

## Iowa Energy Center 2024 & 2025 Annual Report

### Iowa Energy Center Overview

The Iowa Energy Center (IEC) and the Iowa Energy Office are within the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). Pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.120, the governor appoints a thirteen-member [board](#) that oversees, approves, and provides direction concerning the programs established by the IEC and coordinates with IEC staff and the IEDA for the implementation of the programs.

The mission of the IEC is to support projects and programs which align with the following purposes:

- 1. Energy Workforce Development** – To expand workforce and career opportunities for workers in the energy sector to ensure that the state can attract and train professionals to meet the state’s future energy needs.
- 2. Technology-based energy Research and Development** – To support technology based-development by encouraging public-private partnerships and innovative manufacturers to develop and bring to market new energy technologies.
- 3. Support for Rural and Underserved Areas** – To support rural and underserved areas and vulnerable populations by creating opportunities for greater access to energy efficiency expertise, training, programs, and cybersecurity preparedness for small utilities.
- 4. Natural Gas Expansion in Underserved Areas** – To support the expansion of natural gas infrastructure to rural and underserved areas of the state where the absence limits economic development.
- 5. Biomass Conversion** – To promote and fund research, development, and commercialization of biomass technology to benefit the state economically and environmentally by further realizing the value-added attributes of biomass in the development of bioenergy, biofuels and biochemicals.
- 6. Alternative Fuel Vehicles** – To encourage growth of the alternative fuel vehicle market, particularly for electric vehicles, and the infrastructure necessary to support the market.
- 7. Electric Grid Modernization** – To support efforts to modernize the electric grid infrastructure of the state to support increased capacity and new technologies.
- 8. Carbon Management** – To support research and development of strategies for carbon management.

### Grant Program

The [IEC Grant Program](#) provides grant funding to Iowa businesses, colleges and universities and private nonprofit agencies and foundations. Applications are reviewed by staff for eligibility and evaluated on a competitive basis. Eligible grant-funded projects must align with one of the key focus areas of the Iowa Energy Plan. Projects must also provide a benefit for Iowa ratepayers.

## 2024 Approved Grants and Program Activity

The grant program postponed the application cycle in 2024 and did not award any grants in 2024. Pursuant to Executive Order 10, the administrative rules for the Grant Program (261 IAC 404) were rescinded and a new chapter was adopted.

## 2025 Approved Grants

- Funding Allocation: \$4 million available
- Total Amount Awarded: \$2,267,837
- Total Amount Requested: \$5,042,944

Awardee – Project Title	Awardee City	Awardee County	Award Amount	Total project cost
Iowa State University – Enhancing Iowa’s Energy Resilience Through Anaerobic Digestion-based Microgrids	Ames	Story	\$255,680	\$320,000
Iowa State University – Development of New Ultra-Low-Cost Ultra-High Performance All Solid-State Sodium Batteries using All Iowa Resources for Storage of Renewable Iowa Wind Energy	Ames	Story	\$458,743	\$631,473
Iowa State University – Fatigue Failure Mitigation in ACSR Conductors of Power Grids via Advanced Peening Technologies	Ames	Story	\$300,000	\$375,470
Iowa State University – CyMath: K12 and College Math Tutoring as a Springboard to Strengthen Statewide Iowa Energy Workforce	Ames	Story	\$99,999	\$125,156
Iowa State University – Artificial Intelligence Assisted Robotic Mapping of Underground Infrastructure (Phase II)	Ames	Story	\$300,001	\$375,481
Iowa State University – Implementing a GIS Tool for Enhancing Gridline Resilience to Natural Hazards.	Ames	Story	\$296,905	\$376,716
Iowa State University – Data Driven Modeling, Prediction, and Mitigation of Electrification Impacts in Iowa Cold Weather	Ames	Story	\$300,000	\$375,470
Terenc, LLC – Distributed Energy Resource Management Systems for Rural Electric Cooperatives and Municipal Utilities.	Bloomfield	Davis	\$256,509	\$432,943

## Loan Program

The [Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program](#) (EIRLP) provides low-interest loans for energy infrastructure projects that facilitate electricity or gas generation, transmission, storage, or distribution. The IEC began accepting loan applications under the program in October 2021. An EIRLP loan can be used to cover up to 75% of project costs. The interest rate for a loan is 2 percent. Businesses, municipal utilities, and rural electric cooperatives are eligible to apply for assistance.

The purpose of the EIRLP is to support:

- Energy infrastructure development
- Electric grid modernization
- Energy sector workforce development
- Emergency preparedness for rural and underserved areas
- Expansion of biomass, biogas, and renewable natural gas
- Innovative technologies
- Development of infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles

## 2024 Approved EIRLP Applications

No Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program applications were received in 2024.

## 2025 Approved EIRLP Applications

Awardee	Awardee City	Awardee County	Award Amount	Total project cost
Auburn, City of	Auburn	Sac	\$237,750	\$317,000
Sergeant Bluff, City of	Sergeant Bluff	Woodbury	\$675,000	\$900,000
Sioux Center, City of	Sioux Center	Sioux	\$2,500,000	\$24,194,700
Stuart, City of	Stuart	Adair/Guthrie	\$2,500,000	\$4,927,000

The City of Auburn’s municipal utility project will reduce future outages by targeted replacement of wire, cable, and aging devices such as arresters and cutouts, adding a neutral primary wire in select locations, adding underhung disconnect blades on the overhead 3-phase system and adding a new fused disconnect switch. New fuses installed with coordinated sizes will do a better job of isolating faults to smaller areas and providing better protection of equipment.

The City of Sergeant Bluff’s municipal utility project will construct new electrical distribution components to improve reliability and help balance electric loading across the entire system. Portions of the project include undergrounding of existing overhead infrastructure resulting in better reliability during storm events and upgrading 200-amp elbows to 600-amp elbows in areas of higher electrical loading. The project will add capacity to support commercial and residential development and expansion of electric vehicle charging.

The City of Sioux Center's municipal utility project will install four diesel generators with a total nominal capacity of 12 MW. The project also includes construction of a building to house the four generators, separate switchgear and control equipment, and storage of 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel allowing for generator run time of approximately 24 hours. The utility has an agreement with Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) to participate in MRES' reserve capacity program. As part of the financing for the project, MRES will provide an upfront payment of \$5.4 million and monthly reserve capacity payments.

The City of Stuart's municipal utility project eliminates capacity and reliability barriers by replacing an undersized transformer, aging equipment, and outdated switchgear. The project will support planning and safeguards for continued service during outages, support peak load growth expected by 2032, and improve reliability for 1,900 residents and all northern commercial and industrial customers.