. Energy Retrofit Projects
 - Building retrofits that will result in demonstrated energy savings for the business.
 - Small businesses that intend to retrofit office and hospitality building space are eligible. The hospitality sector includes hotels, resorts and restaurants.
3. New Internal Energy Generation Projects
 - New internal generation of energy for the business's own use which reduces the demand on external energy.
 - Small businesses in the mining, forestry, agriculture, hospitality, processing and manufacturing sectors are eligible.
 - The NOHFC may also consider other innovative internal energy generation projects that, in the opinion of the Board, adhere to the mandate of the NOHFC.

What is Not Eligible

Certain projects will generally not be considered eligible for funding. These projects include, but are not limited to:

- Residential, retail, multi-residential and institutional building projects.

Certain costs will generally not be considered eligible for funding. These costs include, but are not limited to:

- Project management costs
- Administration costs
- Ongoing operating costs
- Maintenance costs
- Business plans/strategic plans/feasibility studies
- Marketing costs and/or training costs
- Land acquisition costs
- Rolling stock (e.g.: motor vehicles, boats, planes, etc.)
- Transmission and distribution infrastructure projects
- Infrastructure costs for water, sewer, roads, parking lots and landscaping

- Costs for the construction of new "energy efficient" buildings. Energy retrofits can only involve the upgrade of pre-existing buildings.

Funding

Funding assistance will be in the form of conditional contributions.

1. Energy Retrofit Planning
 - The maximum contribution by the NOHFC to any one retrofit planning project will generally not exceed 50 per cent of eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$25,000.
2. Energy Retrofit Projects
 - The maximum contribution by the NOHFC to any one retrofit planning project will generally not exceed 50 per cent of eligible project costs or \$7.50 per gigajoule of savings up to a maximum of \$250,000.
3. New Internal Energy Generation Projects
 - The maximum contribution by the NOHFC to any one internal energy generation project will generally not exceed 50 per cent of eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$250,000.

All Projects:

- Total government assistance for all projects should normally not exceed 75 per cent of total project costs.
- The NOHFC may consider higher levels of assistance on a case-by-case basis.

Guidelines

- Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate significant energy cost savings.
- Applicants will have to identify all other funding sources to implement the project.
- Costs incurred prior to the approved project start date will normally not be eligible for NOHFC funding.

Application Process

Applications must be completed and submitted to:

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
70 Foster Drive, Suite 200
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6V8
Telephone: 1-800-461-8329 or 705-945-6700
Fax: 705-945-6701

The program component supplements any assistance received from the federal Energy Retrofit Planning and/or Energy Retrofit Projects programs. When applying to the NOHFC, applicants must attach a copy of their federal application and the approval letter from Natural Resources Canada. Information regarding the federal program is available at: <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/eii/home.cfm>.

New Internal Energy Generation Projects – Applications for this program should be sent directly to the NOHFC.

The "Small Business Energy Conservation Program" application form is available on the NOHFC website at: www.nohfc.com or may be obtained from Government Information Centres and Ministry of Northern Development and Mines offices.

Applications must be received by the NOHFC by December 31, 2007. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

As funding is limited for the "Small Business Energy Conservation Program", there is no guarantee that all applications meeting program criteria and received prior to the deadline will be approved by the NOHFC.