

# Solar on Public Buildings FAQ

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*Note: In April 2026, the Solar on Public Buildings Program launched its Round 5 RFP. Due to funding constraints, Round 5 is limited to projects in Xcel Energy electric service territory. This updated FAQ reflects the updated eligibility rules and application process for Round 5. If you have questions related to previous application rounds, please contact [SolarOnPublicBuildings.comm@state.mn.us](mailto:SolarOnPublicBuildings.comm@state.mn.us).*

## A. Eligible Buildings

### 1. Are public housing authorities eligible for these grants?

A public housing authority is considered eligible as an ‘other local government jurisdiction’ under the definition of a “Local unit of government” in [§ Minn 216C.377 Subd 1. \(d\)](#):

*(d) "Local unit of government" means:*

*(1) a county, statutory or home rule charter city, town, or other local government jurisdiction, excluding a school district eligible to receive financial assistance under section 216C.375; or*

### 2. Are buildings that are shared in ownership or operations between a government and a private or non-profit entity eligible?

Only buildings owned by the local unit of government are eligible for the grant. [§ Minn 216C.377 Subd 1](#):

*(f) "Public building" means:*

*(1) a building owned and operated by a local unit of government; or*

*(2) a building owned by a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Minnesota whose primary purpose is Tribal government operations*

**3. Can a municipality be awarded multiple grants if they wanted to put arrays on multiple buildings?**

Yes, a local unit of government can submit multiple applications and be awarded multiple grants for multiple buildings.

**4. So federal buildings do not qualify?**

Correct. [§ Minn 216C.377 Subd. 5. \(a\)](#):

“(a) A grant may be awarded to a local unit of government under this section” and a local unit of government is defined as ([§ Minn 216C.377 Subd. 1. \(d\)](#)):

“(1) a county, statutory or home rule charter city, town, or other local government jurisdiction, excluding a school district eligible to receive financial assistance under section 216C.375; or

(2) a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Minnesota.”

**5. Could this funding be used for local government operations that aren’t specifically a building? For example, a remote system that operates impoundment gates to adjust water elevation that is owned and operated by a Watershed District? Or a wastewater treatment facility?**

A building is a roofed and walled structure built for permanent use. As such, eligibility for a solar array is dependent on whether there is a building that houses the operations of the facility – to which the solar array would be connected. Structures that are not buildings are not eligible.

**6. Are there any restrictions on using the grants funds as part of a new construction building that includes solar?**

A new construction building is eligible to receive a grant award for the purchase and installation of the solar energy generating system.

**7. Is a local unit of government eligible to submit an application for a site that does not have a building or structure, but might in the future?**

A building would need to be planned for construction to complete the requirements of the application, and the interconnection, installation, and testing of the solar system would need to be completed within 18 months after finalization of the contract.

**8. Does the grant cover building a solar array on a public building that is used for community solar for residents?**

[Minn Stat. 216C.377 Subd. 5.](#) (a) A grant may be awarded to a local unit of government under this section only if the solar energy generating system that is the subject of the grant:

(1) is installed (i) on or adjacent to a public building that consumes the electricity generated by the solar energy generating system, and (ii) on property within the service territory of the utility currently providing electric service to the public building;

**9. Do Minnesota Army National Guard buildings qualify?**

The Army National Guard is not a local unit of Government, so ineligible to receive a grant.

[§ Minn 216C.377 Subd. 5. \(a\):](#)

“(a) A grant may be awarded to a local unit of government under this section” and a local unit of government is defined as ([§ Minn 216C.377 Subd. 1. \(d\)](#)):

“(1) a county, statutory or home rule charter city, town, or other local government jurisdiction, excluding a school district eligible to receive financial assistance under section 216C.375; or

(2) a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Minnesota.”

**10. Is a public building that currently has a Community Solar Garden subscription eligible for the state grant for solar arrays?**

A local unit of government (LUG) would not be prohibited from receiving a grant because the building has a Community Solar Garden (CSG) subscription. The LUG would need to size the onsite system so as to ensure that between the onsite solar and the CSG subscription they do not exceed 120% of their average annual load, but that would be the only limitation ([Minn. Stat. § 216C.377 Subd 5.](#)).

**11. Can you clarify the interpretation of public buildings needing to be owned ‘and operated’ by the local unit of government?**

As [Minn. Stat. § 216C.377 Subd. 6](#) states that a Local Unit of Government’s (LUG) grant application must include “a copy of the proposed contract between the local unit of government and the utility or developer that includes provisions addressing responsibility for maintenance, removal, and disposal of the solar energy generating system...” the statute presumes the utility account/bills must be in the name of the LUG. Additionally operating the public building involves some management of the building. If the LUG owns the building, is involved in its management, and owns the electric utility account, it is eligible for this grant.

