

Information Session: 2026 Building Decarbonization Grants

June 2026

Amy Fowler, Strategic Advisor, Climate and Buildings Support
Programs



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

About the Team



Amy Fowler
Strategic Advisor, Climate and
Buildings Support Programs



SuJ'n Chon
OSE Grants Consultant
Novum Lux Consulting



Neil Bavins
Technical Assistant Consultant
Windward Consulting NW

What We'll Cover Today:

- Who We Are (Office of Sustainability & Environment—OSE)
- Background
 - Building Emissions Performance Standard (BEPS)
 - BEPS support available
 - Past Awardees
- 2026 Grant Opportunity
 - Overview of funding
 - Eligibility
 - Priorities
 - Application process
 - Scoring rubric
 - Technical Assistance
- Q&A Session



Seattle's Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

OSE works to ensure a clean and healthy environment for all Seattle residents.

- We **prioritize those currently and historically harmed by racial, economic, and environmental injustice.**
- We serve as cross-departmental and community **collaborators, innovators, and drivers of cutting-edge policy.**
- We contribute to a Seattle where communities and the environment are **healthy and free of fossil fuel pollution.**



OSE's Core Services

Climate & Environmental Justice

- Environmental Justice Fund
- Climate Workforce
- Resilience Hubs
- Duwamish Valley Program
- Green New Deal Oversight Board

GHG Emissions Reductions

- Transportation Electrification
- **Energy Benchmarking & BEPS laws**
- Municipal Energy Emissions Program
- Clean Heat Program

