



## GREEN UP GRANT FAQ

### What are the Green Up Grants?

There are two types of Green Up Grants, one for renewable energy installation projects and one for renewable energy education projects.

#### *Tier I Education Grants*

- The Green Up Education Grants are intended to support renewable energy education projects with a teaching component, administered by non-profit or public institutions and conducted within Seattle City Light's service territory.
- Education grants are funded up to \$5,000 and the application is open continuously.

#### *Tier II Solar and Innovation Grants*

- The Solar and Innovation Grants are intended to support electricity-generating solar or other renewable energy installations up to 100 kW, and hosted by non-profit or public institutions within Seattle City Light's service territory. Installations must be grid-tied and monitored.
- Most Solar and Innovation Grant awards are expected to be between \$25,000 and \$50,000, with possible funding up to \$200,000. The application is open twice per year, in the Spring and Fall.

### Is my organization eligible?

*Eligible organizations include:*

- Tax exempt organizations under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code
- Public entities, including public schools and City or County departments, like parks or libraries
- Tribal governments
- Academic institutions on the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's [list of Approved Private Schools](#)
- All grant-funded projects must be implemented within [Seattle City Light's service territory](#).

### Is my project eligible?

#### *Tier I Education Grants*

Green Up Education Grants provide awards up to \$5,000 to support teachers, educators, and/or faculty and staff in institutions of higher education or non-profit institutions whose mission includes (but is not necessarily limited to) education, particularly with emphasis on STEM, sustainability or environmental issues. Examples of educational projects include:

- Grants to individuals to fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences specifically including teaching about renewable energy, such as workshops, summer institutes or action research
- Grants to groups to fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, or lesson study/planning specifically related to teaching about renewable energy

- Grants for toolkits or other teaching materials specific to teaching about renewable energy
- Grants to add or enhance renewable energy educational offerings, such as extracurricular programs for children or public workshops or lecture series

All requests must demonstrate educational and/or community benefit and support from the requesting institution's leadership. Education programs must directly benefit students, residents, or professionals within the Seattle Light Service territory.

#### *Tier II Solar and Innovation Grants*

Solar and Innovation Grants in amounts up to \$200,000 per project (most awards expected between \$25,000 and \$50,000) to support electricity-generating solar or other renewable energy projects up to 100 kW, initiated, planned and implemented by non-profit or public entities within [Seattle City Light's service territory](#).

*Projects must meet the following criteria to be considered:*

- Projects must be new or a new addition to an existing project.
- Projects must produce electricity that is directly connected to Seattle City Light's grid and the awardee must submit a City Light Interconnection and Application Agreement.
- Projects may not be installed on a residential property except for multi-family buildings (5 or more units) managed by non-profit housing providers or other non-single-family residential uses incident to the services provided by a non-profit, such as shelter housing.
- Projects must be completed (interconnected) within 18 months of receiving notification of the award. Extensions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if a project is associated with a new building or structure.
- Projects must be equipped with monitoring equipment to collect and report electricity production, including a dedicated wireless internet connection. Applicants must provide production data to both Seattle City Light and the public for at least five years following construction. The monitoring equipment and software may be included as part of the funding requested in the grant application.

*Besides solar, the following renewable energy projects may be considered:*

- Wind
- Low-impact hydro certified by the Low Impact Hydro Institute
- Pipeline or irrigation canal hydropower
- Wave energy
- Tidal energy
- Low emission biogas based on digester methane gas from waste products, such as food or beverage production waste

*The following types of projects will not be considered:*

- Projects that do not produce electricity, such as passive solar or thermal solar.
- Off-grid projects.
- Energy storage only projects. Renewable energy projects with an energy storage component must use other funding for the energy storage component.

## How does the funding work?

All awards will be disbursed upon completion of the project, based on submission of a **Final Report**. The Final Report shall include:

### *Tier I Education*

- Copy of curriculum or education plan
- Copies of invoice or other payments
- Data on impacted customers or students
- Ongoing education plan (if applicable)
- Any supporting documents

### *Tier II Solar and Innovation*

- Final report showing allocation of Green Up Grant funds with backup documentation including percent of total project cost covered by Green Up funds (e.g. invoices for total project costs with itemized material and labor costs)
- Final inspection results from electrical permitting authority
- Executed [Seattle City Light Interconnection Agreement](#)
- Photos of construction, completed installation, project kiosk/dashboard, project area, and installed net meter
- Web link to system production monitoring for renewable energy installation (may be used by Seattle City Light for promotional purposes)
- Details of ongoing education plan

## When can I apply?

The Tier I Education Grant application is now open, and will be open continuously. The Tier II Solar and Innovation Grant is open twice yearly, in April and September, for an 8-week application period.

