



Hawai'i Energy

The EmPOWER Hawai'i Project

Equipping local nonprofits with tools to reduce their operating costs.

About the Program

Nonprofits in Hawai'i address community needs in many market sectors, from food sustainability to childcare. Many have limited budgets and struggle with high operating costs that affect their ability to provide high-quality services. Hawai'i Energy has found that this situation often creates pressure to reduce costs quickly and when combined with limited knowledge of energy-saving options, many nonprofit decision-makers often do not consider energy efficiency as a viable option, when it is often a crucial, foundational step. Now more than ever, in light of the current pandemic and economic hardships that so many nonprofits are facing, Hawai'i Energy wants to be available as an ally to the nonprofit community.

How it Works

Hawai'i Energy will select up to ten (10) qualified organizations to participate in this year's cohort. Upon selection, Hawai'i Energy will work with participants to identify opportunities for energy-saving projects and take you through the steps of executing a project from start to finish. You'll receive technical assistance from us and connections to contractors – all while learning the benefits of energy efficiency and tips & tricks to use in years to come. Trainings are conducted in a group, where your team will learn and share experiences with participants from other organizations. We will start the program by conducting trainings remotely rather than in-person. As the cohort continues, we can re-evaluate in order to ensure safety for all participants

Who Is Eligible?

Participating organizations must:

- Possess tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status.
- Have the authority to make capital improvements at their facility, or in best cases, own the facility.
- Be in operation for at least 3 years.
- Demonstrate ability to provide high-quality services and community impact
- Designate two (2) "champions" at your organization to serve as points of contact throughout the program, attend sessions, and keep the rest of your team updated as needed throughout the project.
- Be willing to commit at least 20 hours of time over the next year to attending sessions, accompanying Hawai'i Energy staff and contractors remotely and for site visits and making arrangements/decisions with Hawai'i Energy contractors.

While it is not a mandatory criteria point, preference may be given to organizations that have never participated with or received a rebate from Hawai'i Energy before.

Program Schedule*

The program will take place over approximately 10-12 months from application to project completion.

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| October | Application period opens |
| Late November | Announcement of selected organizations Hawai'i Energy initial program survey |
| December | <u>Session #1:</u> <i>Introductions, Understanding your Bill, Efficiency. Renewable Energy</i> <i>Hawaii Energy Website Tour – offerings, CEA's, etc.</i> |
| February | <u>Session #2:</u> <i>Understanding Your Data, Contractor 101</i> Contractor site visits and proposal submissions to follow |
| April | <u>Session #3:</u> <i>Reviewing Your Proposals and Pitching to Leadership</i> |
| May | Contractor Handoff – Nonprofits work directly to schedule & complete on-site installation work. |
| July | <u>Session #4:</u> <i>Project Updates & Check-in, Encouraging Efficiency in your facility</i> |
| September/October | Project completion (expected) |
| October | <u>Final Session:</u> <i>Wrap-up and Graduation</i> |
| October – November | Hawai'i Energy post-project inspections and bill analysis |

**schedule may change slightly base on project and participant needs*

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Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there a cap on the number of organizations who can participate?

Hawai'i Energy tries our best to accommodate as many organizations as possible with the limited resources we have to provide this tailored form of support. It is our hope that we will be able to allocate more funding towards this program in future years and accommodate more organizations

Is this available for nonprofits on neighbor islands?

New for our 2021 cohort! We will be expanding our EmPOWER program this year to include participants in the City and County of Honolulu, The County of Hawai'i, and the County of Maui.

What will this cost our organization?

Participation in the cohort itself and the technical assistance that you will receive are free. Your project costs will vary depending on your facility size and needs, but our goal is to keep the

costs to your organization as low as possible. Hawai'i Energy will work with your facility to identify the most cost-effective options for you, factoring in contractor costs and how much money you can expect to see in savings each month. Hawai'i Energy will also incentivize contractors to keep their proposal amounts as low as possible, and we have seen in some cases that they opt to provide the retrofits for customers for free. It will be up to you as an organization to review each contractor's proposal and make the best choice.

How much can our organization expect to save in energy costs?

We cannot guarantee an amount, but we typically see reductions of 10-30% with projects depending on the size of your facility, the run time of your equipment, and the measures that are selected along with the fluctuating price of electricity.

Are workshops mandatory? What if I cannot make a workshop?

Workshops are a mandatory piece of your commitment to the program. We ask that at least one of your representatives is present at each workshop. If you are unable to make a workshop, kindly let us know in advance.

What if my facility is run by a volunteer?

We understand that many organizations do not have a paid facility manager on staff, and we are committed to working with your volunteer(s) to arrange meetings at times convenient for them. We do ask, however, that your volunteer(s) inform us of the best way to contact them and make every effort to adhere to the milestones outlined in the program schedule.

I am worried that I may not be able to get approval for this project from our leadership team or Board of Directors. Will you be able to help us?

Yes! A key piece of our consultation with you throughout the year is to help you get to "yes" with whoever needs to sign off on this project. Please let us know if you would like us to provide specific data, meet with your Board members or other ways we can support you.

Please contact us if your question isn't here: gkunkel@veic.org