

US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions



Q: How much is available?

A: The City of West Union has been awarded \$100,000. Each property address may apply for a maximum of \$5,000 in grant funding. If a property owner is making the conversion to geothermal, they can qualify for up to \$10,000 in funding.

Q: When does the funding expire?

A: Funding is available on a first come, first serve basis. All grant funding will expire in August 2013.

Q: Why is the program only available to businesses downtown?

A: Because the large grant award from the Department of Energy is funding part of the geothermal system located within the streetscape project area, the funds may only be used within this same designated project area.

Q: How much cash match do I need?

A: There is a 70/30 match for this program. This means that 70% of the costs for energy improvements will be covered by DOE grant funding and the property owner must cover 30% of the costs.

Q: What if I want to do the work myself?

A: Labor costs will only be reimbursed for work done by a professional. All electrical work must be done by a qualified electrician according to State of Iowa code.

Q: How do I know if a contractor is registered with the State of Iowa?

A: You may check with the Main Street West Union office or the Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission to see if your contractor is registered. You may also search the list on the Iowa Workforce Development website—www.iwd.state.ia.us/contractor.

Q: How do I get a blower door audit test done?

A: The City of West Union has been working with Midwestern Energy Solutions LLC from Oelwein for the blower door testing. Main Street West Union has funding available until December 1, 2011 to cover up to 75% of this test for any business who is interested. Please contact John Steil at (563) 542-2626 or (319) 635-2147.