



Wisconsin State Energy Office Federal Grant Programming

NASEO Energy Policy Outlook Conference February 2026

This information is accurate as of February 2, 2026. Refer to [Office on Energy Innovation website](#) for any updates or clarifications.



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SEO Statutory Requirements



Wis. Stat. § 196.025(7)(a)3.

(7) STATE ENERGY OFFICE.

(a) The commission shall do all of the following:

- 1.** In cooperation with the other state agencies, **collect, analyze, interpret, and maintain the comprehensive data** needed for effective state agency energy planning and effective review of those plans by the governor and the legislature.
- 2.** **Administer federal energy grants**, when so designated by the governor pursuant to s. [16.54](#).
- 3.** **Prepare and maintain contingency plans for responding to critical energy shortages** so that when the shortages occur they can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

(b) The commission may **provide technical assistance to units of government** other than the state to assist in the planning and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable resources and may charge for those services. The commission may request technical and staff assistance from other state agencies in providing technical assistance to those units of government.

(c) The commission may require a public utility to provide energy billing and use data regarding public schools, if the commission determines that the data is necessary to provide technical assistance in the planning and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable resources in public schools, including those with the highest energy costs.

History: [1993 a. 414](#); [1999 a. 9](#); [2001 a. 38](#); [2003 a. 89](#); [2005 a. 141](#); [2009 a. 28](#); [2017 a. 17](#); [2017 a. 136 ss. 1, 36 to 38](#).

Note: [1993 Wis. Act 414](#), which creates this section, contains extensive explanatory notes.

Cross-reference: See also Wisconsin Administrative Code ch. [PSC](#)



Rural and Agricultural Incentive Program



Who's Eligible?

- Farms with a rural zip code
- Farms with propane-driven equipment
- Must work with a Focus on Energy Energy Advisor



What's Eligible?

- Grain dryers
- Boilers
- Unit heaters
- Water heaters
- Refrigeration heat recovery units
- Custom-calculated incentive for propane-saving measures outside of these parameters



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Rural and Agricultural Incentive Program



Budget	PY 2023 (July 2023- June 2024)	PY 2024 (July 2024- June 2025)	PY 2025 (July 2025- June 2026)
Incentives	\$205,906	\$374,102	\$167,951
Program Administration & Technical Assistance	\$46,500	\$50,200	\$49,720
Total	\$252,406	\$424,302	\$217,671

PY 2024 Results

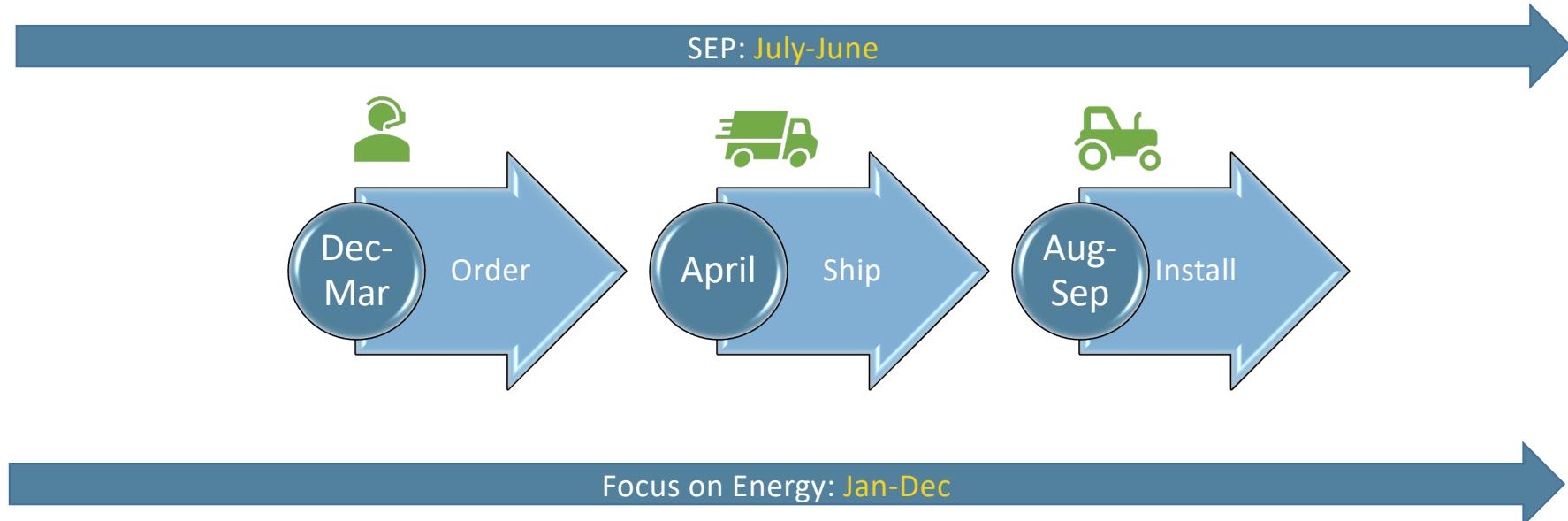
- 164 agribusiness measures
- Over 6 million gallons in lifecycle propane savings - enough to heat 6,260 homes annually



