

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**



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



KELLY HANCOCK, ACTING TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

SECO

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

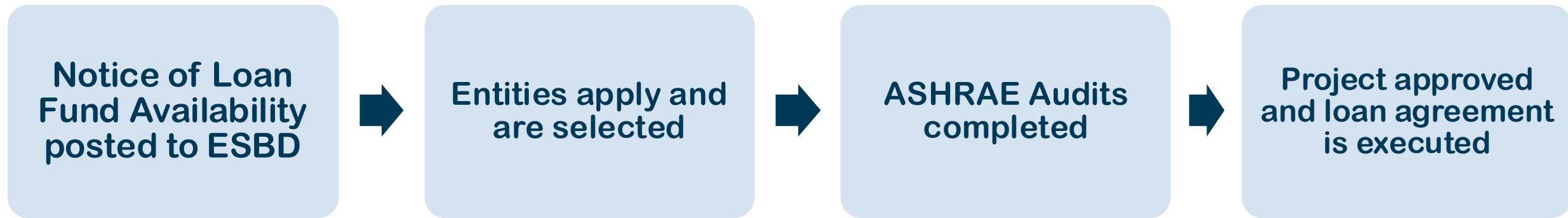
Training for Residential Energy Contractors

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



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

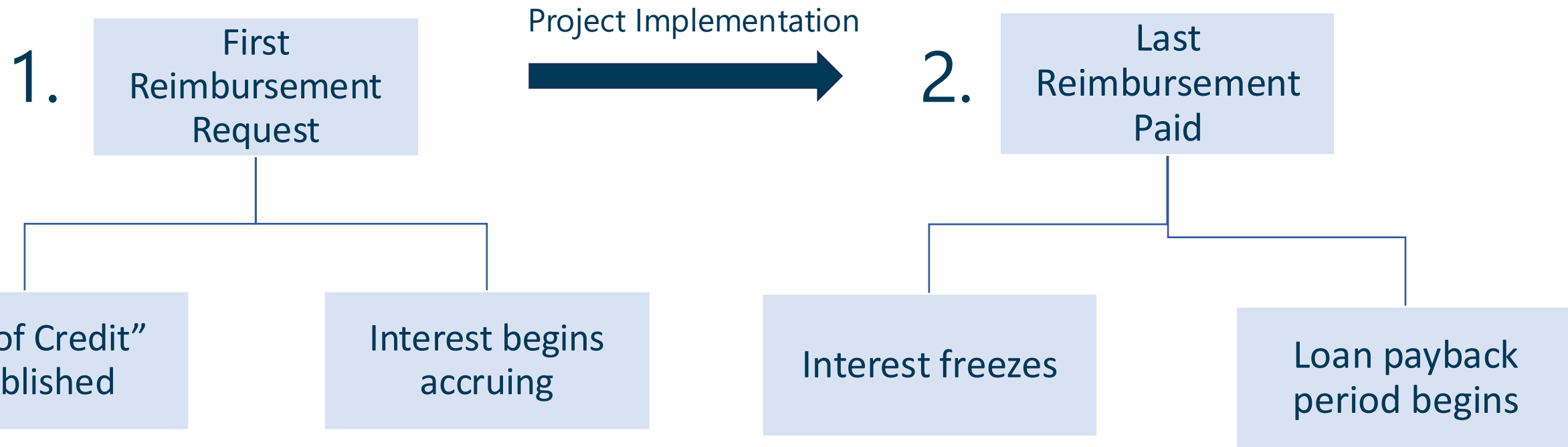


Retrofit Project Requirements

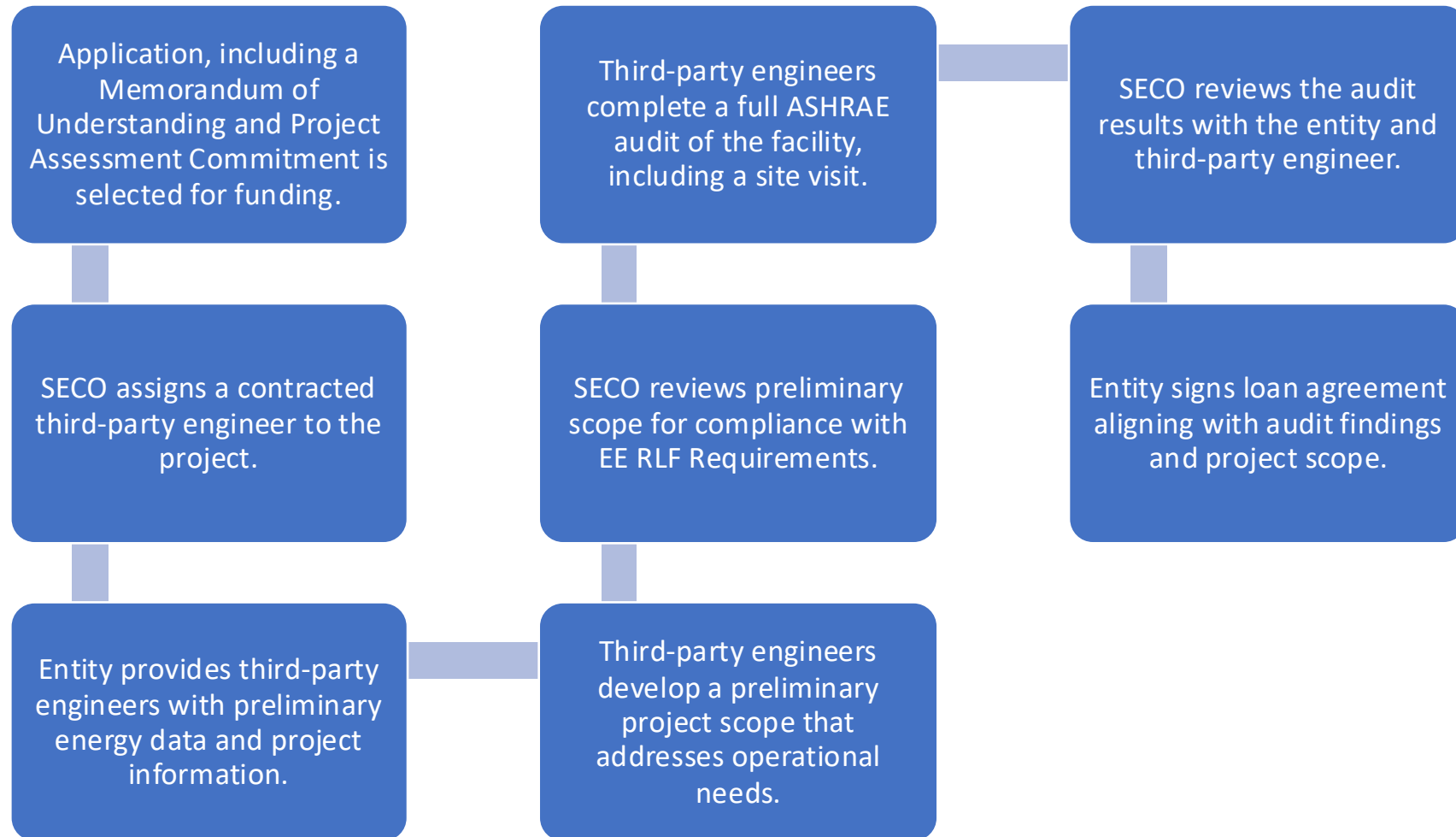
- All upgrades and retrofit projects must be recommended in the ASHRAE Energy Audit.
- Retrofits must improve energy efficiency of the building or facility.
- All projects must comply with **Build America, Buy America** and **Davis-Bacon Act** provisions.
- Retrofits must reduce the energy intensity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



Loan Process



Audit Process



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



KELLY HANCOCK, ACTING TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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

Preliminary Energy Assessment Service Request Form Form# 50-852



<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<small>Public Entity Name</small>		<small>Telephone</small>	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<small>Contact Person</small>		<small>Title</small>	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<small>Email Address</small>		<small>County</small>	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<small>Street Address</small>	<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>ZIP Code</small>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<small>Mailing Address</small>	<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>ZIP Code</small>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<small>Signature</small>	<small>Date</small>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<small>Print Name</small>	<small>Title</small>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



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!