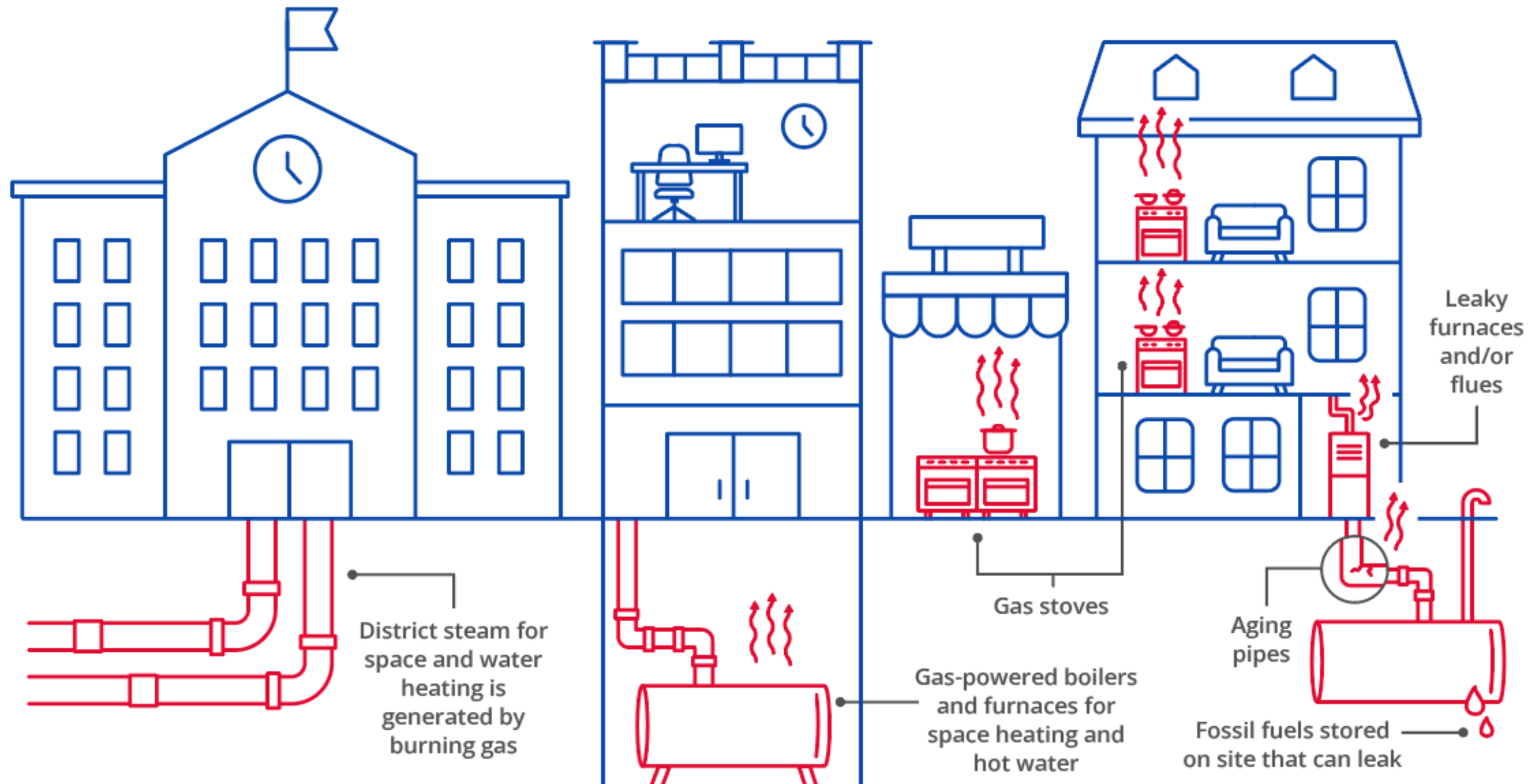
Food Policy & Programs

- Healthy School Food
- Fresh Bucks
- Food Action Plan
- Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

Seattle's Trees & Forests

- Trees for Seattle
- Tree Canopy Cover Urban Forest Management Plan
- Foresting Communities
- Urban Forestry Commission

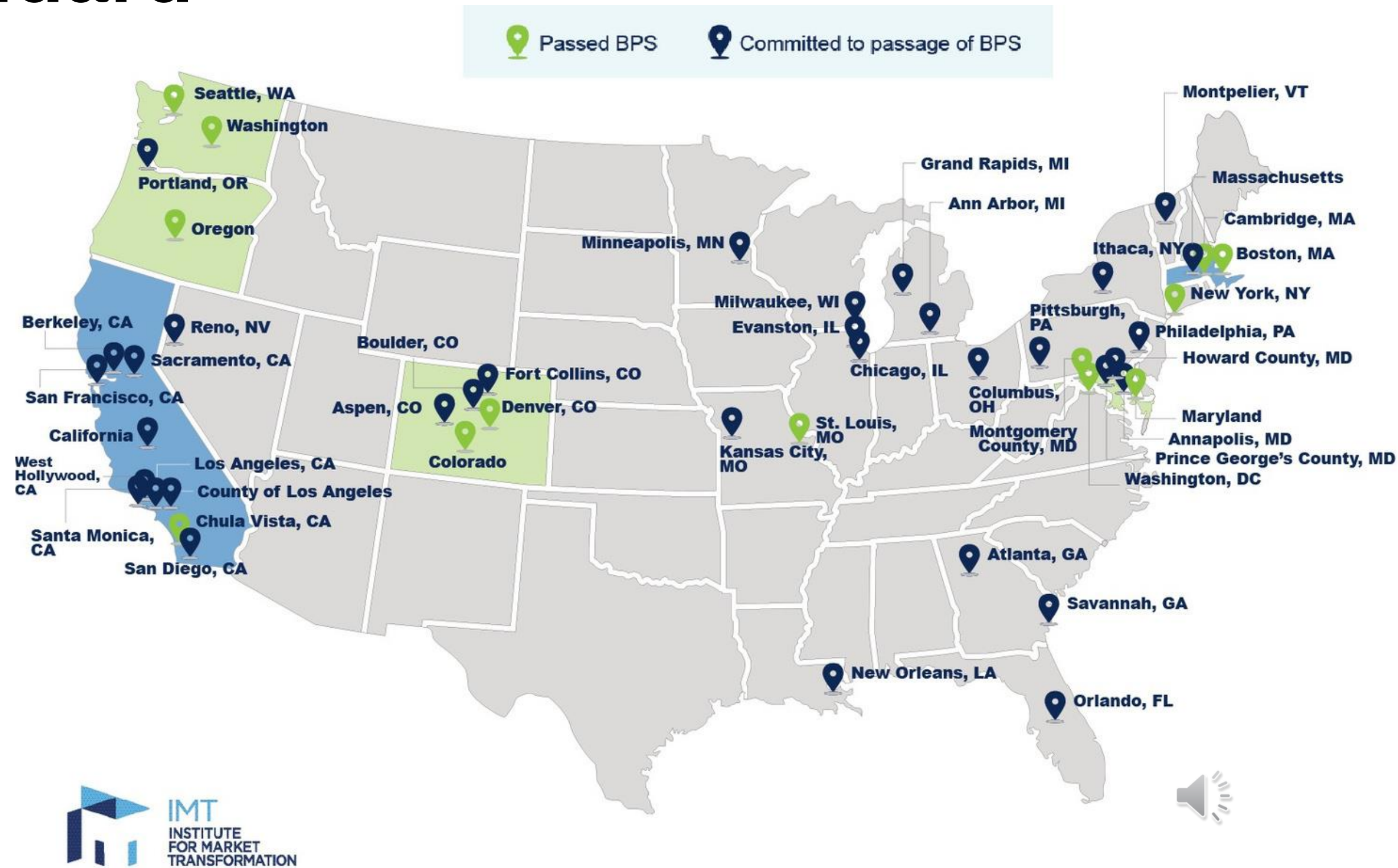
Nearly all Building-Related Emissions in Seattle are from Burning Fossil Fuels, like Gas and Oil