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Challenges and Lessons

State Energy Program funding timing ≠ Focus on Energy program and project timing



Solution: removed pre-approval requirement, align program implementation contract to 3-year SEP fund cycle

Refueling Readiness Program



Strategic Objectives

- Address the need to **fuel emergency vehicles** during a power outage
- **Expand** the emergency fueling network
- Support **local** energy emergency planning

Background & Approach

- 2018 Dark Sky Exercise
- Funding need for public and private entities to expand the network of petroleum fueling points throughout Wisconsin
- To streamline the process for OEI and applicants, the program offers prescriptive incentives based on eligibility and strategic objectives

Refueling Readiness Program Eligibility



Who's Eligible?

- Municipal, County, or Tribal Community-owned highway shops
- Private, Municipal, County, and Tribal-owned convenience stores with unleaded and diesel fuel
- Privately-owned bulk petroleum storage facilities

Must currently or be willing to **include the facility** in a tribal/local government **emergency plan**

What's Eligible?

- Installation of transfer switch, tap box, and necessary wiring and appurtenances
- Documenting site details in local emergency plan

A **transfer switch** safely shifts facility's **power** source from on-grid to off-grid to **plug in a generator** for backup power



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Refueling Readiness Program



Grant Award Amounts

- Up to \$10,000 for a typical highway shop or convenience store
- Up to \$25,000 for a Bulk Storage Facility



Example Transfer Switch



Example Connector/
Tap Box



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Refueling Readiness Program



Application Review Process

Priority, eligible applicants have:

- A facility located in a Priority Area
- A facility open or accessible 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, or would have the ability to remain open in the event of an emergency
- A facility with ample storage for diesel fuel and gasoline, including a set of pumps that could be dedicated to emergency vehicles in the event of an emergency
- No outstanding state tax warrants or tax delinquencies
- A willingness to share facility address and contact information with the PSC, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), the National Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and emergency vehicles as necessary during an incident
- A selected bid/quote from an electrical contractor or supplier



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Refueling Readiness Program



Outcomes

- Site-specific fuel and generator contingency plans
- Agreement includes obligation to support emergency response for at least 10 years
- Since 2015:
 - Nearly \$500,000 in grants paid
 - 46 fuel points
 - 27 of Wisconsin's 72 counties (38%)

Round 4

- Budget: **\$150,000**
- 13 awarded: \$148,999.12
 - 7 bulk storage facilities
 - 6 county fueling facilities
- 12 projects completed: \$144,955.12
- 1 project declined: \$4,044



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Reference: SEP Annual Planning



- Grant Programs
 - Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) (if other federal funding available)
 - Wisconsin Refueling Readiness Program (if funds available)
 - Rural and Agriculture Program Incentives (\$217,671)
 - IIJA-Funded Energy Programs
 - State Energy Program Formula Grant from the IIJA (SEPBIL) (\$7.88 million)
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) (\$2.33 million)
 - Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Capitalization Grant Program (EERLF) (\$1.88 million)
 - Grid Resilience 40101(d) Grant Program (\$15.84 million, Y1-3 allocations, Y4-5 TBD)



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Reference: Energy Security Plan Authorities



Law	Authority
Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, 42 USC 6326	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Created State Energy Offices with responsibility to plan for energy shortagesSection 366(c), as amended by Section 40108 of the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), increases planning and documentation efforts
Wis. Stat. § 196.025(7)a(3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">State Energy Office to maintain contingency plans for responding to critical energy shortages
Wis. Stat. § 196.029 Energy Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Energy emergency and executive order declared when “disruption of energy supplies poses a serious risk to the economic well-being, health or welfare of the citizens of this state”Energy providers to report information about energy supply disruptionElectricity, natural gas, and wood fuel excluded from this authority
Wis. Administrative Code § PSC 113.0601-113.0615	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish standards and reporting requirements to provide a uniform method to monitor electric service reliability



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