Save Energy, Cut Costs: Funding & Technical Resources for Public Buildings and Community Spaces

CAPCOG & SPEER

July 15, 2026

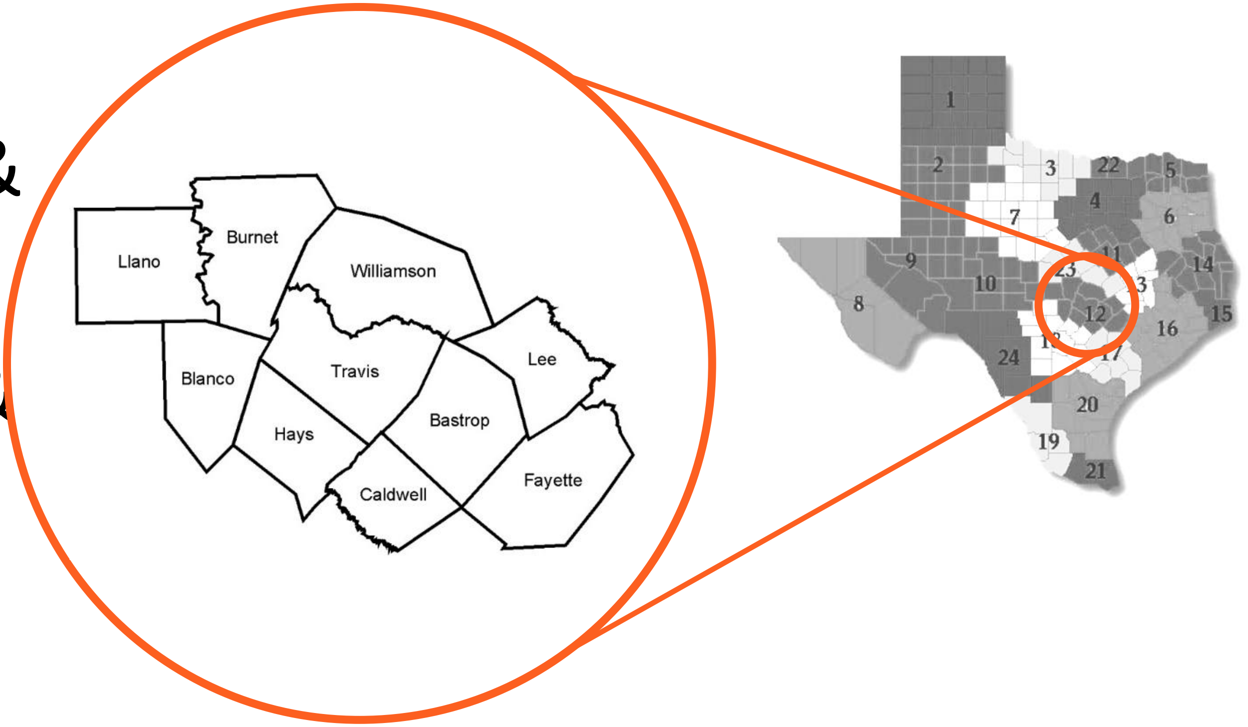
Powering Texas Energy Strategies: Summer Workshop Series

August 11th: Conservation in Practice- Energy & Water Strategies for Texas

August 25th: Community Input, Practical Impact

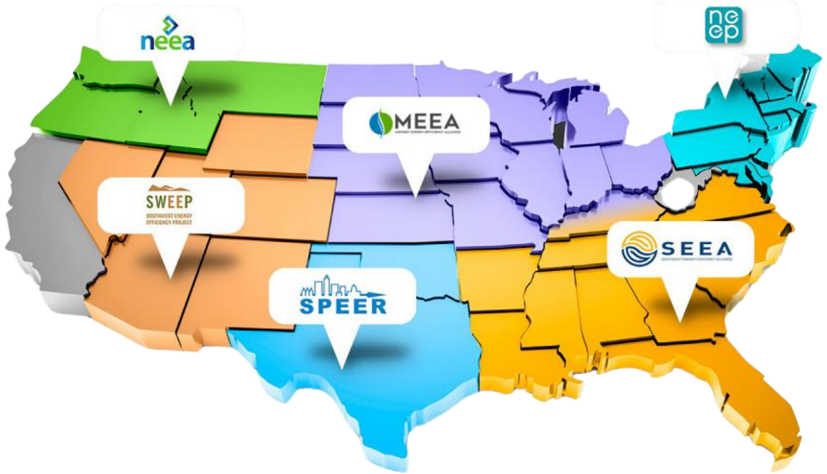
CAPCOG – Regional Planning Commission in Statute; more often called a COG.

