*"Incentives, Rebates and Financing Updates for Built Environment Sustainability"*

2-10-2025

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The IFMA Denver Sustainability Committee's purpose is "To serve the IFMA Denver chapter as a resource for sustainability through Education, Advocacy and Community Action." Accordingly, we are presenting updated research on the relevant and applicable financing measures for facility owners and operators. In many cases, it is possible to combine, or "stack" measures for various projects, to create a larger pool of financing. Understanding the options available requires firsthand research. The information contained herein is not financial advice, as the reader must determine the options for their organization's building(s). This can be viewed as a go-to guide to the programs that are available to finance your building's sustainable business solutions, but is by no-means the definitive compilation of financial measures available.

The information below is current as of the date of this writing. In addition to the energy and efficiency-related incentives, rebates and funding sources below, there are also programs available related to improving air quality, waste reduction, workforce development and small business sustainability in the built environment. Furthermore, the City of Denver is considering future rebates based on public feedback, however, these programs have not yet been finalized.

## ***The latest from Washington, D.C.: Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)***

The Day 1 Executive Order immediately stopped disbursing grants and loans appropriated by Congress under the IRA. As of the date of this writing, a federal judge had extended a temporary ban against the broader pause of trillions of dollars in grants. However, EPA and Department of Energy can still implement the Executive Order, which remains in effect. Prior to the inauguration, agencies rushed to allocate funds, as more than 99% of the payments that have been made cannot be reversed and were finalized in December 2024, according to USA Spending.gov

In the current form, there are relevant sources of funding for IFMA Denver member constituents, including Section 179D and 45L. These come as tax deductions for energy efficient upgrades for commercial buildings meeting certain thresholds for improved efficiency, as well as escalated funding for meeting certain criteria, and are applicable for Non-Profits in certain cases. In addition, funds from the IRA which have already been allocated and appropriated in Colorado may be available and worth pursuing for certain projects. The situation remains dynamic, and the White House and Department of Treasury websites for the IRA have been removed.

## ***Start with the Source: Xcel Rebates***

Closer to home, Xcel Energy has over 14 rebate programs for Businesses, covering the following initiatives:

- Business Lighting
- HVAC
- Foodservice
- Clean Water Pumps
- Commercial Refrigeration
- Compressed Air
- Computer Equipment

- Cooling & Heating
- Energy Management Systems
- Fan Energy Index
- Motor, Drive & Pumps
- Strategic Energy Management
- Heat Pumps

These programs are available to utility subscribers within the Xcel service area. Business customers should reach out to their dedicated Account Manager and access the Business Solutions Center, Click Here.

## ***City of Denver & State of Colorado Incentives & Rebates for Buildings***

C-PACE – A great place to start if you haven't explored it already, the C-PACE program provides financing for Clean Energy or Energy Efficiency Improvements. Since 2023, C-PACE has facilitated over $250 Million in private sector investment over 120 projects in 39 counties. Contact eric.cowan@state.co.us for details.
HEEHA - High Efficiency Heating and Appliance Grant – This program provides funding to reduce emissions by switching to high efficiency electric heat and appliances – buildings must serve at least five homes or housing units, or at least 3 businesses or building units. Contact Brittney.vancuran@state.co.us for more information.

Heat Pump Tax Credits – For non-residential and multifamily buildings, this program provides at least a 33% tax credit as a discount at time of installation, by using a registered contractor. Contractors are required to claim the tax credit and provide minimum discounts on the cost to install the following equipment:

- Air Source Heat Pump ($1,500 credit/$499.95 Discount)
- Ground Source/Water Source/Combined Source ($3,000 credit/$999.90 Discount)
- HWH (Hot Water Heater Heat Pump, $500 credit/$166.65 Discount)
- Thermal Energy, Variable Refrigerant Flow Heat Pumps.

  Click Here for more details

City of Denver Heat Pump Tax Credits & Rebates – the City of Denver provides funding for contractor-installed equipment between 5/1/2024 and 2/28/2025. The budget for rebates is still being finalized on the following equipment types:

- Ducted split air-source heat pumps (ASHPs)
- Non-ducted mini-split air-source heat pumps (mini-splits)
- Heat pump hot water heaters
- Heat pump rooftop units (HP RTUs)
- Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) systems
- Packaged terminal heat pumps (PTHPs)
- Single packaged vertical heat pumps (SVPHPs)
- Water source heat pumps (WSHPs)
- Ground source heat pumps (GSHPs)

To learn more about Tax Credits: Click Here. For more details on Rebates: Click Here.

