2021 ANNUAL REPORT

EMPOWERMENT GRANT PROGRAM

ENERGY AS A TOOL FOR IMPACT

ENERGIZE DELAWARE
Empowerment Grant
For Delmarva Power Customers

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ABOUT THE EMPOWERMENT GRANT

In collaboration with the Delaware Divison of the Public Advocate, the Delaware Public Service Commission, and the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council, Delmarva Power provided $4 million in funding to the Energize Delaware Empowerment Grant Program. This program provided funding to organizations proposing energy efficiency programs and projects that directly benefit Delmarva Power customers whose households earn 60 percent, or below, of the state median income.

The Empowerment Grant **proudly funded eight organizations** who impacted roughly 845 low-income Delawareans in 2020-2021. Empowerment Grant staff conducted informational sessions, provided technical assistance, and coordinated efforts across the state which has impacted, and continues to support services to thousands of households in the Delmarva Service territory in all three counties.

County	Grant Amount Awarded
New Castle	$1,475,980
Kent	$800,000
Sussex	$1,250,000

Seeking to sustain the great work, the Empowerment Grant Program turned to other public and private sector partners to continue this grant program past its initial funding. Energize Delaware established the **Energy Equity Fund (EFF) at Delaware Community Foundation (DCF)** with a goal to reduce energy burden in underserved communities throughout Delaware and make clean, efficient, and affordable energy a tool for impact in all Delaware's underserved communities. According to Jim Purcell, Grant Manager for the Empowerment Grant, "We are working to show how targeted investment and alignment with our local communities can achieve equity as we transition to clean, more efficient and renewable energy for underserved Delaware communities."

Number of Grants Awarded in 2021	6
2021 Participating Organizations	10
Anticipated Households Served	845
HFH RRP Poential Annual Energy Savings	$12,150
HFH RRP Potential Annual Energy Savings (MMBtu)	1,560.94
HFH RRP Potential GHG Emission Avoided (Metric Tons)	592
FY21 Program Expense	$260,000
FY21 Program Budget	$1,464,000

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2021, the Empowerment Grant Program did more than grant funds for projects around the state. Staff and collaborative partners convened to talk about the connection between energy, housing, and health across the state. Moderated by Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long and Wilmington City Councilwoman Rysheema Dixon, the Empowerment Grant hosted two forums involving Delaware Public Health, Housing Alliance of Delaware, Healthy Communities Delaware, and over a hundred community participants focused on energy burden, and housing that is healthy and safe for low-and-moderate communities.

In addition, we hosted information sessions about Empowerment Grant opportunities virtually. We supported our existing grants by conducting site visits to meet recipients and some of the contractors who installed energy efficiency appliances and measures.

The year ended with our first Young Professionals round table with The Mill Summit and Interfaith Power and Light to talk about climate resiliency and what we can do individually, and as a community to become more aware of energy efficiency and its role.

GRANTS AWARDED

NEW CASTLE COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Refrigerator Replacement Program

First Cycle Grant Award: $500,000
Location: Statewide

Second Cycle Grant Award: $300,000
Location: New Castle County

Total: $800,000

Delaware's three Habitat for Humanity affiliates worked together to ease the energy burden of hard working, low-income Delawareans. Working through their four ReStores, The Habitat affiliates replaced and recycled 361 refrigerators with ENERGY STAR models during their first grant cycle. With their new phase of the successful program, HFHNCC will replace and recycle an estimated 286 refrigerators with ENERGY STAR models in New Castle County.

"I'm so happy and so grateful for the Refrigerator Replacement Program! Thank you so much for this opportunity! I encourage everyone who qualifies to apply to this program. It is really worth it!"
– **A happy program participant**

SUSSEX COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Insulated Skirting for Manufactured Homes

First Cycle Grant Award: $100,000
Location: Sussex County

Second Cycle Grant Award: $659,535
Location: Kent and Sussex County

Total: $759,535

Sussex County Habitat for Humanity's Insulated Skirting Program for Manufactured Homes has installed 20 insulated skirts serving dozens of people helping to cut energy costs by 25%. These homes also received benefits from other Neighborhood Revitalization programs. In 2022, because of the success of the Sussex County project, the program has been expanded to Kent County. This program expects to complete an estimated 90 projects over the next year.

"I am grateful and very pleased with the new skirting. My home is more safe and secure." – **Ms. Alisha**

GRANTS AWARDED

NEW ECOLOGY, INC.

Climate Smart Homes

First Cycle Grant Award: $68,000
Second Cycle Grant Award: $727,150
Location: New Castle County

Total: $795,150

New Ecology, Cinnaire, Central Baptist Develop Corporation, and Habitat for Humanity transformed 4 homes (3 rehabs and 1 new construction) to extremely energy efficient, high-performance homes.

