



June 28, 2023

JEDC.org
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Interest Gauging for Energy Efficiency Loans

Dear Juneau Business Owner or Representative,

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to help strengthen and grow Juneau and Southeast Alaska's economy. In collaboration with other organizations, JEDC implements initiatives to maintain, expand, and create jobs and economic opportunities. As part of these initiatives, JEDC is currently pursuing funding via the [USDA Rural Energy Savings Program](#), which would allow JEDC to make **low-interest energy savings loans to eligible entities within Juneau to lower the cost of energy** for commercial, residential, and industrial operations.

I am writing to assess your business' tentative interest in seeking financing under this program. This assessment of demand will help secure this opportunity for Juneau, ensure robust uptake of the program, and ultimately reduce costs and energy use for our businesses and residents.

About This Program

This program will be a fair and non-discriminatory loan program operated and managed by JEDC for the residents and businesses of Juneau, aiming for the following community benefits and values: economic development, lower energy costs with local energy resiliency, job creation and retention, environmental, climate action, and social benefits of Juneau's residents through impactful lowering the cost of energy.

These goals align with the USDA's Rural Energy Savings Program purpose to "expand efforts to help rural communities save money, reduce the need to purchase or generate energy, reduce emissions from generation of electricity, and help strengthen rural economies through job creation for energy efficiency and conservation projects." I am linking a USDA [fact sheet](#) for your reference.

Financing would include loans of up to 10 years with interest rates not exceeding 5%. For commercial loans we intend to consider loan amounts between \$20,000 and \$400,000, though exceptions can be made. The maximum total amount of financing that Juneau could receive is \$50 million.

Eligible investments include, but are not limited to:

- The installation or connection to energy-efficient heat pumps and electrical upgrades for space heating
- The installation and electrical upgrades for electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- The installation of infrastructure and electrical upgrades
- Dock electrification
- The direct conversion of commercial or industrial operations from higher-cost energy sources to locally produced lower-cost energy sources
- Other proposed projects that would lower energy costs

Requesting Your Level of Interest

Our application deadline is approaching and we are thus **requesting your confidential response at your earliest convenience, preferably by July 7** as to your level of interest. We are not seeking any commitments at this time; instead we would like to understand your initial interest level in pursuing this type of financing within the next ten

years. This includes a brief description of any specific projects you may have in mind, to help inform our forecasting.

[To provide your thoughts, please click here.](#)

We appreciate your quick level of interest and relevant ideas. Making energy-efficient investments will contribute to the overarching economic development of Juneau, providing a catalyst for the creation of well-paying jobs, lowering energy costs and usage across commercial and industrial operations, and lowering Juneau's cost of living by reducing energy costs and usage.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Brian Holst
Executive Director