

Jenna Kay

From: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 1:35 PM
To: Eiken, Chad; Small, Rebecca; Stacey Dalgaard; Jenna Kay; Nancy and Peter Fels; Heidi Cody WCA; alonakotkasteinke
Subject: Seattle is funded to develop emissions standards for buildings.

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From Don Steinke

To Planners, Clark County, Vancouver

fyi, public statement from the Mayor of Seattle

"City of Seattle awarded \$17.2 million to implement Building Emissions Performance Standard, support multifamily and commercial buildings reduce climate pollution

by [Callie Craighead](#) on August 27, 2024



Seattle – The Department of Energy (DoE) announced \$17.2 million has been awarded to the City of Seattle under the [Assistance for the Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes grant](#). Funded by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, the program is designed to address the climate crisis and create cleaner buildings.

Seattle’s Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) will use the funds to implement the [Seattle Building Emissions Performance Standard \(BEPS\)](#) ordinance, with a focus on supporting buildings in overburdened communities and building an equitable climate workforce. Signed into law by Mayor Harrell in December 2023, BEPS establishes emissions targets for existing nonresidential and multifamily buildings larger than 20,000 square feet and will reduce an estimated 27% of building Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.

“Major investments like this help Seattle make progress on our urgent climate goals while fortifying the city’s green workforce at all levels. When I signed BEPS into law, I made a commitment to support building owners in complying with the policy to create a healthier and more sustainable city for all. This \$17 million will go directly toward that commitment,” **said Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell**. “Seattle is grateful to the DoE for this award, and to the Biden-Harris Administration for leading with the Inflation Reduction Act – the largest climate investment in history – which includes \$1 billion to make buildings across the country more climate resilient through local-level action like BEPS.”

The \$17.2 million DoE award will span across nine years (2025-2033) and will:

- **Create a BEPS Customer Support Hub.** Customer support services will also be provided by sub-awardee, Building Potential (formerly Northwest Energy Efficiency Council) to connect building owners to individualized assistance to reduce emissions and find financial support.

- **Help building owners to comply with BEPS.** OSE will partner with SEI Climate Corps to fund up to three “Compliance Fellows” annually to support building owners through free initial energy benchmarking verification, GHG emissions reporting, and consultation on compliance pathways.
- **Help building owners navigate financing, incentives, tax credits/deductions, and grants that could support their compliance with BEPS.** OSE is partnering with Seattle 2030 District, who will hire a Funding Resource Liaison to interface with owners and grow support tools.
- **Support facility managers, building operators and service providers become qualified BEPS service providers.** Through the Building Operator Certification (BOC) Program (run by Building Potential), the funding will also provide BOC Level II tuition scholarships for approximately ten persons/year.
- **Create a new Seattle BEPS Training and Workforce Liaison** who will coordinate with workforce and labor partners to assure accurate/compliant BEPS trainings, tools, and messaging are available.

This funding is part of the U.S. Department of Energy’s \$530 million investment in technical assistance competitive grants available for the adoption and implementation of the latest model energy codes, zero energy codes, building performance standards, and innovative codes that achieve equivalent energy savings to the latest model and zero energy codes.

“OSE is proud to be able to directly support building owners through this funding,” **said Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment Director Jessyn Farrell.** “This grant will help us provide resources to building owners to help them modernize their buildings, especially multifamily housing and community buildings in Seattle neighborhoods that are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis through extreme heat, pollution, and poor indoor air-quality. We are grateful to Mayor Harrell for his passionate leadership and to the DoE for making this possible.”

OSE expects to roll out these enhanced support programs beginning in late 2025 and 2026. Building owners and operators are also encouraged to check out the [Seattle Clean Buildings Accelerator](#) program which provides technical support and funding for upgrades and register for upcoming info sessions.

These DoE investments are the latest in a number of recent federal and state grants the City has received to support climate action and equitable workforce development. In May, Seattle was awarded nearly [\\$3.2M to support residential and small businesses transition from fossil fuels](#) to clean, energy efficient appliances. In July, King County [received \\$50 Million from the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#) to help multifamily, small commercial, and community buildings across the region, including Seattle, make capital improvements that reduce energy and climate pollution. And earlier in August, the City announced a [\\$5.2 million FEMA investment](#) to decarbonize and install air conditioning at five libraries. Full text linked below.

<https://harrell.seattle.gov/2024/08/27/city-of-seattle-awarded-17-2-million-to-implement-building-emissions-performance-standard-support-multifamily-and-commercial-buildings-reduce-climate-pollution/>

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