What is a Building Performance Standard (BPS)?

A **BPS** requires existing buildings to meet greenhouse gas emissions or energy performance targets by specific deadlines.

Decarbonization – another word for reducing emissions.



What Does the Seattle Building Emissions Performance Standard (BEPS) Law Require of Building Owners?

Every five years:



Energy Benchmarking Verification: Verify previous year's building energy use and emissions. *By 2027–2030*



Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Report: Document GHGI/GHGIT and equipment, and plan actions to achieve targets. *By 2027–2030*



Meet Greenhouse Gas Intensity Targets (GHGIT). *By 2031–2035*



Achieve net-zero emissions with narrow exceptions. *By 2041–2050 (depending on building type and size)*

Existing **Building Tune-Ups** requirements will sunset after the 2023-2026 compliance cycle is done.

Building Emissions Navigator: Support to Get Ready for BEPS

Group Trainings & Drop-in Hours

Available to all; prioritized for nonprofits and buildings serving frontline communities.

- Plan to meet Seattle BEPS and WA Clean Buildings
- Virtual building walk-through

Updated BEPS Website

- [FAQs page](#)
- [Resources page](#)
- [Newsletter signup](#)

Help desk, guidance documents & more to come!

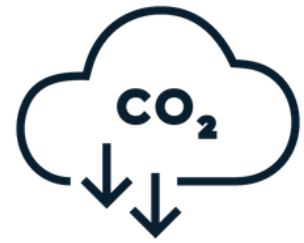


2026 Grant Opportunity



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

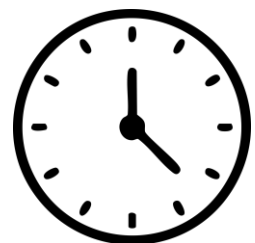
Purpose of the Fund



OSE's Building Decarbonization Grants **will invest in local building greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects** that prioritize affordable multifamily housing, nonprofit-owned buildings, and frontline communities.



Approximately \$4M will be available in 2026

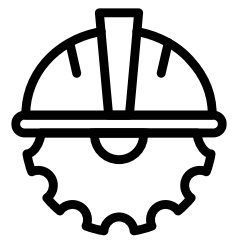


Application window will open on Wednesday, May 20 and close on Monday, August 10.

Eligible Project Types



Engineering Design Project – **Developing retrofit-ready designs** that support future reductions in a building's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through building assessment, electrical and mechanical system analysis, and preparation of engineering plans.



Retrofit Implementation Project – **Installing building upgrades** that reduce GHG emissions, such as replacing fossil-fuel-powered (FFP) space heating, domestic hot water, cooking equipment, and other FFP appliances with all electric equipment.



Engineering Design + Retrofit Implementation Project – **Developing retrofit-ready designs** for and **installing building upgrades** that will reduce GHG emissions from the building.

Baseline Eligibility Criteria

Building Criteria:

- Size: >20,000 SF (i.e., covered by BEPS)
- Type: multifamily housing, nonresidential/commercial buildings (not industrial)
- Location: in City of Seattle
- One application per building

Applicant Criteria:

- Owner of building; preference for affordable housing, nonprofits, buildings with tenants serving frontline communities*

