

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.