

III. Financing Opportunities & City Sustainability Programs

KeyBank (Cleveland)

<https://www.key.com/about/corporate-responsibility/sustainability.jsp>

“KeyBank provides loans, lines of credit and leases that help client make sustainable investments in their businesses and facilities. In 2016, our Energy and Renewables platform increased lending by 300%. In addition to providing clients with products and services that promote savings, KeyBank helps clients access grants and programs to defray the costs of sustainability upgrades.”

from

https://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/04/12_organizations_making_north_e.html

“We built out a business segment called ‘Key4green,’” said Andrew Watterson, the bank’s head of sustainability. “They are a group of bankers who understand the (renewable energy) industry, and they help clients understand tax implications and the tax credits available.”

An energy audit can tell a business owner or non-profit manager what kind of renewable energy they should invest in and how much money they might save. Then the bank steps in to offer advice on financing.

Congress passed a massive tax overhaul as 2017 drew to a close that left tax professionals scrambling to educate themselves on the intricacies of the updated tax code. While some incentives that encourage the use of clean energy sources didn’t survive the overhaul, others endure. Others will phase out gradually.

And local incentives remain, Watterson said.

He acknowledged that other states are friendlier toward clean power, but the bank has helped local businesses invest in renewable energy. For example, they helped Motorcars Honda in Cleveland Heights find the funds to install two solar canopies on the roof of their showroom and the bank has advised the LEEDCo offshore wind farm project.

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

Sustainable Cleveland Municipal Action Plan
<https://database.aceee.org/city/cleveland-oh>

The [Sustainable Cleveland Municipal Action Plan](#) articulates Cleveland’s energy efficiency and emissions goals for internal government operations. The plan includes actions to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances. The [Office of Sustainability](#) oversees implementation of the government operations goal and facilitates interdepartmental coordination.

The [Sustainable Cleveland Municipal Action Plan](#) (SC-MAP) identified the overarching goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from local government operations 10% below 2010 levels by 2016, 20% below 2010 levels by 2020, and 45% below 2010 levels by 2030. As part of this goal, Cleveland set targets to reduce total energy consumption across all city departments 5% below 2010 levels by 2016, 10% below 2010 levels by 2020, and 20% below 2010 levels by 2030. The city also has a goal under [DOE’s Better Buildings Challenge](#) that includes municipal buildings.

Cuyahoga County Financing Hub

News coverage: <https://energynews.us/2015/10/21/midwest/financing-hub-can-help-make-clean-energy-deals-happen-in-ohio/>

“the Cuyahoga County financing hub will offer at least four platforms to help different types of entities fund renewable energy or energy efficiency projects

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“Currently, the investment firm of [Kawa Capital Management](#) is on board to be at least one source of PACE financing, Foley reported.

...

“One of those platforms aims to reinvigorate the [PACE financing](#) program.”

from <https://energizeohio.osu.edu/incentives/property-assessed-clean-energy-pace-financingspecial-energy-improvement-districts-sid>

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing/Special Energy Improvement Districts

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) laws allow property owners to borrow money through governmental loans or bonds to pay for energy improvements to their properties. The amount borrowed is typically repaid via a special assessment on the property tax bill over a period of up to 30 years.

PACE authority is contained in Ohio House Bill 1, enacted July 17, 2009, and Ohio Senate Bill 232, enacted on June 4, 2010. Ohio House Bill 1 allows local governments to assist property owners in financing solar energy improvements to their properties by requesting a special assessment from the local government.

Ohio Energy Efficiency Program

https://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_renewenergy.htm

Helps **small businesses**, manufacturers, nonprofits, schools, and local governments reduce energy use and improve energy efficiency – resulting in lower energy costs.

Energy Loan Fund

https://www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_energyloanfund.htm

Ohio Development Services Agency helps **small businesses**, manufacturers, nonprofits, and local governments implement energy efficiency improvements to lower energy use and costs. Through the Energy Loan Fund eligible applicants receive low-interest financing to install efficiency measures that reduce energy by at least 15 percent.

City of Columbus Green Columbus Fund

<http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/4397>

The Green Columbus Fund incentivizes sustainable development and redevelopment in Columbus, Ohio. The Fund reimburses private and non-profit developers the application fee for the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) LEED certification. LEED for New Construction, Core and Shell, Commercial Interiors, and Existing Buildings are eligible.

Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE)

Search results for Cleveland zip code:

<http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/3098>

These are residential incentives. Please let me know if you'd like me to flesh out this section.

Utility Financial Incentives for Efficiency Programs (2016)

<https://www.rebatebus.com/state/Ohio>

“Ohio offers several incentives for energy-efficient investments, including PACE financing. The state government leads by example by requiring the benchmarking of energy use in public buildings and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. Research focused on efficient vehicles is conducted at the Center for Energy, Sustainability, and the Environment at Ohio State University.”

Re-Energize Ohio

<http://ohiotreasurer.gov/ReEnergizeOhio>

Loan opportunity program for small businesses