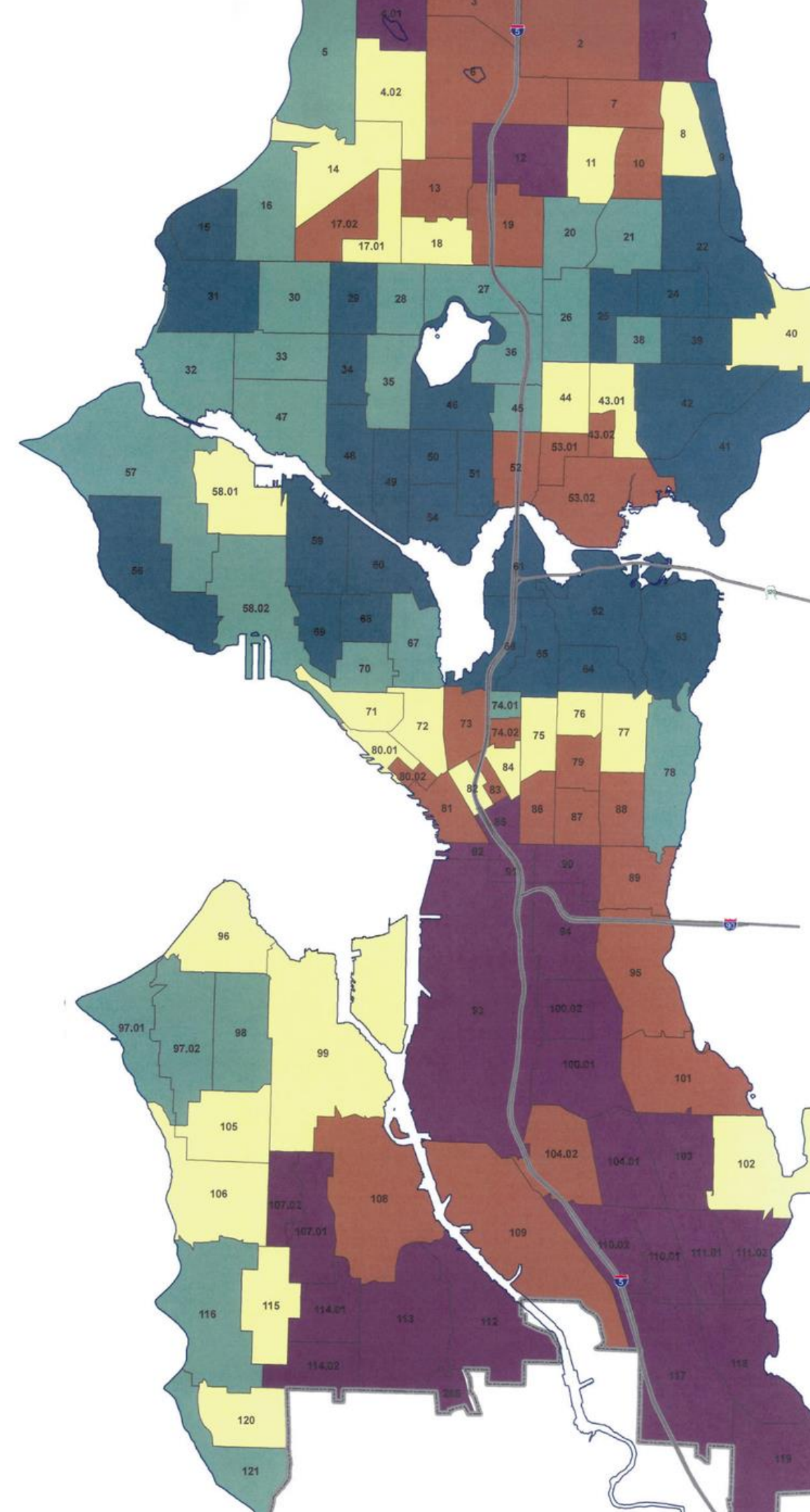
Project Criteria:

- Must reduce GHG emissions from the building or create a plan for future GHG reductions

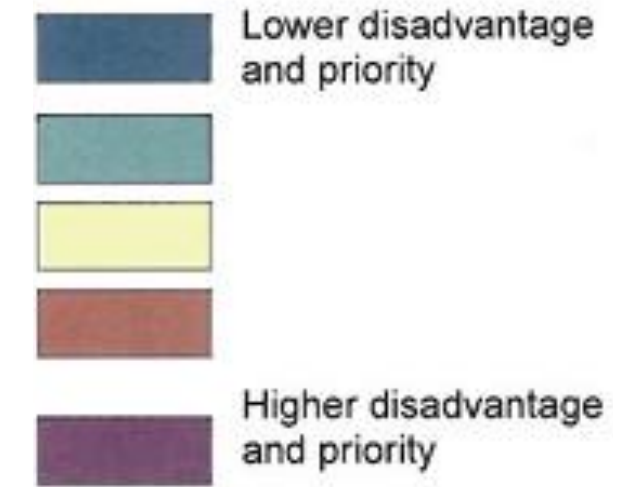
* “Frontline communities” are Black people, Indigenous people, sovereign tribal nations, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, youths, elders, houseless people, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people, people with low and no income, and people who work in outdoor occupations.