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

Technical Assistance Service Request Form

Form# 50-855

[PRINT FORM](#)[RESET FORM](#)

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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Signature

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

Signature

Date

Print Name

Title

TA for Local Governments Application



TA Information Website

LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program

Adam Mueller, Program Lead



KELLY HANCOCK, ACTING TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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



Summary Statistics

- As of September, 2025...

355+
loans

\$640M+
financed

\$880M+
saved

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

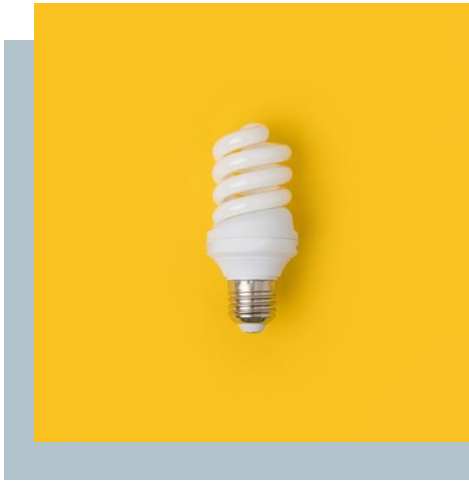
Repayment Period

Following the completion of construction activities

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

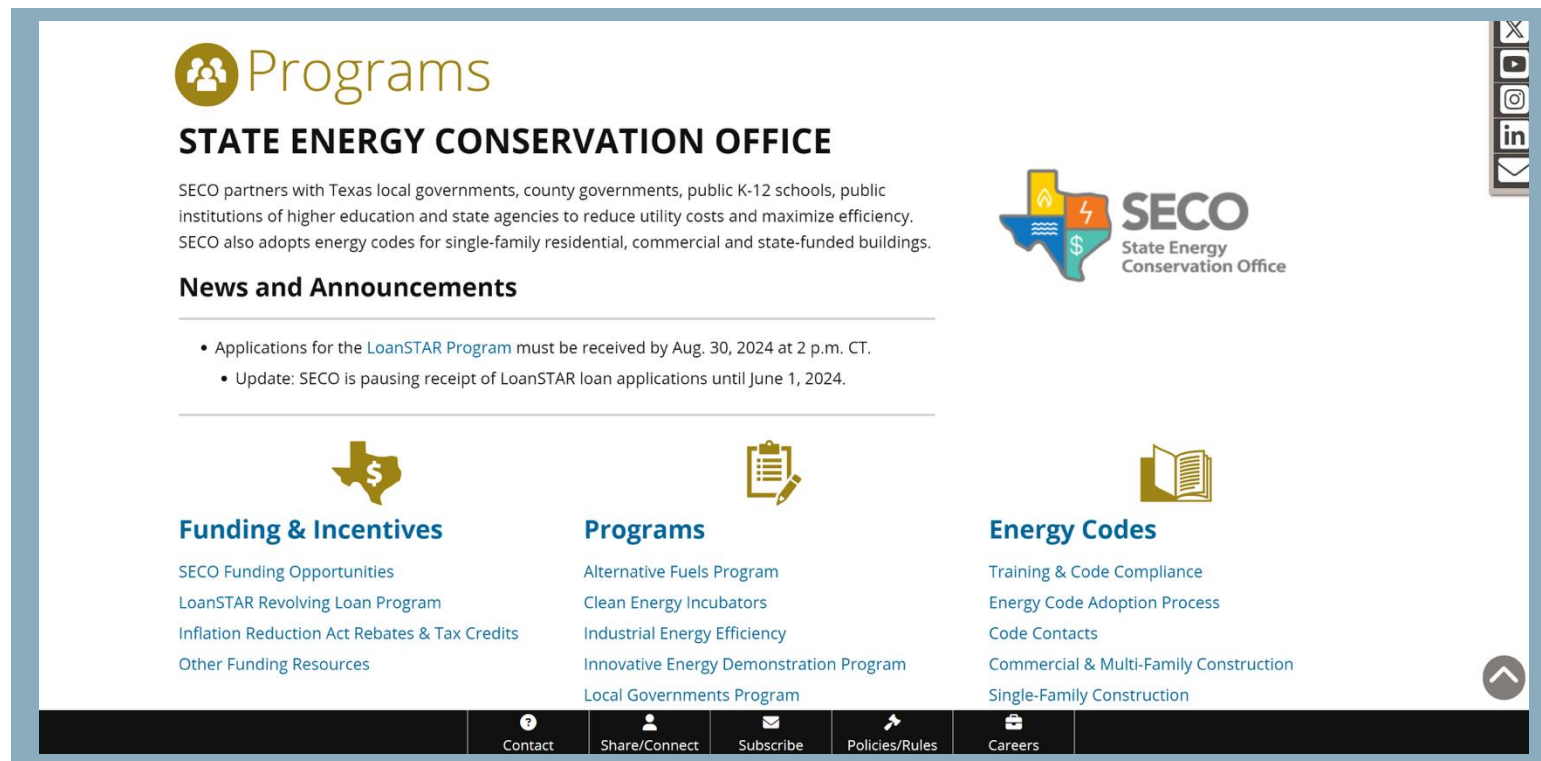
Example Projects



- 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!



Thank you!

Adam Mueller, Program Lead

- Adam.Mueller@cpa.Texas.gov



Sign up for alerts!

Energy Codes

July 2026

Jonathan Sanchez, Program Specialist



KELLY HANCOCK, ACTING TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS



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

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.

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.

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®.

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.

Thank you!

Jonathan Sanchez, Program
Specialist
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Sign up for SECO updates!

www.seco.cpa.texas.gov

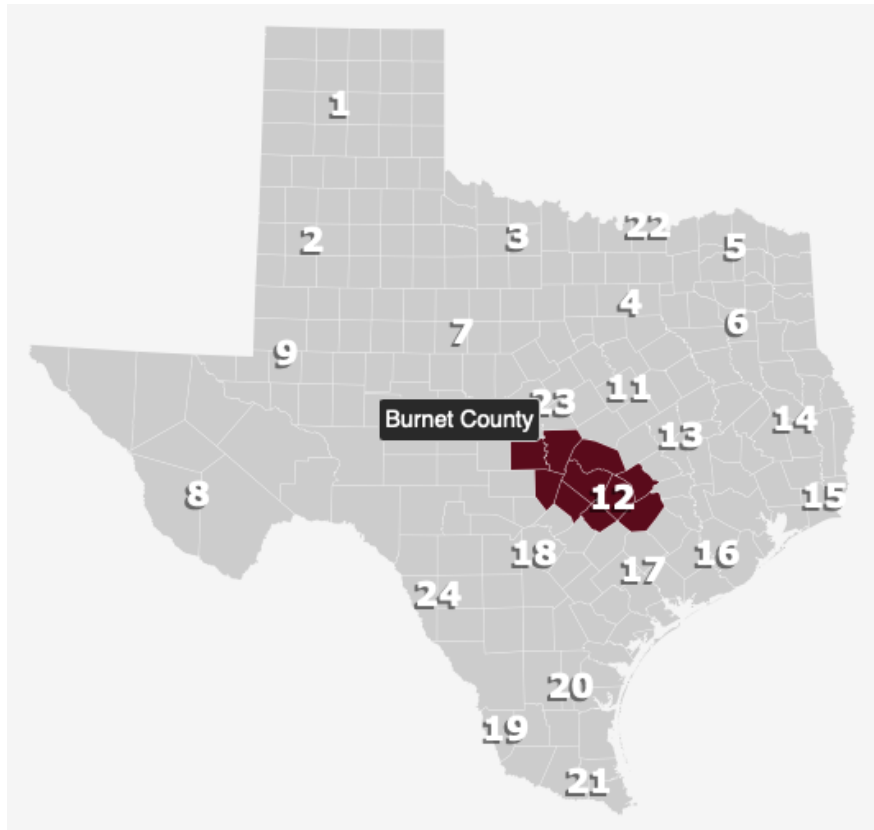
Questions?



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

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