New Ecology expanded the project and included Woodlawn Trustees to deliver 32 high-performance, all-electric, climate-ready, healthy homes to low-and-moderate-income households in Wilmington's Eastside with this additional funding. Additional funding for solar provided by Energize Delaware's pilot grant.

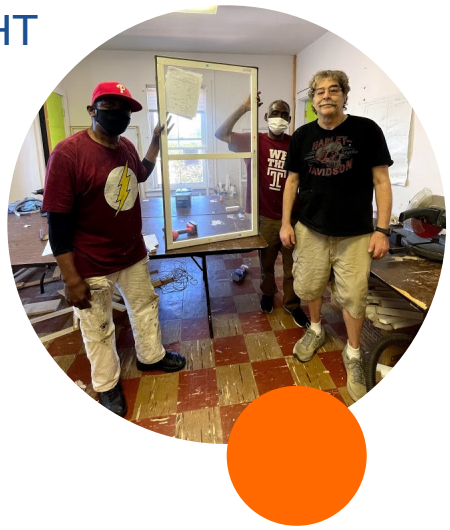
"Our community revitalization work enables first-time homebuyers to build equity in high-performance, healthy homes that benefit our families, the broader community, and future generations."
– Reverend Terrence Keeling, President/ CEO of Central Baptist Community Development Corporation

DELAWARE INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT

Interior Storm Windows (Windows of Hope)

First Cycle Grant Award: $80,649
Second Cycle Grant Award: 17,813
Location: New Castle County

Total: $98,462



DE Interfaith Power and Light helped weatherize older rental properties by fabricating and installing custom Interior Storm Windows with help from those in the community. The program started in the West Center City neighborhood of Wilmington.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to work and earn money doing something useful with my own hands. I can share with those in need, helping them be more comfortable in their homes, saving energy and saving the Earth."
– Doug Nichols, Windows of Hope Program

GRANTS AWARDED

APPLIED ENERGY GROUP

LMI HVAC Rebate for Rental Units

First Cycle Grant Award: $97,420
Second Cycle Grant Award: $95,500
Location: Kent and Sussex Counties

Total: $192,920

Applied Energy Group will provide free energy assessments to two more affordable housing properties, bringing the total to 5. The most recent grant consists of 48 units each, and provide rebates for HVAC systems that are installed by local contractors. Fianlly, this program will maintain and support 232 rental units in Kent and Sussex counties already funded by the Empowerment Grant. AEG will also provide rebates to 15 new high-efficiency heat pumps.

"Rebate funds from the DE Empowerment Grant enables us to replace our old units with high-efficient heat pump packaged units in Heritage Manor apartments. Heritage Manor is a low-income rental property serving the disabled and senior population in Kent County."
– Christina Stanley, MHDC Vice President

ARCA RECYCLING, INC.

Appliance Replacement Program

First Cycle Grant Award: $500,000
Location: Kent and Sussex Counties

ARCA Recycling, Inc. will provide ENERGY STAR appliances to income-qualified customers at no charge. Used appliances will be responsibly recycled avoiding landfill disposal and protecting the environment against the release of hazardous materials. The program includes appointment scheduling, appliance delivery, and collection of used appliances, and transportation to ARCA's recycling center. Community partners will perform home assessments and refer eligible customers to ARCA's call center.

GRANTS AWARDED

WILMINGTON SENIOR CENTER

Lafayette Court Energy Efficiency and Savings Systems

Grant Award: $150,000
Location: New Castle County

Wilmington Senior Center has installed energy efficiency and energy saving systems to two identical buildings to reduce operating and utility costs, as well as residential utility bills. WSC will replace space heater boiler and controls, attic air sealing and insulation, apartment air sealing, ERV's with insulated ductwork in attics, low flow toilets, apartment heat pumps, apartment lighting, exterior lighting, and interior common area lighting.

"Our Delmarva Power heating invoices have decrease from $1,300 a month to $500 a month. The water usages in the apartment community have decreased as well from $400 a month to $280 a month. These numbers are approximate figures, but energy savings have been noticeable."
– Sheris Savage, Residential Coordinator

KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

DIY Home Weatherization Workshops

Grant Award: $34,740
Location: New Castle County

Kingswood Community Center will partner with the Energy Coordinating Agency to provide home weatherization education and outreach to low-income residents of the Riverside neighborhood in Wilmington. Workshops will provide families the tools and knowledge needed to make minor weatherization repairs to their homes to help decrease their energy bills.