- Emergency Communications 9-1-1
- Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center
- Homeland Security Planning & Training
- Regional Law Enforcement Academy
- Air Quality Planning
- Solid Waste Planning



Who is SPEER?

- REEO: Regional Energy Efficiency Organization
- **Member-based**, non-profit 501(c)3 organization
- **65+ members** from a wide cross section of Energy Efficiency Industries
- Focused on Outreach Education and Collaboration on **Clean Energy**



SPEER
The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource

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Housekeeping

- Questions are welcome in the chat or Q & A
- Recording of the workshop will be posted on the SPEER YouTube Channel
- Presentation will be provided in follow-up email

Presenters

Kacy Wycoff,
Program Lead

Adam Mueller,
Program Lead

Jonathan Sanchez,
Program Specialist

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Program (EE RLF)

Kacy Wycoff, Program Lead

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State Energy Conservation Office

- Office under the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA).
- Promotes the efficient use of energy and reduction of energy demand for public entities
- Target Audiences
  - Public K-12 School Districts
  - Public Higher Education
  - Local/County Governments
  - State Agencies
  - Public Hospitals
  - Quasi Governmental Entities
  - Industrial Energy Efficiency

SECO Programs

SEP Programs

- Energy Education and Training
- Technical Assistance
- Emerging Clean Energy Technology
- LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program
- Statutory Activities

Supplemental Fund Programs

- Lighting Retrofits - ISDs
- Lighting Retrofits- Hospitals
- EECBG
- Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Program
- Home Energy Rebate Program
- Training for Residential Energy Contractors

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (EE RLF)

- Total amount available: **$16,000,000.00**
- Max loan amount: **$3,000,000**
  - Applicants can apply for up to 2 separate loans
- Loan Term is useful life of longest-term upgrade/retrofit
  - Maximum 15 years if longest-term retrofit exceeds 15 years
- Loan Interest Rate: **1.25%**
- **ASHRAE Audit provided by SECO**

Program Process

Notice of Loan Fund Availability posted to ESBD → Entities apply and are selected → ASHRAE Audits completed → Project approved and loan agreement is executed

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Borrower Eligibility

Facilities owned by municipalities, counties, or hospital districts that provide social, educational, and recreational activities.

- Recreation Centers
- Public Libraries
- Community Centers
- Civic Centers
- Senior Centers

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Retrofit Project Requirements

- All upgrades and retrofit projects must be recommended in the ASHRAE Energy Audit.
- Retrofits must improve energy efficiency of the building or facility.
- All projects must comply with **Build America, Buy America** and **Davis-Bacon Act** provisions.
- Retrofits must reduce the energy intensity of the building or facility.

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Loan Process

1. First Reimbursement Request
   - "Line of Credit" established
   - Interest begins accruing

Project Implementation →

2. Last Reimbursement Paid
   - Interest freezes
   - Loan payback period begins

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Audit Process

1. Application, including a Memorandum of Understanding and Project Assessment Commitment is selected for funding.
2. SECO assigns a contracted third-party engineer to the project.
3. Entity provides third-party engineers with preliminary energy data and project information.
4. Third-party engineers develop a preliminary project scope that addresses operational needs.
5. SECO reviews preliminary scope for compliance with EE RLF Requirements.
6. Third-party engineers complete a full ASHRAE audit of the facility, including a site visit.
7. SECO reviews the audit results with the entity and third-party engineer.
8. Entity signs loan agreement aligning with audit findings and project scope.