**12. If the local unit of government assumes ownership of the electric utility account and commits to paying the electric bill going forward, will the building then be considered ‘operated by’ the local unit of government?**

An applicant may submit a signed commitment in writing to assume and pay the electric utility bill of a building going forward as evidence that the applicant operates the building.

**13. If the city has two buildings that are adjoined (for example, a fire department attached to a public works building), do they qualify for two separate grants? Does eligibility of each building differ if they have the same/different addresses, or the same/different electric meters?**

To qualify as separate buildings each eligible for a SPB grant, the buildings must have separate addresses and electric utility meters.

**14. Would it be allowed to submit one 40kW application, that would place small solar systems on multiple sites across the community? (e.g. multiple small park buildings)**

No, one application may not apply to multiple buildings, if the buildings have separate addresses and separate electric utility meters. However, a local unit of government can submit multiple applications and be awarded multiple grants for multiple buildings.

**15. Does this grant program include churches?**

No. Only local governments and Tribal Nations are eligible for this program.

**16. If communities are participating in other utility programs, for example B3 benchmarking, or community solar, are they still eligible?**

There is an issue for community solar garden (CSG) subscriptions. If a building has a CSG subscription, the combined energy generation of the subscription and the solar array must be no more than a total of 120% of the building's energy usage or less. This means if 50% of the building's energy use is covered in the subscription, Solar on Public Buildings could be used to build an array of 70% of the energy use or less. Some local governments have been able to reallocate CSG subscriptions to other buildings to free up that eligible production of 120% of energy usage for the solar array.

**17. Say a city receives a grant in Round 1 for a 40kW installation on city hall, but their city hall still has space and capacity to support another 40kW array. Would they in the future, following the installation, be able to install that additional capacity, or would there be anything preventing this?**

[§ Minn 216C.377 Subd 5](#): (a) A grant may be awarded to a local unit of government under this section only if the solar energy generating system that is the subject of the grant:

- (2) has a capacity that does not exceed the lesser of 40 kilowatts or 120 percent of the average annual electricity consumption, measured over the most recent three calendar years, of the public building at which the solar energy generating system is installed.

Larger systems are not eligible for this grant. Nothing in the statute limits a possible future expansion of the array after the initial installation, but it would not be eligible for an additional grant if the system size exceeds 40 kilowatts or 120 percent of the average annual electricity consumption of the building.

**18. If the energy of the building is greater than 60 kW total, are they eligible for the grant (even though it is greater than 40 kW)?**

While the maximum size of the array is the lesser of 40kW system capacity or 120% of the building's annual energy consumption, it is not required that the energy generation of the array cover the entire energy need of the building.

**19. Do charter schools qualify?**

To be eligible for the Solar on Public Buildings grant program, the building must be owned and operated by the local unit of government or Tribal Nation, and that local government or Tribal Nation which owns and operates the building must be the applicant for the grant. At a minimum, we expect that this would require a local government or Tribal Nation to pay the building’s electric utility bill and have some oversight over the management of the facility.

**20. If we already received a MPCA Local Climate Action grant for this same project. Would that prohibit us from applying for this MN SPB opportunity?**

Having received other grant funding for the same project does not prohibit an entity from applying for the Minnesota Statewide Solar on Public Buildings program. Funding from the Solar on Public Buildings grant, Direct Pay tax credits, and any other grant funding for this project may not exceed 100% of the cost of the purchase and installation of the solar energy generating system.

**21. We have a lease-to-own agreement with the city on our building, and we will own it in July 2026. We are also considered a local unit of government. Currently, the city owns the building, but we manage and operate the building and pay the bills. We will soon both own and operate the building, but it's currently split between two different local units of government. If we are eligible, would the city be the applicant, or our organization be the applicant?**

For specific eligibility questions, we will work directly with local units of government and Tribal Nations via email.

**22. Our building has multiple uses (Fire Station, Public Works) but one meter. Could we install two 40 kW systems and apply to the grant for each system? Would they be eligible if they were on separate meters?**

No. To qualify as separate buildings each eligible for a SPB grant, the buildings must have separate addresses and electric utility meters. The maximum system size per meter is 40 kW.