"I think the Energy Conservation Workshop was very informative in relation to water and light usage. I believe it's an excellent workshop, and more seniors need to be educated in how to conserve energy in the home. It's very much needed today in our community considering individuals' financial constraints/limitations."
- Workshop Participant

SUPPORT THROUGH THE ENERGY EQUITY FUND

EMPOWERING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Energize Delaware seeded $1 million to sustain the Empowerment Grant through the creation of the Energy Equity Fund. The new Empowerment Grant will prioritize applications that bolster community strength and long-term local resilience, including applications that address one or more of the following:

- Provide clean, cost saving energy for low- and moderate-income communities.
- Align energy efficient homes with healthy and safe homes.
- Improve energy efficiency for small businesses, community-based organizations, and local non-profits in communities of need.
- Create access to clean renewable energy for low- and moderate-income communities.
- Build pathways for education and training of a divserse clean energy and energy efficiency workforce for underserved communities.

Clean, efficient, affordable, sustainable energy as a tool for impact

Through aligned strategies and investments, we can positively impact the socioeconomic position of thousands of Delawareans and promote climate resilience. The Empowerment Grant supported by the Energy Equity Fund creates partnerships, collaboration, and dialogue to:

Ease the Energy Burden

Provide energy savings for low-to-moderate income families

Create Healthy and Safe Homes

Align energy efficiency with healthy and safe homes

Help Businesses and Organizations

Improve energy efficiency for small businesses, community-based organizations and local non-profits in communities of need

Access Clean and Renewable Energy

Create access to clean renewable energy for underserved Delawareans in low-to-moderate income communities

Create Clean Energy Jobs

Create, expand, and sustain clean and renewable jobs for underserved communities

ENERGIZE DELAWARE
Empowerment Grant
Powered by the Energy Equity Fund

DCF Delaware Community Foundation™
Engaging Communities, Empowering Giving™

THE NEW EMPOWERMENT GRANT

Fund Development

Seeking to sustain the great work of the Empowerment Grant Program, efforts are focused on public and private sector partners to continue this grant program past its initial funding. The Energize Delaware Oversight Board seeded $1 million to start the fund. In the fall of 2021, Energize Delaware formed the Energy Equity Fund. The fund located at the Delaware Community Foundation has attracted attention from foundations, corporations, and individuals interested in our mission. We are pleased to have support from TD Bank ($10,000), Bloom Energy ($25,000), and Highmark Delaware ($250,000) to fund future grants, programs, and services. Plans are to continue our fund development campaign.

$2.5 Million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Awarded by the State of Delaware to partner with HELP Initiative, Inc.

Funds will be used to contribute to a safer working and living environment in communities confronted by concentrated areas of criminal activity and healthy home hazards through the Safety-On and Healthy-On Programs.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Empower Ecosystem Grant (Spring and Fall)

$250,000 - $1,000,000

Cross- sector collaboration with emphasis on all focus areas of the new Empowerment Grant and/or a more statewide or regional approach.

Empower Neighborhood Grant (Spring and Fall)

$75,000-$250,000

Innovative, grass roots, and community based approach designed to empower local energy efficient and resilient programs and services in neighborhoods, small municipalities, and local community-focused service organizations.

Empower Efficiency Grant (Ongoing Application)

Up to $75,000

Designed to support one time projects that encourage awareness of emerging technologies and innovative approaches to energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, climate resiliency, environmental justice, and community sustainability.

ENERGY EQUITY FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Name	Organization
Lt. Governor Bethany Long-Hall	University of Delaware
Andrew Slater	Delaware Public Service Commission
Angie Bivens	Franklin Energy
Anthony DePrima	Energize Delaware
Dustyn Thompson	Sierra Club
Harold Stafford	HELP Initiative, Inc.
Jennifer Clemons	Delaware Technical Community College
Kimberly Blanch	Beebe Health
Mike Rawl	Community Member
Peggy Geisler	Sussex County Health Coalition
Rysheema Dixon	RD Innovative Planning
Sarah Grunewald	Delaware Community Foundation
Sarah Rhine	Housing Alliance Delaware
Tyrone Jones	Bloom Energy

STAFF

Anthony DePrima, Ph,D.
SEU Executive Director

Jim Purcell
Grant Manager

Kassandra Rodriguez
Grant Assistant Manager

Rysheema Dixon
Consultant

Christina Richter
Consultant

Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU) — a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization created by the State of Delaware. Through our many Energize Delaware programs, we help residents, businesses, farmers, schools, religious organizations, nonprofits, hospitals and local governments save money. We do it by providing access to renewable energy, high-efficiency heating, cooling, ventilation and insulation technologies at little or no cost.

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500 West Loockerman St.
Suite 410
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 724-7033

@EmpowerGrantDE
EmpowerGrantDE.org
EnergyEquityFund.org