

## Happy New Year from SEDAC!

What are your energy savings goals for 2019? Here are a few easy-to-achieve goals SEDAC recommends:

1. Review your building's energy use and set savings targets.
2. Schedule an energy assessment to identify areas for improvement.
3. Replace inefficient lighting with LEDs or other efficient lighting sources.
4. Tune up HVAC equipment and perform regular maintenance.
5. Use controls to adjust temperature settings and system operation according to time of day, occupancy, and season.



### Let SEDAC help you achieve your energy goals!

- SEDAC offers **quick advice** and initial consultations free of charge.
- SEDAC provides free **energy assessments** for public sector facilities in Ameren Illinois territory, and for wastewater treatment plants throughout Illinois.
- SEDAC **retro-commissioning** services are available for facilities in Ameren Illinois territory.
- Other SEDAC services, such as **new construction design assistance** and **long-term energy planning**, are also available. Call us and we can discuss rates and craft a proposal that fits your budget and needs.

1.800.214.7954 / [info@sedac.org](mailto:info@sedac.org) / [apply.sedac.org](http://apply.sedac.org)

## Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy Efficiency Grants

The Illinois EPA is dispensing up to \$3 million in grants for energy efficiency improvements at wastewater treatment facilities.

To take advantage of this exciting opportunity, facilities must complete an energy assessment and be GATA pre-qualified. Find out more [here](#). The deadline to apply is February 12, 2019.

If you haven't received your free energy assessment, apply now for the Illinois Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy Assessment Program at [sedac.org/wastewater](http://sedac.org/wastewater), call us at 800.214.7954 or email us at [info@sedac.org](mailto:info@sedac.org) to get started.



Funding for this program has been provided in whole or in part by the Illinois EPA Office of Energy.

## Energy Code Training Opportunities

Attend our upcoming workshop, "2018 IECC Updates & Building Codes," January 23 from 1-4 pm in East Peoria. Find out more and register [here](#).

We are also presenting the workshop, "Updates on 2018 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2016, Electrical and Lighting" at the Electric Association's Annual Conference on January 24-25. If you are interested in attending this conference, please visit their [website](#).



Unable to attend an in-person workshop? Take our free online energy code courses, which can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

Have a question about the Illinois Energy Conservation Code? Call SEDAC at 800.214.7954 or email us at [energycode@sedac.org](mailto:energycode@sedac.org) for technical support and individualized guidance.

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## Notes from the Field: Franchise Agreements

In our conversations with customers, we've found that many municipalities have questions about franchise agreements and energy efficiency programs. A franchise agreement allows a utility to operate within the city limits (use right of ways) in exchange for some kind of benefit to the municipality.

There are a variety of franchise agreements in Illinois. Some franchise agreements allow the utility to operate within city limits in exchange for providing electricity and/or gas, at no cost to the municipality, for municipal buildings or lights. In other franchise agreements, the utility pays the municipality an annual fee, a fee based on a percentage of the utility's gross revenues, or a one-time application fee.



If, per the franchise agreement, municipalities are *not* directly paying for electricity or natural gas, can they still participate in utility energy efficiency programs? Furthermore, why should municipalities with these franchise agreements participate, if they are unlikely to see the financial benefits from increased efficiency?

The good news is that municipalities with franchise agreements served by at least one of the major investor-owned utility companies **do** qualify for energy efficiency programs under Illinois law, and there are good reasons to participate.

- Energy efficiency programs can help you get up-to-date at a relatively low cost. There are many energy efficiency improvements that require little to no upfront financial investment because they are heavily subsidized by energy efficiency programs. These programs are funded in part from energy efficiency fees from the energy bills of members of your community.
- Participating in energy efficiency demonstrates your commitment to a more sustainable future. Many municipalities have ordinances that mandate energy efficiency, and participation in energy efficiency programs can help municipalities meet these mandates more cost-effectively.
- Participating in energy efficiency brings a host of non-monetary benefits. Facilities that are more energy efficient are more comfortable, healthy, and safe.

If your municipality receives fees from the utility as part of your franchise agreement, consider using these fees to take advantage of energy efficiency programs and fund energy efficiency improvements. This will reduce your municipality's energy bills and allow funds to be used for other pressing needs.

Do you have a question about franchise agreements and participation in energy efficiency programs? Call your utility, or call SEDAC at 800.214.7954 for quick advice.

## Energy Code Tip: Energy Efficiency for Low-Income Housing

Low-income residents spend a large percentage of their income on energy costs. According to the [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy \(ACEEE\)](#), the energy burden for low income households is 7.2 percent of a household's income, compared to 3.5 percent for the median household.

While there are many reasons for the disparity, building quality and efficiency are key factors. Buildings housing low-income individuals are often less efficient. Either they are built poorly from the start, or they are not adequately maintained or renovated.



Meeting energy code requirements can help address these problems. Energy codes help low-income residents save energy and money by ensuring that new buildings are designed efficiently from the start, and by mandating that renovations meet energy efficiency standards.

### Energy efficient and affordable alterations

Energy efficient alterations are especially important for low-income residents. Sections R503 and C503 of the 2018 IECC describe the alterations that must comply with the same energy efficiency requirements as new buildings. For instance, when residential windows are replaced, they need to meet the U-factor and SHGC factor requirements of Table R402.1.2 for new buildings.

Unfortunately, high up-front costs may discourage individuals from making code-compliant alterations. To help defray the cost, low-income residents can take

advantage of the [Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program \(IHWAP\)](#), which funds the following energy efficiency alterations:

- Air sealing
- Attic and wall insulation
- Furnace repair and replacement
- Electric base load reduction (lighting and refrigerator, and window and door weatherization)

We recommend that code officials, contractors, and other building professionals become familiar with IHWAP so that they can help their customers find ways to make energy efficient alterations more affordable.

Do you have a question about energy efficient alterations or how best to serve low-income customers? Contact us at 800-214-7954 or [energycode@sedac.org](mailto:energycode@sedac.org).

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**Providing effective energy efficiency strategies for buildings and communities**

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