**23. If a city has two different functions in the same connected building but they operate on different meters but share the same address can they apply for solar for both locations or just one? The FAQs say AND, so am I to understand that they can only apply for one solar project?**

Correct, this scenario would constitute one Solar on Public Buildings project. The reading of the FAQ is correct: “To qualify as separate buildings each eligible for a SPB grant, the buildings must have separate addresses and electric utility meters.”

## B. Eligible Expenses

**1. How far in the process can a project be and still be eligible for the grant?**

The Minnesota Department of Commerce cannot be billed for any work that happens before the grant is awarded and the contract is signed.

**2. Can any matching requirement to be met by city funds be spent on construction? For example, could allocated dollars to replace components of a roof or the entire roof be used as a match for the array?**

The grants will be awarded as a percentage of the cost of the solar energy system. The local unit of government will be required to show a plan for financing the rest of the project. This can be a combination of federal tax credits, other grants, or other financing options. Eligible expenses for these grant dollars are limited to the procurement and installation of a solar array.

**3. If a local government already has solar but the system needs repair, would they be eligible for the repair costs? Or is it just new systems?**

Repairs for existing solar are not eligible for this grant award. The Solar on Public Buildings grant program's purpose is ([§ Minn 216C.377 Subd 2.](#)) "to provide grants to stimulate the installation of solar energy generating systems on public buildings."

**4. Some smaller governments may not have the staffing to oversee a rooftop solar project, but may be willing to lease their rooftops and develop a contract with a vendor for solar. Would these solar grants still be allowed for use as long as the array is still on top of a local government owned building?**

Yes, this model is eligible for awards. Local governments will be required to show an assessment of anticipated energy and cost savings and should demonstrate a financial benefit to the local unit of government.

**5. Can this grant be used to build solar that will be connected to a battery storage system?**

Yes, this grant can be used to build a solar array that will be connected to a battery storage system, as long as it meets the eligibility criteria in [Minn. Stat. § 216C.377 Subd 5](#). This grant can only be used for the solar array, not for battery storage systems. Information on battery storage grants can be found on the [Department of Commerce Website](#).

**6. Can the Solar on Public Buildings Grant help cover the cost of roof alterations (membrane repairs, structural retrofits, sloping orientation, etc) that are often necessary to make a roof compatible with a solar array?**

The grants will be awarded as a percentage of the cost of installing a solar energy system, and the cost of roof alterations are not eligible costs for this grant.

**7. Would this grant cover costs for building structures (ex. Solar Covered surface parking lots?)**

Eligible expenses from the Solar on Public Buildings grants only include the procurement and installation of solar arrays.

## C. Solar Array Requirements

### 1. Is there a minimum array size?

No.

### 2. If the site gets a larger array than 40 kW can the grant just apply to the first 40 kW?

No. [§ Minn 216C.377 Subd 5:](#)

(a) A grant may be awarded to a local unit of government under this section only if the solar energy generating system that is the subject of the grant:

(2) has a capacity that does not exceed the lesser of 40 kilowatts or 120 percent of the average annual electricity consumption, measured over the most recent three calendar years, of the public building at which the solar energy generating system is installed.

### 3. Is the 40 kW the rated or actual use capacity (AC or DC)?

An eligible system has a capacity that does not exceed the lesser of 40 kilowatts [AC] or 120 percent of the average annual electricity consumption, measured over the most recent three calendar years, of the public building at which the solar energy generating system is installed.

### 4. Do panels need to be roof mounted or can they be ground mounted?

The solar panels must be built on or adjacent to the public building receiving the power. Roof or ground mounted are both acceptable.

### 5. Are there any exceptions to the 40 kWac limit for projects that are receiving state funds and obligated to maximize onsite solar (requiring arrays larger than 40 kWac)?

No. [Minn. Stat. § 216C.377 Subd. 5](#) states that an eligible system “has a capacity that does not exceed the lesser of 40 kilowatts or 120 percent of the average annual electricity consumption,” and does not provide for exceptions.

### 6. The city is considering the airport as a location. Can a glare study be incorporated into the project cost?

“The purpose of the program is to provide grants to stimulate the installation of solar energy generating systems on public buildings” ([Minn. Stat. § 216C.377 Subd 2.](#)). A glare study would not be considered an eligible cost in the installation of a solar energy generating system.

### 7. If the system has a 50 kW AC inverter nameplate but the inverter has an export limit of 40 kW AC, would that be acceptable?

This is acceptable from a program standpoint, but the applicant should seek confirmation from the utility that this will be acceptable for interconnection.

