

How the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** can bring **clean energy solutions to New Jersey**

While clean energy advocates eagerly await the passage of the Build Back Better Act, which would invest **\$555 billion** in climate change solutions, states, local governments and utilities are considering how to implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the law makes very large sums of funding available for “traditional” infrastructure like roads, bridges, electric poles and wires, as well as electric vehicle charging infrastructure. New Jersey expects \$13.5 billion for such projects.

The IIJA also provides grants that can be used to bring clean energy solutions like **distributed solar and storage, microgrids, energy efficiency, and grid modernization upgrades** to the Garden State. Based on our best estimates, New Jersey could receive up to **\$370 million** between formula and competitive grants.



Funding Opportunities

| Program Name | Activities Supported | Eligible Applicants | Total Amount | Estimate for NJ |
|--|--|--|---|-----------------|
| Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Program | Resilience, measures to reduce outage risk, can include microgrids and battery storage | States, utilities, grid operators, power producers | \$2.5 billion for utilities with 30% set aside for small utilities; \$2.5 billion for states to re-grant to utilities | >\$100 million |
| Weatherization Assistance Program | Efficiency (and rooftop solar) for low-income residents | States | \$3.5 billion | \$82.2 million |
| Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program | Energy bill assistance for low-income customers, can fund solar and EE | States | \$500 million | \$18.6 million |
| Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant | Projects including efficiency, solar and other renewables | States, utilities, grid operators, power producers | \$385 million for cities, counties; \$154 million for states of which \$92.4 million will be regranted to cities | \$12.5 million |
| State Energy Program | State energy planning and projects, could include solar | States | \$500 million for states | \$13.2 million |
| State Energy Program energy efficiency revolving loan funds capitalization | Funds for revolving loan funds to support audits and EE upgrades | States | \$250 million for states, with more funding to states with highest GHG and energy use | \$2.6 million |

Competitive Grants

| Program Name | Activities Supported | Eligible Applicants | Total Amount | Estimate for NJ |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Program Upgrading Our Electric Grid and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency | Grid resilience: transmission, storage, distribution. Regional coordination | State & local govts, utility commissions, in collaboration with utilities | \$5 billion | ~\$100 million |
| Smart Grid Investment Grant Program | Smart grid technologies, tools, and techniques | Utilities | \$3 billion | > \$10 million |
| Energy improvements for rural or remote areas | Resilience, reduce GHGs from energy generation, microgrids | City, town or area with population <10,000 | \$1 billion | ~\$20 million |
| Energy Improvements at Public Schools | Efficiency, renewables | Public Schools | \$500 million | ~\$10 million |
| Energy efficiency for nonprofits | Funds for revolving loan funds to support audits and EE upgrades | Non-profit orgs | \$50 million, grants capped at \$200,000 each | ~\$1 million |

5 tips for applying to federal grants



Prepare

Applying for federal grants is a time-consuming process. Get your ideas, projects, and teams together in advance.



Engage your stakeholders and community members

Seek input from your constituents, community members and stakeholders to ensure your applications are prioritizing the right types of investments.



Invest for the long term

Since the BIF funds are a one-time opportunity, it's important to pursue programs and projects that will provide the most long lasting benefits to the community.



Partner up and spread out

Teams that include a wide variety of organizations make for stronger applications. Consider partnering with government entities, utilities, community organizations, financial institutions, academic institutions and private companies.



Prioritize equity

Analyze who will benefit from your proposed projects and ensure historically marginalized communities and individuals are amongst the beneficiaries.

For additional resources, visit VoteSolar.org/BIF-Resources.