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NOLFA Details

- Currently posted to the ESBD
- Application Deadline: December 18, 2026
- Applications are first come, first serve.

Preliminary Energy Assessments and Technical Assistance

Adam Mueller, Program Lead

Overview

SECO offers no-cost energy expertise to public entities through two methods:

1. Preliminary Energy Assessments

2. Technical Assistance for Local Governments

Recipients

- Only public entities may apply for Technical Assistance from SECO
- Most common recipients include:
  - School districts
  - Cities/ municipalities
  - State agencies

1. Preliminary Energy Assessments (PEAs)

- Details recommendations for cost-effective resource efficiency measures to reduce utility consumption/costs
- May include:
  - Analysis of utility bills
  - Recommended maintenance procedures
  - Informal on-site training for maintenance staff
  - Follow-up visits to assist with implementation of recommendations
  - Development of an overall energy management policy
  - Facility benchmarking using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager

PEA Process

Public Entity submits application form for SECO's review

SECO assigns Public Entity to an authorized third-party engineering firm

Engineering firm completes energy performance analysis using utility bills and reports findings

Public Entities may receive an on-site inspection if significant energy-savings potential is identified

Engineering firm completes and shares Preliminary Energy Assessment report with Public Entity and SECO

PEA Form

PRINT FORM | RESET FORM

Preliminary Energy Assessment Service Request Form
Form# 50-852

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Public Entity Name	Telephone
Contact Person	Title
Email Address	County

Street Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code

Preliminary Energy Assessment Service Eligibility

The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) provides free preliminary energy assessments (PEAs) for existing public facilities and infrastructure. Eligible entities include municipal and county governments, public school districts, county hospitals, port authorities, major airports, public water authorities and municipally owned utilities. Leased or rented facilities and infrastructure are not eligible for this service.

Principles of Agreement

By submitting this request form, the entity listed above must agree to:

- select a contact person to work with SECO and its designated contractor to establish an energy policy and set realistic energy efficiency goals;
- allow SECO's designated contractor to provide walk-through assessments of selected facilities;
- schedule a time for SECO's designated contractor to make a presentation on the assessment findings to key decision-makers;
- consider implementing the PEA's energy savings recommendations; and
- allow SECO to post portions of this report on its website

Additional Questions

Has this organization used SECO's technical assistance or PEA services in the past? ◯ Yes ◯ No

Is the primary contact for this PEA familiar with SECO's LoanSTAR revolving loan program? ◯ Yes ◯ No

Has this organization used SECO's LoanSTAR revolving loan program in the past? ◯ Yes ◯ No

Signature

This agreement must be signed by your organization's chief executive officer or other signing authority.

Signature	Date
Print Name	Title

PEA Information Website

2. Technical Assistance for Local Governments

- Provided to political subdivisions in Texas
- Broad range of services provided by third-party engineering firms:
  - ENERGY STAR certification
  - Improve Maintenance and Operations
  - Lighting Upgrades
  - HVAC / Chiller / Boiler Upgrades
  - Building Control Update
  - And more!

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TA for Local Governments Process

Local Government submits application form for SECO’s review

SECO assigns Local Government to an authorized third-party engineering firm

Engineering firm completes energy performance analysis/consultation based on the needs of the Local Government

Local Government may receive an on-site inspection if applicable

Engineering firm completes and shares Assessment report with Local Government and SECO

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TA for Local Governments Application

PRINT FORM | RESET FORM

Technical Assistance Service Request Form
Form# 50-855

SECO State Energy Conservation Office

Public Entity Name	Telephone
Contact Person	Title
Email Address	County

Street Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code

Description of Technical Assistance Needs

Technical Assistance Eligibility

The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) provides free technical assistance for existing public facilities and infrastructure. Eligible entities include municipal and county governments, public school districts, county hospitals, port authorities, major airports, public water authorities and municipally owned utilities. Leased or rented facilities and infrastructure are not eligible for this service.