Priorities

- Multifamily affordable housing
- Nonprofit-owned buildings
- Buildings in or serving frontline communities
- Buildings in areas with higher Racial and Social Equity Index



Legend
(map numbers are tract identifiers)



Race & Language Origins

- Persons of color
- English language learners
- Foreign born

Socioeconomic Disadvantage

- Income below 200% poverty level
- Education less than bachelor's degree

Health Disadvantage

- Low life expectancy
- No physical activity
- Poor mental health
- Poor physical health: diabetes, obesity, asthma
- Disability

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/opcd/demographics/racialsozialequityindexusersguide2023.pdf>

Examples of Eligible Activities

- Developing an engineering design for conversion from fossil-fuel powered (FFP) equipment
- Performing a professional building analysis for potential capital improvements, as part of engineering design or retrofit implementation work
- Modifying duct work or piping necessary, as part of a retrofit installation
- Upgrading electrical service only as a part of a retrofit installation
- Purchasing and installing high-efficiency equipment to replace existing FFP equipment

Examples of Ineligible Activities

- Installation or plans to install solar panels
- Installation or plans to install backup battery storage
- Installation or plans to install fossil-fuel-powered (FFP) equipment
- Upgrades or plans to upgrade electric service without a related FFP equipment retrofit installation
- Weatherization efforts
- Energy audits without specific decarbonization planning component
- Building assessments that are not related to decarbonization

2025 Grants Summary

- Total awarded: **\$4.68M**
- Award sizes: **\$20,000 to \$1.15M**
- Awardee types & totals:
 - Low-income housing: **\$3.4M**
 - Houses of worship: **\$503K**
 - Other non-profits: **\$670K**
 - Cooperative Housing / Condo: **\$116K**

2026 Application Process

- Make a copy of the application [worksheet](#) for preparing your responses
 - Download the [scoring rubric](#) for guidance
- Seek technical assistance if needed
 - Complete [online form](#) to request technical assistance from a City-contracted provider to help you prepare your application
- Submit completed [online application](#) by **August 10, 8 PM PDT.**



Scoring Rubric - Numeric

- **Numeric Scoring Section:** 40 possible points
 - Building Use & Ownership (max 10 pts)
 - Capacity/Readiness (max 5 pts)
 - Seattle RSE Index Score (max 5 pts)
 - Amount of Emissions Reductions Work Needed to Meet GHGIT (max 10 pts)
 - Project Size / Scope of Need (max 10 pts)

Scoring Rubric - Narrative

- **Narrative Scoring Section:** “Strong,” “Satisfactory,” or “Developing”
 - Project Approach
 - Community Resiliency
 - Focus on frontline communities
- Award decisions based on numeric scores + response scores to narrative questions

Q's related to Project Approach

- **Briefly describe the project for which you are seeking funding.**
- **What types of systems/appliances will be evaluated for replacement or upgrade?**
- **Have you completed a feasibility study yet?**
- **Describe your preparation for undertaking the project. (check all that apply)**
 - If you have informed yourself and staff in other ways than the checkbox options, please provide one to two paragraphs describing the formal training, independent study, engaging with a consultant or contractor, or other preparations you or your staff completed to understand BEPS and its expected impacts on your building, and confirm your capacity to undertake the project.

Strong Response: Applicant has a holistic and well thought-out approach for decarbonizing the building, including all needed steps, and how their project will align the building for BEPS compliance over time.

Q's related to Community Resiliency

- Briefly describe the project for which you are seeking funding.
- As a result of your project, do you plan to open your building to the broader community and provide new resiliency services during these events?
- If yes, please indicate the new services (check all that apply)
- Please briefly share how the project will enable your organization to offer these services.

Strong Response: Applicant has a clear and well thought-out plan on how the building will be used to serve the greater community during extreme weather emergencies and/or natural disasters, including a list of services it will be able to provide.

