

Energy Efficiency Programs for Small Businesses New York

The Systems Benefits Charge (SBC) was established in 1998 under Case 94-E-0952 – In the Matter of Competitive Opportunities Regarding Electric Service, Opinion No. 98-3. The goal was to create programs that provided energy efficiency, research and development, environmental protections, and low-income assistance. At the time, a very competitive market could no longer provide such programs to promote energy efficiency. The SBC and programs stemming from it have been extended multiple times (in 2001, 2006, and 2011) due to its success. Currently, the program has been extended through 2016. The program is overseen by the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) through the Technology and Market Development Program (T&MD).

The SBC appears on customers' utility bills, so whether you are an individual paying for your residential energy usage or small business usage, you are paying the SBC. The SBC pays for programs that help residents, commercial and industrial facilities, state and local governments, not-for-profits, private institutions, schools, small businesses, etc. become more energy efficient. There are several organizations and companies that assist in the implementation of the program, including NYSERDA, National Grid, and NYSEG.

Small businesses have the opportunity to take advantage of these great programs by contacting one of the below listed agencies/companies. The program offers business owners an opportunity to upgrade to new, energy efficient equipment at a very reasonable cost. All you have to do is get an energy assessment, and the participating agency/company will pay up to 70% of the cost of the upgrades. The benefits of participating, include lower energy bills, enhanced lighting to showcase your products, improved lighting longevity, and overall improvements to the appearance of your business.

Details on each of the programs are listed below, along with website information.

NYSERDA's Small Commercial Energy Efficiency Program

NYSERDA's small business and not-for-profit programs are designed to:

- Help small business and not-for-profits identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency
 - Recommend improvements to reduce energy costs
 - Provide financial incentives to reduce the cost of energy efficient technologies and systems
 - Offer low-interest energy efficiency project financing
1. Step one is to have a qualified energy assessment. The energy assessment is free if the electric demand is less than 100kW.
www.nyserda.ny.gov/small-commercial-energy-assessment

2. Once you have received the energy assessment, you can apply for a loan to help pay for the upgrades. NYSERDA also contributes to the cost of the upgrades. NYSERDA offers two loan options:
 - a. Participation Loan
 - i. Borrow up to \$100,000 or more at half the market interest rate
 - ii. NYSERDA provides half of the loan amount at 0% interest
 - iii. The second half of the loan is provided by your lender
 - iv. The loan is repayable to your lender
 - b. On-Bill Recovery Loan
 - i. Borrow up to \$50,000 at 2.5% interest rate
 - ii. Repay loan directly on energy bill
 - iii. The loan payment will be less than or equal to your energy savings
 - iv. Borrower must be named on utility account
3. For additional information you can call NYSERDA at 1-866-NYSERDA or visit www.nysERDA.ny.gov/small-commercial-financing
<http://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs/Commercial-and-Industrial/Sectors/Small-Businesses.aspx>

National Grid's Small Business Services Program

1. Get a free on-site energy audit. A proposal is developed based on the audit.
2. If you decide to move forward with installations and upgrades based on the proposal, National Grid will pay up to 70% of the installation and equipment costs.
3. You can finance the remaining (interest-free, up to 24 months) balance through National Grid, and you can pay it through your monthly utility bill. You can also pay one lump sum, and National Grid will discount your amount due by an additional 15%.
4. For additional information, call 1-800-332-3333 or visit www.nationalgridus.com/smallbusiness

NYSEG's Small Business Energy Efficiency Program

1. Get a free energy assessment through EnerPath, their program administrator. EnerPath will provide an energy report for your business.
2. The EnerPath representative will also provide a brief program overview and the benefits.
3. NYSEG will pay up to 70% of the cost of the upgrades, and will help schedule a time for the upgrade to take place.
4. For additional information call NYSEG at 1-877-359-9814 or visit www.nyseg.com or www.rge.com