

City of Ames Climate Action Grant Program



Residential Owner-Occupied Sustainability Grant



Program Guide

Purpose

The purpose of the Residential Sustainability Grant is to support low-to-moderate income homeowners with home energy upgrades, reducing their carbon footprint.

Program Overview

- For eligible households:
 - The grant will cover 30% of total project costs up to \$4,000.
 - Solar installation and/or whole-home heat pump systems are eligible.
- Eligibility is determined as:
 - Owner-occupied household.
 - Household income must not exceed 200% of the area median income (AMI):

Persons in Family	1	2	3	4	5	6
200% AMI	\$171,400	\$196,000	\$220,400	\$244,800	\$264,400	\$284,000

Documentation is required to verify income requirements. Documents must be the most recent available. Acceptable documents include tax documents such as W-2 or tax return; verification of SNAP, LIHEAP, or other federally income-qualified program. AMI as determined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- Equipment is installed, properly permitted, and operating before submission of the post-application.
- Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Funding is only guaranteed with an approved pre-application.

Process

1. Understand the requirements and confirm eligibility by reviewing the above section.
2. Submit an online pre-application.
 - a. Pre-application: [Residential Sustainability Grant Pre-Application](#)
 - b. It is preferred to submit your application and all supporting documents online. Documents and/or a printed application form may also be dropped off or mailed to the City Manager's Office at City Hall:
Attn: Sustainability Coordinator
City Manager's Office
515 Clark Ave, Ames, IA 50010
3. Once your pre-application is approved, you have 6 months to complete your project.
 - a. Resources:
 - i. [Installing Solar Panels](#)
 - ii. [Heat Pump Information](#)
4. After installation, submit a post-application: [Residential Sustainability Grant Post-Application](#)
 - a. Gather documentation:
 - i. An itemized, dated, and paid receipt or invoice.
 - ii. Heat Pumps - AHRI number and EnergyStar rating. Must be EnergyStar certified.
 - iii. Solar - Rated capacity in kW DC, proof of ownership.
 - iv. A completed W-9 (A blank form is available here: [Form W-9 | IRS](#)).
5. If your documentation is complete, your reimbursement will be issued in approximately 4 weeks. We will contact you if additional documentation is needed.
6. City of Ames Electric utility customers are also encouraged to apply for rebates: [Smart Energy Rebates | City of Ames, IA](#)

Additional Information

- Participants must reside in the City of Ames.
- Residence must be owner-occupied and the participant's primary residence.
- Equipment must be installed and operating prior to submission of the post-application.
- Grant will not exceed 30% of the total project cost or \$4,000.
- City staff reserves the right to determine what elements of the heat pump installation are eligible for grant funding. These may include haul-away/disposal of old unit costs, installation of a smart thermostat, but exclude extra warranty packages.

- Post-applications must be submitted within 60 days of equipment installation and no more than six months after purchase of the equipment, unless otherwise authorized.
- One grant per address or recipient, for the duration of the program.
- Grants may be subject to income tax. Consult your tax advisor for more information.
- Grant programs are subject to change or cancellation without notice, and are subject to the availability of funds.
- Applications must be completed in full, incomplete applications will delay processing and may be returned.
- City staff may need to enter the property to make inspections related to the program. Any inspections will be scheduled in advance.
- Heat pumps must be Energy Star certified: [Energy Efficient Products | ENERGY STAR](#)
- City Staff retains the right to reject applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements of the program.
- Contractors utilized to perform improvements must be licensed with the Iowa Division of Labor: [Contractor Registration | City of Ames, IA](#)
- All improvements must conform to the City of Ames municipal code and appropriate permits must be obtained: [Building Permit Application & Guidelines | City of Ames, IA](#)
- Applicants must be current on all property taxes and utility payments, and free of code violations.