



MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

REIA #26-10

Achieving Net Zero Energy Codes for All Montgomery County Government

Requesting Agency/Department(s)

Dollar Amount

Department of Permitting Services

\$10,000,000

Funding Source

DPS Fund Undesignated Reserves

Finding

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #26-10 has the potential to advance racial equity and social justice in the County. This request appropriates federal grant funding from the Department of Energy to support the County's efforts to achieve Net Zero Energy Code adoption over the next two code cycles in 2029. For additional background on the County's efforts to work towards the County's net zero energy targets, please see the REIA completed for SA #25-90 Green Bank Pilot Technical Assistance Program, which is associated with this program.

Background

Purpose

The purpose of SA #26-10 is to further develop County codes, which will ultimately lead to Net Zero Energy Code adoption over the next two code cycles in 2029. The Department of Permitting Services will receive grant funds, reimbursed quarterly, to provide for training, education, and tools development to support code and standards implementation, enforcement, and compliance activities, working towards Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan Net Zero Energy targets. The program plans to provide:

- an increase in parity and decrease in financial burden in the permitting process;
- a decrease in financial burden when peak energy demand occurs;

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- an increase in quality job creation and job training, distinct from the general population; and
- a more accessible code process.

Additional Background Information

The Department of Permitting Services (DPS) is partnering with the Montgomery County Green Bank to implement a Technical Assistance Program to help commercial property owners understand and comply with updated energy and green codes. Both of these efforts will ultimately lead to Net Zero Energy Code adoption over the next two code cycles in 2029.

Relevant REIAs and Other Assessments

As noted earlier, please see the REIA completed for SA #25-90 Green Bank Pilot Technical Assistance Program, which is associated with this program. Additionally, the below Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Assessments (RESJIS) are relevant to supplemental appropriation #26-10.

- RESJIS Bil 13-22 - Buildings – Comprehensive Building Decarbonization
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/resjis/2022/Bill13-22.pdf>
- RESJIS Bill E31-22 - Property Tax Credits- Energy Conservation Devices And Energy Efficient Buildings Amendments
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/resjis/2021/Bill31-21RESJ.pdf>
- RESJIS Bill 16-21- Environmental Sustainability-Building Energy use Benchmarking and Performance Standards Amendments
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/resjis/2021/Bill31-21RESJ.pdf>

Caveats

This REIA has been conducted with the best available information at the time of writing, including department responses to the Racial Equity and Social Justice template and research conducted by ORESJ Policy Team Analysts. While the assessment examines specific racial equity and social justice impacts of the funding request, it cannot fully address all systemic inequities that affect the communities in question, nor do we seek to examine impacts outside the scope of the funding request. We recommend using this assessment as a starting point for

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discussions about the impact of the program on advancing racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County.