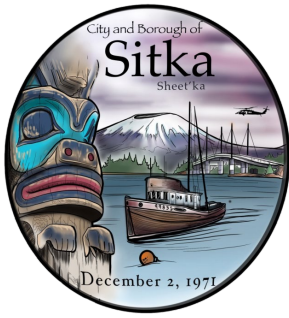


POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO authorize the Municipal Administrator to apply to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to support recycling and municipal fleet electrification.




CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator
Mike Stenberg, Maintenance and Operations Superintendent

Date: April 15, 2024

Subject: **Authorization to Apply for the Use of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to Support Recycling and Municipal Fleet Electrification**

Background

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\)](#) program, the City and Borough of Sitka was allocated \$75,300 in total voucher funding that may be used to be used increased energy efficiency and conservation, or fossil fuel reduction.

EECBG details:

- DOE published [guidance for 14 eligible activity categories under EECBG](#).
- Vouchers for technical assistance and equipment rebates and cannot be sub-granted.
- Once approved, funds must be spent in 2 years.
- Intended uses must be submitted to the DOE by April 30th.

To best utilize the \$75,300 allocation, the Sustainability Coordinator analyzed each activity category and determined which ones were most applicable to Sitka's needs. She then vetted projects from CBS staff suggestions/discussions, and weighed staff capacity, existing capital needs, alignment with the CBS Strategic Plan, and feasibility of execution with the allocated amount to create a short-list of potential projects that could be funded through the grant.

This list was then taken to the Sustainability Commission at their April 1st regular meeting for a recommendation. The Commission weighed the goals of the EECBG program, CBS Strategic Plan goals, number of citizens affected, challenges and opportunities of the current funding landscape, execution timeline, and emissions reduction potential against each proposed use.

The Commission recommended that \$65,000 be used for recycling improvements and \$10,300 be used for level II EV chargers for the municipal fleet.

Analysis

\$65,000 towards recycling infrastructure and educational materials will allow CBS Public Works to purchase 4 additional recycling collection containers and new signage for the CBS recycle center. Coupled with simplifications recently made at the CBS recycle center (plastics #1, #2, #5 can be commingled, corrugated cardboard and newspaper can be commingled), the additional equipment funded through this grant aims to increase the overall volume of recyclable materials diverted from the waste stream. Recent analysis of municipal solid waste processing costs indicates that correctly sorted recyclable material costs half as much as non-recyclable material. Additionally, these containers will allow for more materials to be processed and increase the efficiency of that process, further reducing costs of operations and associated emissions.

This application of funds supports Strategic Plan actions:

- 1.3 Identify opportunities to relieve the burden of utility costs.
- 4.3 Identify the levels of service for CBS's infrastructure and identify the resources needed to support these levels.
- 5.3 Improve customer service levels and evaluate process improvements for service delivery.

\$10,300 for electric vehicle chargers and hardware for the municipal fleet will cover two level II chargers, inclusive of the hardware itself and installation costs. As directed by the Assembly via Resolution 22-18, CBS is working to decarbonize municipal operations. Light duty vehicles within the municipal fleet are prime candidates to convert as they are replaced, but availability of chargers may hinder their versatility across City operations. Chargers purchased with these funds can be installed at more municipal locations to increase the charging speeds and make electric vehicles more functional within the municipal fleet.

This application of funds supports Strategic Plan Goal 3: Align resources and financial and economic policies for a sustainable community and Resolution 2022-18: Increasing the Energy Independence of the City and Borough of Sitka by Decarbonizing City Operations by 2030.

Recommendation

Authorize the Municipal Administrator to apply to the EECBG program; \$65,000 for recycling improvements and \$10,300 for level II EV chargers for the municipal fleet.