Steam Price Increases - according to the City's Website, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission approved rate changes that increase the price of steam in Denver by almost 40%, prompting building owners to explore disconnecting from the steam loop, and to choose from either adding natural gas or electrification. The City of Denver aims to encourage electrification through incentives. Information is available Here.

The City of Denver is providing funding in the form of rebates for "All Electric New Construction" for contractors of commercial and multifamily buildings to fund all electric space and water heating equipment. Click Here.

Geothermal - While the Colorado Energy Office (CEO)'s Geothermal Energy Grant's current round closed at the beginning of January 2025, the Geothermal Energy Tax Credit (GETCO) provides up to 30% of investment cost, or up to 50% for select projects, not to exceed $5 Million. There is a total of $35 Million in state investment tax credits, with a production tax credit also available for electricity production of .02/kW, which may be modified by the CEO. The program will run until funding will be expended, or until December 31, 2032.
Contact ceo_geothermal@state.co.us for details.

## ***Non-Profits***

The IFMA Denver Chapter is pleased to include many Non-Profits amongst its membership. Many of the programs above also apply for Non-Profits, with certain Equity-Priority programs available for certain use-types. The City of Denver has funding available, up to 100% of the costs for installing solar panels, battery storage and Vehicle to Building EV charging for Non-Profits. Background and eligibility information is available by clicking Here.

## ***State of Colorado Grants for Industry & Utilities***

The Clean Air Program Grant has $25 Million in funding for Business, Industry and Government, scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2028. The intent of this program is to reduce air pollution emissions where they are generated. Contact Libby Lee at elizabeth.r.lee@state.co.us.
Geothermal Energy Grant, & Tax Credits, see above information under "Buildings".

Microgrids for Community Resilience – Grants are available for utilities, local governments and public/non-profit community anchor institutions serving Colorado communities, for projects centered strengthening essentials infrastructure, including schools, libraries, hospitals, law enforcement and public safety, government offices and other community organizations and facilities. Click Here for more details.

Colorado Industrial Tax Credit Offering (CITCO) - $168 Million, up to $8 Million per project for industrial facilities to explore and implement eligible industrial greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance projects in Colorado, as a refundable tax credit, until all credits are reserved, or until 2032. For more details, reach out to: ceo_citco@state.co.us.

Advanced Grid Monitoring Grant & Grid Hardening for Small and Rural Communities – while these funding sources are currently closed, IFMA Denver members should know that that grid resiliency and hardening projects (think advancements and modernization of our grid, helping prevent failures and wildfires) were funded via Colorado's appropriation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation. If these issues are important to you, reach out to gridresiliency@state.co.us to encourage their reinstatement.

## ***City of Denver, State of Colorado & Xcel Rebates & Incentives for Transportation***

While not specifically accounted for as "Facility" energy consumption, there are many beneficial programs available for organizational transportation, especially in the areas of electric vehicles and fleet electrification, currently being undertaken by many global organizations.

- The Fleet Zero Emission Resource Grants
- Charge Ahead Colorado Grant
- Fast Charging Plaza Grant
- EV Tax Credits
- Aviation Emission Reduction Offering (may be of interest to IFMA Denver Chapter member organizations using corporate jets, or which provide services to the Oil & Gas and Aviation Industry)
- For more information about the CEO's programs: Click Here
- Xcel EV Rebates are available for infrastructure and chargers, to learn more, Click Here.
- Drive Clean Colorado – supports Clean Transportation and Fleet Electrification funding through various programs. Click Here to learn more.

## ***Multifamily***

Of interest to some IFMA Denver Chapter Members, there are several opportunities for funding provided by the CEO, City of Denver, and Xcel that some members may find beneficial:

a. Weatherization Assistance Program- for Renters/Landlords, income based funding to improve weatherization of buildings and homes, improves energy efficiency. Access the State's application by clicking Here.
b. EV Charging, & Home Charge, Rebates to upgrade electrical panels for homes and townhomes. To Learn more, contact - Mika.burdette@state.co.us, or learn more by clicking here.
c. HEEHA and Heat Pump Tax Credits – see above.
d. Colorado Solar for All (COS4A)– Colorado was awarded $156 Million though the Inflation Reduction Act to expand rooftop and community solar energy for income qualified housing, reach out to: idamae.isaac@state.co.us
e. The City of Denver through the CASR Office, Energy Outreach Colorado, and others are available for Multifamily, under the same initiatives and headings above.

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