Benchmarking & Energy Audit Program Participants are Eligible for 1.0% Loans

How your school can access 1.0% rate loans for energy efficiency projects:

• Work with lender of your choice – 290 eligible lenders across Nebraska. Check if a lender is eligible here: (Note: some lenders may no longer offer loans) [https://neo-lendersearch.ne.gov/NEOLenderSearch/faces/welcome.jsp](https://neo-lendersearch.ne.gov/NEOLenderSearch/faces/welcome.jsp).

• Typical rate for schools is 5% to 3.5% for up to $500,000.
• To qualify for the 1.0% rate, schools must continue to benchmark buildings in the ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager program.
• Energy Office purchases 50% of a of a 5% rate loan, 65% of a 3.5% rate loan and 90% of a 1.0% rate loan from your lender at no interest to facilitate the lower rate for the school.
• Energy efficiency measures in your building audit with a 15 year simple payback or less are eligible for loan funding. Other projects that are considered pre-qualified include: a/c, furnace/heat pumps, insulation, lighting, and windows. For a detailed list, visit: [http://www.neo.ne.gov/loan/index.html](http://www.neo.ne.gov/loan/index.html)
• Improvements may NOT be contracted for or begun until Energy Office has approved the project and made a commitment to your lender.

* Projects larger than $500,000 are subject to special approval.

Loan application with chosen lender → Lender pre-approves the loan → Energy Office approves project and commits to the lender → School makes energy saving improvements with loan funds → Lender keeps interest, gets its portion of loan back, and remits Energy Office’s portion of the loan back to Energy Office → Repayments on Energy Office’s portion then used for new loans → School pays back the loan plus interest to the lender

For more information about possible projects and necessary forms visit [www.neo.ne.gov/loan/index.html](http://www.neo.ne.gov/loan/index.html) and look through the Dollar and Energy Saving Loans section.

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