Q's related to Focus on Frontline Communities

- **Does your building serve one or more of Seattle's frontline communities*?**
 - Frontline communities are Black people, Indigenous people, sovereign tribal nations, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, youths, elders, houseless people, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people, people with low and no income, and people who work in outdoor occupations.
- **If yes, what percentage of your building's floor area is dedicated to serving these community members?** (integer only)
- **As a result of your project, do you plan to add, expand, or enhance free or low-cost services that your building offers to frontline communities*?**
- **If yes, briefly describe how.**

Strong Response: The primary purpose of the applicant's building is to serve one or more of Seattle's frontline communities



Free Technical Assistance (TA)

- 1:1 technical assistance available to:
 - Assist with application worksheet
 - Identify opportunities in your building (e.g., review benchmarking report and ask questions about systems and asset life)
- TA capacity is limited
- Available first-come, first served
- If you are already working with an energy service provider or another type of consultant, they may be able to help with your application

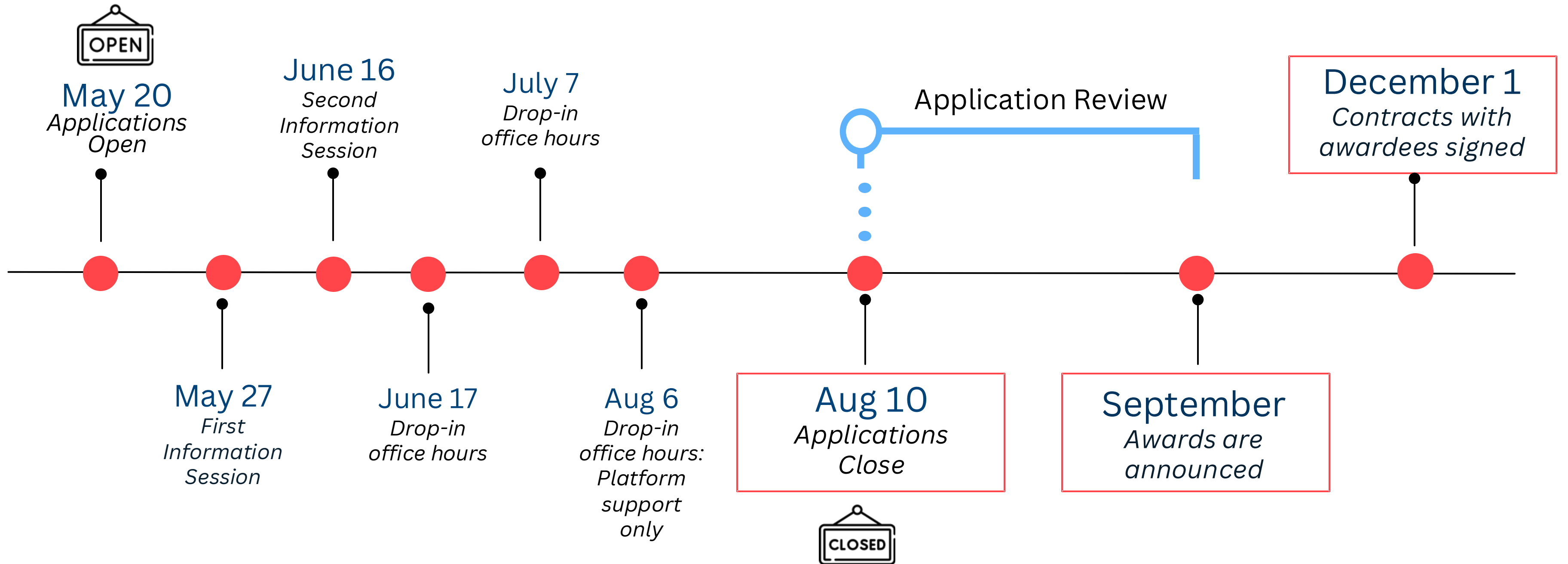
Complete this [form](#) to request TA



Drop-in Office Hours

- Drop in to ask your eligibility and general projects questions
- No advanced registration necessary
- Note that technical advice specific to your building may require 1:1 TA assistance
 - June 17, 1-3 PM
 - July 7, 9-10:30 AM
 - Zoom links available in Guidelines


2026 Application Timeline



Questions?



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment



For More Information & Link to Application:
OSE Building Decarbonization [Program Landing Page](#)

SuJ'n Chon

OSE Grants Consultant

SuJn.Chon-C@Seattle.gov