## How can I apply?

Green Up Grants is accepting electronic applications through our [online application portal](#).

## Who can I contact if I'm having trouble with the application?

If you're having problems with the application, please contact us at [greenupgrants@seattle.gov](mailto:greenupgrants@seattle.gov)

## If my project is awarded, what are my obligations to Seattle City Light?

Awarded projects must execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Seattle City Light, provide quarterly reports on project status, and a Final Report upon project completion. Once the Final Report is submitted and verified, award funds will be disbursed. In the case of the Tier II Solar and Innovation Grants, the awardee must hire a qualified solar or renewable energy development contractor that is licensed, bonded and insured. The Awardee also agrees to operate, maintain, and monitor the installation for at least ten years after the award.

## I'm planning a community solar project, can I apply for the Grant?

Currently, we are not including community solar as eligible projects. The intent of the Green Up Grant is to allow the site host to directly benefit from the renewable energy generation.

## What are the goals of the Grant?

The Grant is intended to put Green Up dollars to work here in our community, by engaging organizations in an open, accessible application process. Local grants will support vital community organizations, renewable energy businesses and jobs.

## What else is the Grant looking for?

All applications will be scored based on eligibility, project feasibility and readiness, community impact, organizational stability, and a Green Up recognition plan. Additional points are available for projects with an energy efficiency plan, strong education plans, reaching underserved communities, and leveraging other funding sources.

## What can't the Grant pay for?

*Tier I Education Grant funding is not available for:*

- Projects outside Seattle City Light's service territory
- Expenses related to individual graduate or post-graduate study, including tuition, room and board, books or other materials
- Projects without a teaching or training component
- Projects not related to renewable energy

*Tier II Solar and Innovation Grant funding is not available for:*

- Heat generation projects or projects that do not produce electricity, such as geothermal, passive solar, solar thermal, or biomass
- Off-grid projects
- Energy storage or batteries. The Grant may only fund renewable energy generating equipment. Projects with an energy storage component can be considered but must use other funding for the energy storage component.
- Projects installed on a residential property except for multi-family buildings (5 or more units) managed by non-profit housing providers or other non-single-family residential uses incident to the services provided by a non-profit, such as shelter housing.
- Community Solar projects
- Activities not directly related to the capital costs of new renewable energy systems, such as:
  - Structural improvements or other site preparation that would be considered general facilities maintenance (e.g. re-roofing, upgrading an overloaded electrical panel, tree removal or trimming, construction of a carport or other facility that will host the renewable energy equipment). Site preparation activities that are only required for the renewable energy project and are otherwise not required for general facility maintenance (e.g. ballast rock removal, roof reinforcement, trenching a new wire run exclusively for the solar array) may be considered an eligible expense on an individual basis.
  - Engineering/design costs incurred to date (e.g. site evaluations, estimates/bids)

- Administrative or project management cost
- Construction bond costs, interest or warranty charges
- Landscaping costs
- Ongoing system or facility maintenance or repair costs
- Donated, in-kind, or volunteer labor or materials
- Interconnection studies, environmental review, and permitting costs
- Interest or warranty charges

## If I'm installing solar as part of my grant application, can I also apply for the WA state solar incentive?

The Grant does not exclude the solar incentive. Applicants may apply for a production incentive based on their awarded solar installation if they choose to do so.

## Can I apply for both grants?

Sure! While Tier II Solar and Innovation Grants require an education and Green Up recognition plan as part of the application package, an applicant may wish to develop an ongoing education plan connected to their renewable energy installation. For example, a school may wish to develop a student curriculum based on their solar installation.

## I have another question.

Please contact [GreenUpGrants@seattle.gov](mailto:GreenUpGrants@seattle.gov) with any other questions.

