

SUSTAINABILITY CONSTRUCTION FEE CREDITS

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

I. WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

The Village of Oak Park's Sustainability Construction Fee Credits ("Credits") is established to promote and track electrification efforts in the Village. Building and Construction permits issued for specific electrification and energy efficiency work in the Village on both residential and commercial properties may be eligible for the Credits.

Providing Credits will provide both an incentive to choose an electric or highly efficient option as well as help alleviate the cost burden of such upgrades. In addition, under the Village's current permit system, it is difficult to track specific improvements. Providing these credits will give the Village the opportunity and method by which to track specific sustainability improvements implemented in the Village.

II. HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

When applying for building and construction permits in the Village of Oak Park, applicants will indicate if their project includes one of the allowable improvements. If included in the project, the credit will automatically be applied to the fees.

Each different energy efficiency installation and approach has different costs, degrees of disruption, and levels of efficiency. The provisions of the most recently adopted International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) by the Village of Oak Park shall be applicable to all projects submitted under this program.

III. WHAT WORK IS COVERED UNDER THIS CREDIT PROGRAM?

This Program covers installed energy efficiency measures. The following are *Eligible Projects* that may be covered as part of this program.

Credit Category	Description	Credit Value
Electric Heat Pump	Installation of all-electric air or ground source heat pump systems.	\$150
Hybrid Heat Pump	Hybrid gas/electric heat pump heating and cooling systems (97% efficiency)	\$75
Insulation	Added insulation in attics and walls	\$150
Renewable Energy – Generation	Installation of solar panel systems (must be owned by the property owner)	\$150

Electric Energy - Storage	Installation of battery backup systems for renewable energy systems.	\$150
Electric Panel	Upgrade of the electric panel and associated electrical work to support conversion from gas to electric appliances.	\$150
Electric Water Heater	Replacement of a gas water heater with an electric.	\$150

Any measure completed in a manner or using materials which do not meet the requirements of the Village's Specifications or Codes will be considered non-eligible for credits from this program

IV. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A. Eligibility of Owners

The Program is intended to benefit residential and commercial properties within the Village of Oak Park. Registered contractors may apply for the credit on behalf of the owner.

An Owner(s) will be considered ineligible for the Program if:

1. An Owner(s) owes any unpaid taxes or water bills or other debt to the Village;
2. The Owner(s) has any unpaid final judgments of liability from the office of Adjudication which are due and owing;
3. There are any unpaid Village liens on any property owned by the Owner(s);
4. The Owner(s) is not current on any other Village obligations, or otherwise is not in compliance with requirements of the Village Code, including but not limited to multi-family licensing, benchmarking requirements, alarm permit, or vacant building registration requirements; or
5. The applicable property for which an Owner(s) seeks a credit is over 10,000 square feet and is not in compliance with the Building Benchmarking ordinance.

B. Eligibility of Village Employees

Eligible Owner(s) who are also Village Employees are eligible for the Program in accordance with the Village's Conflict of Interest and Ethics Ordinance.

C. Eligibility for Other Energy Efficiency Programs

Participants may be eligible for other energy efficiency assistance programs, including the Village's Energy Navigator and Climate Ready Energy Grants. Staff will connect applicants with these programs if needed.

V. WHAT PROPERTY TYPES ARE ELIGIBLE?

A. All properties in the Village

Any property in the Village which is required to pay for building permits is eligible for the permit credits.

B. Clear Title

The Owner(s) must have clear title, without any cloud on the title, not including any prior recorded consensual liens such as a mortgage or deed of trust.

VI. HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

A. Steps

The following are the steps to take to participate in the Credits.

1. Owner(s) or Contractor(s) must apply to permits for the eligible improvements.
2. Upon inspection, it must be verified that the improvements were constructed or installed.

B. Priority

Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. The Program will expire when all funds are expended.

VII. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

A. Application and Eligibility Review

The Village will review a completed permit application for an initial determination of eligibility.

B. Ineligibility

If the Owner(s) is ineligible, the Village will notify the Owner(s) of the reason for ineligibility. For purposes of determining priority, the Owner(s)'s place in line will be based upon the date of reapplication if initially determined to be ineligible

C. Limitations of Funding

Credits will be applied to all eligible permits without limitation to the number per property or per year. The application of the permits is subject to the availability of funds. Once the funds for any given year are exhausted, the credits will no longer be applied.

D. Building Permits

The Owner(s) must obtain permits from the Village before a contractor may begin any work. All work must be properly permitted and inspected by the Village.