

Navigating Public Sector Clean Energy Financing in California – a case study

This fact sheet explores financing and technical assistance programs supporting clean energy in California.

Research shows that programs that are designed to serve the exact same market sector with similar or complementary services are not delivered and described to the market in a coordinated fashion.

Energy Partnership Program

California Energy Commission (CEC) offers the [Energy Partnership Program](#), which offers free technical assistance and audits for upgrades and new construction of public facilities. The CEC website does reference the existing of the CEC Efficiency Financing program in the FAQs for the program.



Energy Efficiency Financing and Energy Partnership Program

Separately, the Energy Commission offers the [Energy Efficiency Financing](#) program. The program offers a 0%, 20 year loan for education-related facilities, and a 1%, 17 year loan for all other public facilities. The maximum loan amount is \$3 million. Each application must include a feasibility study. The program description does not specify if the audit and technical assistance provided by the Energy Partnership Program would be sufficient to meet the feasibility study requirements of the application.

IBank's CLEEN Center and Energy Efficiency Financing

The Energy Efficiency Financing program website also does not say what other financing options are available for projects greater than \$3 million in cost. For instance, the program information does not direct visitors to consider the IBank's CLEEN Center, whose [SWEEP](#) program specifically offers financing to serve this exact same market and need. But the SWEEP program finances projects above \$3 million in cost. Therefore there is a natural complementarity across the programs that would be beneficial for market participants to be aware of, but it is not clear that such a connection is made.



SWEEP and Energy Partnership Program

Similarly, it would be beneficial for the CLEEN Center to make it clear that SWEEP applicants could get a free audit through the CEC's Energy Partnership Program, but there does not appear to be any clear connection between the two programs.

Recommendation

Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Coalition for Green Capital recommend the state government better coordinate these programs, with a team housed in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (or "Go-Biz") taking the lead. This effort could help align programs across government agencies and make their offerings clearer to private actors seeking such financing.



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