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## Technical Bulletins: National Energy Conservation Act

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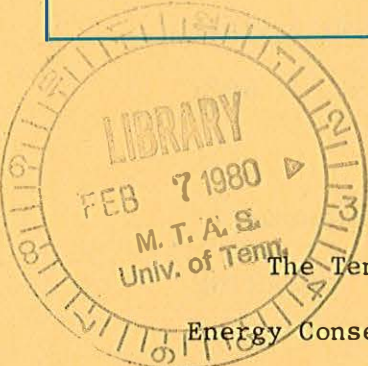


## technical bulletin

Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
Institute for Public Service, The University of Tennessee  
In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League

January 31, 1980

### NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT

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The Tennessee Energy Authority (TEA) has announced that the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (NECPA; PL 95-619) contains major grant programs to promote energy conservation in four sectors of public and private non-profit buildings constructed prior to April 20, 1977.

There are four steps to this program, as follows: 1) Preliminary Energy Audit, 2) Energy Audit, 3) Technical Assistance, and 4) Energy Conservation Projects. These four steps apply generally, but not uniformly, to four types of public and private non-profit buildings which are described as 1) schools, 2) hospitals, 3) buildings owned by units of local government, and 4) public care institutions.

Step 1. Preliminary Energy Audit (PEA) - The state energy office provides a brief questionnaire requesting facility and energy use information.

The Preliminary Energy Audit is a prerequisite to step 2, the Energy Audit, and is required for all four types of buildings. The PEA must be completed by local personnel and the cost of completing the questionnaire (staff time) is not reimbursable.

Step 2. Energy Audit (EA) - In-house staff assists an energy auditor in conducting a survey, possibly using workbooks provided by the state, to determine operating and maintenance actions that need to be implemented and to identify potential cost-effective capital investment measures.



The Energy Audit is a prerequisite to step 3, Technical Assistance, and is required for all four types of buildings. Energy Audits must be completed by a Certified Energy Auditor (list available from the Tennessee Energy Authority), or by a registered professional engineer or architect.

Fifty-fifty matching grants, with a variable maximum, are available from T.E.A. for covering the cost of conducting energy audits for all four types of buildings.

Maximum allowable costs for energy audits are:

Building gross square feet	Maximum Allowable Cost for calculating Federal Share	Maximum Federal (TEA) Share
Up to 30,000	\$400.00	\$200
30,000 to 100,000	\$500.00	\$250
100,000 and above	\$600.00	\$300
Complex	(1)	(2)

(1) The sum of individual building allowances for the first 150,000 gross square feet, and 60 percent of individual building allowances above 150,000 gross square feet but not to exceed \$10,000.

(2) 50% of amounts derived in (1).

Step 3. Technical Assistance (TA) - A registered professional engineer or architect conducts a detailed cost-benefit analysis of the potential capital investment projects identified in the energy audit phase as well as a thorough review of operating and maintenance actions.

Fifty-fifty matching federal grants, with no maximum, are available from the Tennessee Energy Authority to cover the cost of the technical assistance phase for all four types of buildings.

First round grant applications for technical assistance are due at T.E.A. by February 29, 1980. Grants submitted after February 29, 1980 will be considered for second round funding. Completion of the Technical Assistance phase is a prerequisite to obtaining an E.C.P. grant under step 4.

(NOTE: PEA's and EA's conducted by U.T.'s Municipal Technical Advisory Service and County Technical Assistance Service under T.E.A.'s pilot, and current, Energy Extension Service Energy Conservation Program, as well as PEA's and EA's conducted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, will be accepted by T.E.A. as meeting the requirements of Steps 1, 2 and 3, thereby meeting prerequisites for Energy Conservation Project Grants under Step 4.)

Step 4. Energy Conservation Projects (ECP) - Schools and hospitals will be provided grant funds to purchase and install the necessary equipment to implement major capital investment projects that are identified in the technical assistance phase.

Fifty-fifty matching E.C.P. grants, with no maximum, are available from T.E.A. to Schools and Hospitals. E.C.P. grants are presently not available for other city and county owned buildings or for Public Care Institutions. Applications for E.C.P. grants are now being accepted for second round funding.

\* \* \* \*

The first step for any city or county to take to become eligible for these federal funds is to complete the Preliminary Energy Audit. Local Governments that have completed step one may proceed to step 2, completion of the Energy Audit. Likewise,



buildings that have been audited may be eligible for Technical Assistance grants under step 3, or qualify for Energy Conservation Projects under step 4.

In any case, appropriate forms and additional instructions and information are available from Mr. G. C. Hixson, Tennessee Energy Authority, Suite 710, 226 Capitol Blvd., Nashville, Tenn. 37219 -- or call the Tennessee Energy Hotline 1-800-342-1340.

An additional source of assistance is your MTAS District Consultant or CTAS Field Advisor.

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