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- allow SECO to post portions of this report on its website

Additional Questions

Has this organization used SECO's technical assistance or PEA services in the past?	Yes	No
Is the primary contact familiar with SECO's LoanSTAR revolving loan program?	Yes	No
Has this organization used SECO's LoanSTAR revolving loan program in the past?	Yes	No

Signature

This agreement must be signed by your organization's chief executive officer or other signing authority.

Signature	Date
Print Name	Title

TA Information Website

SECO State Energy Conservation Office

LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program

Adam Mueller, Program Lead

Program Details

- Low interest, reimbursement-based loans for public entities to complete energy efficiency projects
- Loans based on Utility Cost Reduction Measures (UCRMs)
- Dollars saved from UCRMs pay for the loan
- First-come, first-served
- Most common borrowers:
    - Local and County Governments
    - Public K-12 Schools
    - Public Universities
    - State Agencies

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Summary Statistics

- As of September, 2025…

355+ loans

$640M+ financed

$880M+ saved

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Loan Details

Interest Rate	Usually between 1.5% - 3% • Dependent on fiscal year of program • Based on 15-year school bond rating
Simple Payback	15 years or less
Repayment Period	Following the completion of construction activities

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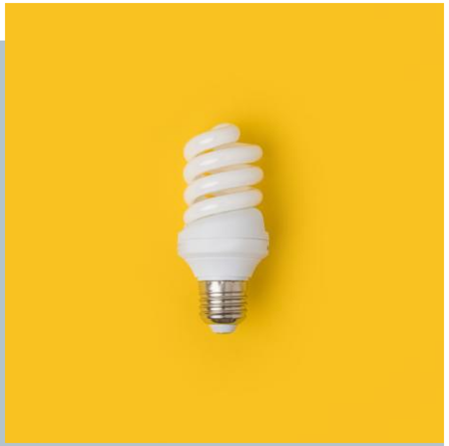
Qualifications

- LoanSTAR Technical Guidelines
- Public entity must own and occupy the property
- Permanently affixed energy efficiency measures
- Measured payback must be less than or equal to the Expected Useful Life for all UCRMs
- Implemented using Design-Build, Design-Bid-Build, Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs), or Commissioning approaches

Example Projects



- Building and mechanical system commissioning and optimization
- Energy management systems
- High-efficiency HVAC systems, boilers, heat pumps, etc.
- High-efficiency lighting fixtures and lamps
- Load management projects
- Retro- and re-commissioning
- and more!

How to Apply

- All funding opportunities are posted on the SECO website as they become available
- Sign up for alerts to be notified when new opportunities are posted!

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Thank you!

Adam Mueller, Program Lead

- Adam.Mueller@cpa.Texas.gov

Sign up for alerts!

Energy Codes

July 2026

Jonathan Sanchez, Program Specialist

Commercial and Residential Energy Codes

The State Energy Conservation Office, SECO, is considering the adoption of the 2024 International Residential Code (IRC) and the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

As part of the process, a request for comments, RFC, was issued on 10/24/25 with a 30-day comment period.

Comments are then forwarded to Energy Systems Lab, ESL, which are considered in developing their recommendation.

Commercial and Residential Energy Codes Timeline

1. SECO is considering the adoption of the 2024 IRC and 2024 IECC
2. Request for comments, RFC, has been issued on 10/24 with a 30-day comment period
3. **Comments are forwarded to Energy Systems Lab, ESL, which are considered in developing their recommendation**
4. SECO will then consider ESL's recommendations and analysis and will determine to file the proposed rules in the Texas Register
5. An additional RFC with a 30-day comment period will be issued
6. SECO will respond to these comments
7. The adopted rule is filed in the Texas Register

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State-Funded High-Performance Buildings

- SECO is considering a new high-performance building evaluation system and energy efficiency performance standard for state agencies and higher education facilities design and renovation projects.
- SECO has issued an RFI, request for information.
  - The RFI will give SECO a general understanding of the IgCC-2024 and ASHRAE 90.1-2022 and the impact they have on state agencies and higher education facilities design and renovation projects and how they complement each other.
- SECO is currently having Advisory Committee meetings to develop their recommendations on the new standards.