## D. Utility Questions

### **1. Why is this new round of Solar on Public Buildings only available to buildings within the Xcel service area? The previous round was expanded to statewide, why did it go back to being Xcel-only?**

The original funding for Solar on Public Buildings was limited by state statute to only be spent within Xcel Energy territory. The program was able to expand statewide after it received a second funding allocation that did not have service territory restrictions. The program expended the entirety of the latter funding pool in the statewide round. The only funding still available for the program is the remaining portion of the original Xcel-only allocation.

### **2. My city is served by more than one electric utility. Are we still eligible?**

For the Solar on Public Buildings program, [§ Minn 216C.377 Subd 5.](#), an eligible project is one that: “(1) is installed (i) on or adjacent to a public building that consumes the electricity generated by the solar energy generating system, and (ii) *on property within the service territory of the utility currently providing electric service to the public building*” (emphasis added). In this funding round, the proposed project must be for a building that receives electric service from Xcel Energy.

### **3. Is the local government required to sign an MOU with its electric utility?**

Yes. [§ Minn 216C.377 Subd 6:](#)

(b) A local unit of government must apply to the commissioner on behalf of a public building on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The form must include, at a minimum, the following information:

(6) a written statement from the interconnecting utility that no issues that would prevent interconnection of the solar energy generating system as proposed are foreseen.

Applicants should send the MOU to your Xcel Account Manager or Community Relations Manager, as well as copy [SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com](mailto:SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com). For additional information about the MOU, take a look at Commerce’s tutorials in either [video](#) or [PDF](#) formats.

### **4. Do Renewable Energy Certificates go to the utility or the Local Unit of Government?**

Local units of government will keep the Renewable Energy Certificate under this program.

### **5. Considering the statute’s language around forfeiting net income to the utility, presumably a solar array used as a community solar garden would not be eligible?**

Correct.

[§ Minn 216C.377 Subd. 12](#) “(b) Any net income accruing to a local unit of government as calculated under paragraph (a) must be forfeited to the utility by the local unit of government.

### **6. How long will it take to get the interconnection agreement? We may not be able to have this approved in 12 weeks.**

In the application, a full interconnection agreement is not necessary, but the applicant must submit a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by the electric utility that serves the building, documenting that there are no foreseen issues connecting the solar array to the grid.

### **7. What if my utility is not responsive to our emails?**

Xcel has confirmed that local units of government applying for this grant should submit their MOU to their Utility Account Manager or Community Relations Manager and include [SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com](mailto:SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com) in the email.

If a completed MOU has not been obtained by the time the Applicant submits the Application, Applicants must upload a document explaining the ongoing communications and any concerns with an estimated timeline to obtain the MOU. Grant contracts will not be finalized until a completed MOU has been submitted.

### **8. If the solar array hits the production ceiling of 120% average annual usage, would the extra 20% it overproduces annually need to be nullified or paid back to Xcel every year?**

Yes, the local unit of government is required by statute to forfeit any income accrued as a result of the operation of the solar energy generating system to the utility.

[§ Minn 216C.377 Subd. 12](#) states:

Forfeited income.

- (a) The utility to which a solar energy generating system awarded a grant under this section is interconnected must calculate the amount of net income accruing to the local unit of government annually as a result of the operation of the solar energy generating system, whether in the form of cash payments or electricity bill credits, and report that amount to the local unit of government no later than February 1.
- (b) Any net income accruing to a local unit of government as calculated under paragraph (a) must be forfeited to the utility by the local unit of government.

## **E. Application Questions**

### **1. Can any of the organizations that got funding from State Competitiveness Fund to support grant writing help folks write the grants?**

No. The State Competitiveness Fund is intended to support applicants applying for federal grants.

### **2. For new construction buildings without 3 years of energy data, how is that handled for the pre-application/readiness assessment stage?**

The local unit of government will be required to provide an estimate of energy use in the new building.

### **3. Can we show intent and apply now if we do not have funds available until later?**

Projects will have a required completion date of 18 months after the contract is signed, with the potential for a six-month extension. If the project is completed within that time, and the local government has submitted a financing plan, applications done this year for project completion the following year are eligible.

#### **4. How will my application be scored? What can I do to make sure my project is selected?**

In the event that grant funding is insufficient to meet all grant funding requests, a priority system will be established. Priority will be determined based on the points awarded across four categories: self-prioritization if the applicant submits more than one application (or secured funding in a prior round), completing a pre-application consultation, following procurement best practices, and financial capacity. A maximum number of 100 points may be awarded per application. Applicants with a greater number of points will be given higher priority. If a queue is instated, Applicants will be notified by the Department with updates and further instructions on expectations and potential grant award delays. See *Section X. Application Review Process* of the Round 5 RFP for more information.

