

What is the Residential Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Loan Program?

A loan program created by the Helena City Commission to provide financing for the purchase of alternative/sustainable energy improvements for property owners who own residential property with improvements in the city limits of Helena. "Residential property" is property that contains three (3) or fewer dwelling units per lot or tract.

What are the types of projects eligible for the loan program?

Loans to residential property owners may only be used to purchase and install energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy systems including, but not limited to, solar photovoltaic systems, wind turbines, geothermal and ground source heating systems, greywater systems, and solar water heating systems.

The City Manager or his designee has discretion to approve the use of program funds for other energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy systems, so long as those upgrades and improvements meet the intent of this resolution. The program funds are not available for purchase of energy-saving appliances.

What is the maximum amount and the terms of the loan?

The maximum amount if each loan to a residential property is \$12,000. The term of each loan is up to ten (10) years. The annual interest rate for the entire term of the loan is zero percent (0%). Availability of loans is subject to availability of funds dedicated to this program by the City Commission.

How will the loan payments be assessed?

All loans made by August 31 of each year will be placed as an assessment on the recipient's property tax bill with equal, semi-annual payments for a term not to exceed ten (10) years. The annual assessment payments will be certified to the Department of Revenue for inclusion on the property tax records for the affected properties each year.

What is the loan process?

1. An application is completed and submitted to the Community Development Department including contract dollar amount, plans from contractor, and an approval form from current mortgage holder.
2. The application is reviewed and approved.
3. The property owner signs loan agreement and pays filing fee.
4. Applicant's contractor submits plans for approval and upon approval obtains building permit.
5. Payment request for half cost submitted to the City (based on contract bid amount) and payment is made to property owner.
6. The work is completed and inspected by the city Building Division for final inspections/approval.
7. The property owner submits all invoices from contractor to the Community Development Department and final payment is made.
8. The loan agreement is filed with L&C county Clerk & Recorder.

Can the loan be used to purchase energy efficiency appliances?

No. In order to qualify, the project must be a permanent fixture. Light bulbs and appliances are not eligible for the loan.

Can the loan proceeds be used to pay for work completed by the homeowner?

No. All work must be done by a licensed contractor or a certified installer. If the owner is a licensed contractor, loan proceeds may be used to purchase materials.

So, you're ready to apply for a loan.

There are two separate applications that need to be completed for all residential loans. The links below are to fillable forms that can be completed electronically and saved on your computer. Complete both the Loan Application and the Request for Lender Acknowledgement form print and sign them, and mail both applications and all of the documents detailed on the checklist to the address listed below. You may also drop them off at Room 445, City County Building, 316 North Park, Helena MT.

Residential Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Loan Application

Request for Lender Acknowledgment

Contact Info:

Renewable Energy Loan Program

316 N. Park Avenue, Room 445

Helena, MT 59623

citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov

406-447-8490