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State-Funded High-Performance Buildings Timeline

1. SECO has issued an RFI (ASHRAE 90.1-2022, and 2024 IgCC)
2. An advisory committee will be assembled and develop a recommendation.
3. SECO will consider the Advisory committee's recommendations and RFI comments.
4. SECO will determine to file the proposed rule in the Texas Register and it will take effect 9 months after adoption.

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Utility Management Report

State agencies and public institutions of higher education must submit

1) A comprehensive energy and water management plan (EWMP) based on the SECO online report, including percentage goals for reducing the agency's or institution's use of water, electricity, transportation fuel, and natural gas;

2) Traditional and alternative fuel consumption data by type of fuel via the Texas Fleet System; and

3) Water, electricity, and natural gas consumption data via the ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager®.

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Utility Management Report

- The deadline to submit is October 31st for the previous fiscal year (September 1st ,2025 - August 31st, 2026)
- Tenant and providing state agencies must submit their EWMP portion of the report via the online portal https://seco.comptroller.texas.gov/login
- State agencies and higher institutions of education are required to report.
- Higher institutions of education include but not limited to public junior colleges (community colleges), public universities, and public technical institutes.

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Thank you!

Jonathan Sanchez, Program Specialist
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Sign up for SECO updates!

www.seco.cpa.texas.gov

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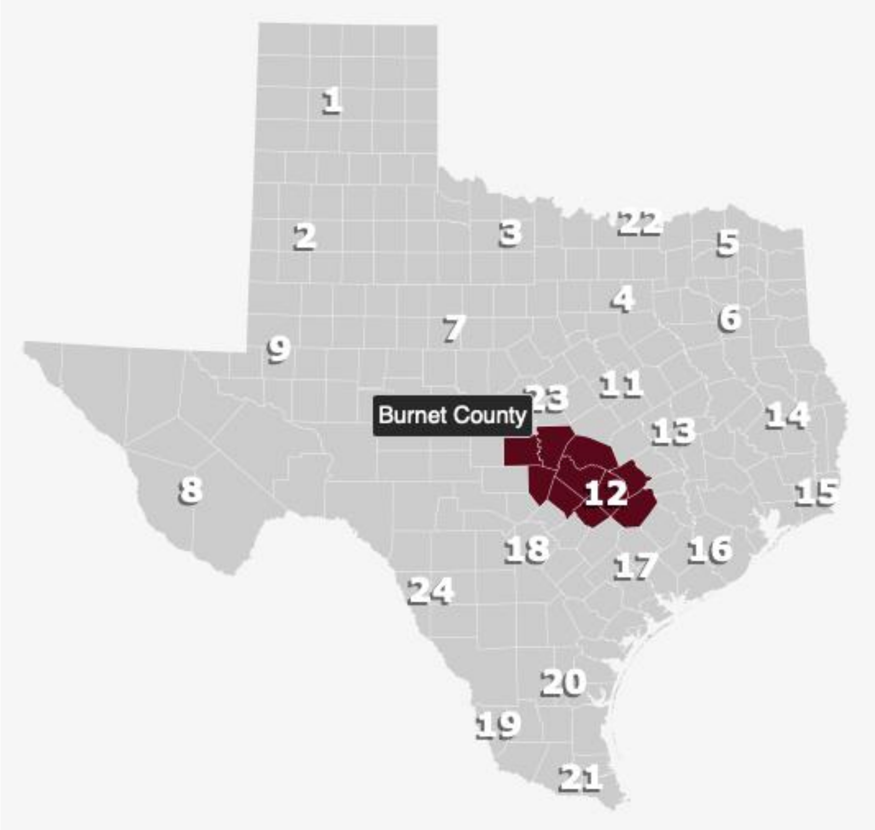
Questions?

Located in the CAPCOG region?

Let's hear your voice: **(Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties)**



Take this SURVEY!

Public Agencies, Non-profits, Energy/Water Utilities, and organizations associated can respond:

Feedback on this Event

Capital Area Council of Governments

www.capcog.org

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South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource

www.eepartnership.org

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