#### **5. If a city has two PPA [power-purchase agreement] arrays on existing buildings do these count towards the 'existing solar' that they should report in the grant.**

Any solar arrays on buildings owned and operated by the applicant should be included. The two PPA arrays should be counted toward the 'existing solar' the applicant should report in the application.

#### **6. For the application question which asks for a recent electric bill for the installation site, my copy includes all of the required information except for the electric meter number. Are you able to advise on whether this will prove satisfactory, or should I contact the electric utility and request they generate a new bill that includes the meter number in addition to the other required information?**

If you are able to obtain a copy of the bill or other documentation which includes the meter number, that would be best to include in the application. If you are unable to obtain this documentation before submitting your application, we will work with you to obtain the information needed prior to finalization of any grant contract.

## **F. Procurement Requirements**

### **1. Is there a procurement requirement for selecting a developer?**

Yes. In the RFP notice on [Request for Proposals \(RFP\) / Minnesota Department of Commerce - Business](#), in Exhibit A: Sample State of Minnesota Grant Contract for Solar on Public Building. It is Clause 6 Contracting and Bidding Requirements. Clause 6 alludes to grantees following the law in their procurement. There are no specific requirements outside of this for Solar on Public Buildings.

### **2. Could this be a part of a performance contract. 471.345 sub 13?**

Yes. If it meets the requirements of a 'guaranteed energy performance contract' in the statute then [§ Minn. Stat. 471.345 Subd. 13](#) is applicable. The applicant will be required to provide documentation to the Department of Commerce that the contract meets all requirements detailed in statute.

**3. The state has a CPV contract S-1049(5) Solar Power System Design and Installation. Could that be used for this grant?**

Yes, this is an option for local governments to procure solar installation. If utilizing this option, a local unit of government can submit an RFP through the State Master Contract with the Minnesota Management and Budget Office and that will meet the criteria for attaining the procurement points for releasing an RFP. All the developers on that contract will receive the RFP from the local unit of government.

**4. Can we hire multiple vendors to complete different aspects of the project?**

Applicants may only submit one proposed vendor contract with their application. If the applicant believes that a second vendor is needed for the project and wishes for Commerce to consider those costs for reimbursement, the second vendor will need to be included as a subcontractor as part of the primary vendor's proposed contract. The only approved uses of funds are for the purchase and installation of the eligible system. Commerce will not reimburse applicant costs for completing the application, including costs for project planning and vendor selection.

## G. Grant Payment Details

**1. Are funds provided up front or reimbursed after spending?**

State grants are reimbursements of funds spent by the entity receiving the grant.

**2. How long after you apply for a reimbursable cost do you get paid?**

Within 30 days of submitting the invoice. Please see [§ Minn. Stat. 16A.124 Subd. 3 and 4](#).

**3. Can the federal tax credit be applied on top of the grant fund dollars?**

Yes. The applicant could receive up to 70% from the state, and a 30% Federal tax credit, covering up to 100% of the cost.

**4. How do you use both Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Solar on Public Buildings state grant? Is it 30% (IRA) first and then possibly 50% of the remaining amount of the project cost? Or 30% and 50% of the total project cost.**

The awarded applicant will receive the state grant as a reimbursement. After it's built, the local government can apply for Federal tax credits (made available to local governments via Elective Pay in the Inflation Reduction Act) on the entire project. For example, a local government could receive a grant of 70% of the project cost. Then the Federal Tax Credit could provide 30% on the whole project cost, not 30% on the last 30%. In this case, a grant recipient could have up to 100% of the cost covered by the state grant and federal tax credits.

For questions regarding the federal direct pay tax credit, please reach out to our Technical Assistance partners at Deloitte:

Website: [State of Minnesota Deloitte Direct Pay Assistance Survey](#)

Email: [StateofMNIRATaxComplianceSupport@deloitte.com](mailto:StateofMNIRATaxComplianceSupport@deloitte.com)

#### **5. Is a match required?**

Grants will be awarded based on the financial capacity of the local unit of government. The proposed range of awards is 30-70% of the project cost. The local unit of government will be responsible for financing the remainder of the cost – whether through tax credits, other grants, or other financing options.

