

# **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG)**

**Chatham County Board of Commissioners**

**October 2025**

# OVERVIEW



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# BACKGROUND

- The funding for this program was awarded to the North Carolina State Energy Office by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).
- This funding will be distributed throughout the state of North Carolina for the purpose of supporting building energy assessments, energy audits, and building upgrades.
- Chatham County submitted a grant proposal to the State in December 2024. The proposal was developed as a collaboration between the Sustainability and Facilities departments, with grant writing assistance from Central Pines Regional Council.
- The NC State Energy Office notified us of the award in April of this year.
- The grant contract was finalized in mid-September and routed to Chatham County for signature.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Chatham County has been awarded \$350,000 to perform energy audits and implement the most impactful recommendations from those audits.
- In-depth energy audits of 13 County facilities will be performed by a consultant
  - Two of the audits will be done by Waste Reduction Partners, a non-profit who conducts on-site assessments and provides energy efficiency consulting for local governments and non-profits
  - The remaining 11 facilities will be audited by a consultant chosen through an upcoming Request for Proposal process.
- The audits will result in a list of recommendations for each building to improve the efficiency. County staff will review these recommendations and pursue the most impactful with the remainder of the grant funds.
- Any recommendations not funded by the grant will inform future capital spending and facility improvements.

# WHY IS THIS WORK IMPORTANT?

- Plan Chatham goals include improving efficiency of county-owned buildings
- Using less electricity will reduce the emissions attributed to the County, which also contributes to the Plan Chatham goal of becoming a carbon negative county
- Increasing the efficiency of the buildings will reduce the energy cost for our buildings.
  - The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy estimates energy and cost savings of 10-40% from comprehensive energy efficiency retrofits of commercial buildings. This translates to a potential annual savings of up to \$160,000 for these 13 facilities.
  - Our contract with Enpira, an energy management consultant, will allow us to track the savings over time and compare to the current baseline.
- The audits will provide a data-driven roadmap for future capital expenditures that can not be funded through this grant

**QUESTIONS?**