



Low Carbon Transportation Materials Program for Non-state DOT entities

Agency	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).		
Program Description	The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) established the Low-Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Grants program which provides funding for the use of construction materials that have substantially lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions. The purpose of the program is to reimburse or provide incentives to eligible recipients for the use, in projects, of construction materials and products that have substantially lower levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions associated with all relevant stages of production, use, and disposal as compared to estimated industry averages of similar materials or products as determined by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Program goals include but are not limited to 1. Increase the use of lower carbon materials and products that are used in projects funded under Title 23. 2. Facilitate the use of low carbon transportation materials while ensuring appropriateness for use in projects eligible under Title 23. 3. Promote technology transfer and enhance workforce development to increase the adoption of environmental quantification techniques used in decision making by transportation agencies. 4. Encourage eligible recipients to begin LCTM activities and build successful low carbon transportation material identification frameworks		
Application Due	November 25, 2024		
Total Funding	\$800,000,000		
Award Amount	Max Award: No requirement	Min Award: No requirement	
Local Match:	Not applicable		
Eligible Applicants	A unit of local government; A political subdivision of a State; A territory of the United States; An entity described in 23 U.S.C. 207(m)(1)(E); A recipient of funds under 23 U.S.C. 203; A metropolitan planning organization (MPO) (as defined in section 23 U.S.C.134(b)(2)); A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function.		
Eligible Activities/ Projects	The LCTM Program provides funding for specific eligible activities related to using low-carbon materials in construction projects funded under 23 U.S.C., including federal-aid highways, Tribal transportation facilities, and federal lands transportation facilities. Funds are not intended to fully fund construction projects but can be used for incentives or to cover incremental costs of using low-carbon materials like concrete, glass, asphalt mix, and steel. Eligible recipients can receive either a 2% incentive of the low-carbon material cost or reimbursement for the incrementally higher cost compared to traditional materials. The program allows for a 100% reimbursement of costs associated with identifying and determining the appropriateness of these materials. Applicants must estimate and demonstrate how reimbursement amounts are calculated, and FHWA will not consider costs already incurred. The program encourages a variety of approaches to meet its goals, with applicants having flexibility in choosing the reimbursement mechanism.		
Review Criteria	<p>See NOFO page 12-16 for example eligible activities under process development or construction projects</p> <p>The FHWA will award LCTM funds based on the evaluation of four merit criteria: Substantially Lower Embodied Carbon, QA and Materials Acceptance, Use of Materials on Construction Projects, and Schedule and Budget.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially Lower Embodied Carbon Identification: The application must describe how materials will be identified, assessed, and included in construction projects as "substantially lower embodied carbon" according to the EPA's definition. This includes identifying eligible materials, collecting Energy Star Performance Scores, Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), and determining carbon thresholds. QA and Materials Acceptance: The application should outline how the recipient will assess the materials' appropriateness for Federal-aid projects. This involves developing material specifications, verification processes, and additional monitoring for engineering performance. Use of Materials and Products on Construction Projects: The application must describe how the identified low-carbon materials will be used in construction projects. This includes a general approach to implementation, industry outreach for data collection, calculating incentives or reimbursements, and identifying specific construction projects. Schedule and Budget: The application should include start and end dates, estimated budgets for major activities, and ensure that all eligible activities are completed before the expiration of funds. 		
Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/lowcarbon/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants.gov 	
BAC Partnership Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Build America Center (BAC) is a technical assistance program funded by the USDOT, offering grant development services to localities at NO CHARGE. For more information, please visit our websites: https://bac.umd.edu/ and https://billlaunchpad.com/ 		

If your agency is interested in exploring this opportunity, contact us at bac@umd.edu for details on collaboration