#### **6. Do you have any additional insights on what the grant reimbursement process will look like?**

Reimbursement requires supporting documentation to substantiate the expenses. Supporting documentation includes itemized invoices that have been paid, copy of checks paid to an installer, or other proof of purchase that has been paid.

### H. Technical Assistance

#### **1. Do you have contact information for Clean Energy Resource Teams?**

To set up a free consultation with a Clean Energy Resource Teams member, contact:

- 11-County Metro Area: Aaron Backs ([abacks@gpisd.net](mailto:abacks@gpisd.net))
- Outside of Metro Area: Peter Lindstrom ([plindstr@umn.edu](mailto:plindstr@umn.edu))

#### **2. We have buildings that are subscribed to community solar but have undergone an expansion project since that time. Would the available assistance be able to help determine additional potential for rooftop solar through this program that is not currently covered by community solar?**

Yes. We are providing free consultation through our partner Clean Energy Resource Teams, who can help assess eligibility of the building(s) for these grants. Contact Peter Lindstrom to set up a consultation ([plindstr@umn.edu](mailto:plindstr@umn.edu)).

### I. Future Program Questions

#### **1. What will be the funding amounts available in future years?**

No future application rounds are anticipated at this time.

### J. Other Questions

#### **1. Was the webinar recorded? And will it be available later?**

No. The webinar will not be recorded, but webinar slides will be made available on the [Solar on Public Buildings webpage](#).

**2. The local government doesn't get Xcel Solar\*Rewards, correct?**

Correct.

**3. If an agency is not awarded the full grant amount (based on tax capacity), and the project is no longer financially feasible with the lower grant amount, can the agency withdraw their project from consideration? Would there be any penalty or consequences for future applications?**

In this scenario, a local government could withdraw the project from consideration without any penalty or consequences for future applications.

**4. Is there a clawback provision in the grant in the unlikely scenario that the facility is sold or torn down in a decade or so?**

In order to maximize the benefit of public investments in clean energy, Commerce discourages the installation of these solar arrays on buildings that may be sold or torn down. Commerce may look into projects that do not maximize the lifetime financial and clean energy benefits of a solar array.

**5. Are there going to be ongoing reporting requirements after the project is commissioned?**

Yes. There will be an Annual Check-In form required from grant recipients throughout the system's lifetime.

**6. Are there any long-term ownership requirements for the properties improved through this program?**

There are no long-term ownership requirements for the properties improved through the Solar on Public Buildings program. However, as part of the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar on Public Buildings program, under the terms of the State of Minnesota Grant Contract, Task 2 Grantee's Duties, Exhibit A denotes Grantee and/or Developer responsibility for tracking and recycling all System equipment that ceases to function as intended (for any reason), including counts of module and inverter type. This must be reported on an annual basis, by March 31 for the previous calendar year, to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Per the terms of Exhibit A, Grantee Duties, Task 6, reporting is required for projects (6.1) at system level work order execution, (6.2) throughout an operations and maintenance contract, (6.3) while system components are under warranty, (6.4) throughout a third-party ownership contract, and (6.5) at the system's end of life decommissioning. This applies to all Grantees under the Department's Solar on Public Buildings Program.

**7. Are there certifications from the local unit of government about agreeing to own and operate the building for the life (?) of the solar improvement?**

There are no certifications from the local unit of government about agreeing to own and operate the building for the life of the solar improvement required. However, as part of the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar on Public Buildings program, under the terms of the State of Minnesota Grant Contract, Task 2 Grantee's Duties, Exhibit A denotes Grantee and/or Developer responsibility for tracking

and recycling all System equipment that ceases to function as intended (for any reason), including counts of module and inverter type. This must be reported on an annual basis, by March 31 for the previous calendar year, to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Per the terms of Exhibit A, Grantee Duties, Task 6, reporting is required for projects (6.1) at system level work order execution, (6.2) throughout an operations and maintenance contract, (6.3) while system components are under warranty, (6.4) throughout a third-party ownership contract, and (6.5) at the system's end of life decommissioning. This applies to all Grantees under the Department's Solar on Public Buildings Program.

**8. Can Commerce extend the application deadline past June 30? Two months is not very much time to select a project site, put a project out for RFP, select an installer, and submit an application.**

No. [§ Minn 216C.377 Subd. 10](#) requires that applications be submitted by June 30, 2026. Commerce recognizes that applicants may face challenges in assembling all application materials by the deadline. After the close of the application period, Commerce will review all applications for completeness. If necessary, Commerce will reach out to applicants to ask clarification questions about their submitted materials.