

Title: Home Energy Audits

Description: This CIP request is for funding to cover the cost of home energy audits for residences in La Crosse. This request comes directly from top climate actions from the La Crosse Climate Action Plan and the year 1 implementation plan for the La Crosse Climate Action Plan. This request will provide 100% of the cost for a home energy audit for those making under 100% of the County Median Income, and progressively less as the income rises. At 150% of the County Median Income the rebate will be \$100. Everyone above 150% of the County Median Income will be able to claim the \$100 rebate.

Requesting Department(s): Planning and Community Development

Request Type: Program

Current Status: Not Started

Timeline: Funding requests for each year in the CIP.

Department Point of Contact: Lewis Kuhlman

Justification:

- **What is the request's desired outcome?**
 - Provide 100 home energy audits over the course of the first year of implementation.
- **How will this outcome be measured?**
 - By measuring the number of households impacted.
- **What is the methodology used to determine the budget for this project?**
 - The La Crosse Climate Plan indicates that the cost of an energy audit is between \$300-\$600, and local experts indicate that a quality energy audit will run closer to \$500. To accomplish the goal of 100 households in a year there will need to be funding to cover the cost of the energy audits and the administrative costs for running the program.
- **Explain why project will take more than one year to complete?**
 - This is supposed to be an ongoing program and to reach the broadest possible number of households this program will need to run for more than one year. There is also not enough supply of contractors who could provide energy audits to do every household in one year, nor the capacity at the city.

Approval & Oversight:

- **Has request been approved by an oversight board?**
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- **Is this request part of an approved master plan?**
 - Yes, this request is directly tied to the La Crosse Climate Action Plan.
- **Does this request require regulatory/other outside approval?**

Outside Funding:

- **Does this request require the city to contribute funds?**
 - Yes.

- **Does this request use donated funds?**
 - No.

Operating Costs Source FTEs Amount

Request Budget (\$75,000 per year) Past 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 Total (\$375,000)

FUNDING SOURCES:

SPENDING PLAN:

- The funding would be spent by paying for the contracted energy audits. Those receiving the 100% cost cover would be contracted directly from the city. Those receiving a reimbursed portion would receive a voucher for that funding after the fact.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES:

Other Notes:

- IRA does provide up to 30% credit on energy audits that cost up to \$500, with a maximum credit of \$150.
 - <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/home-energy-audits-may-qualify-for-an-energy-efficient-home-improvement-credit>.
 - We anticipate that this could be on top of what the city provides. However, to access this credit the household would need to have the financial capacity to take on that cost. This program alleviates that burden.
- A goal for these energy audits would be to tie the results to the Electrification Campaign (EECBG) and IRA incentives.
- Resources: <https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/articles/achieving-energy-savings-small-and-medium-sized-public-facilities-strategic>