



PA RISE SMALL-SCALE AWARD TRACK (SAT) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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Useful Emails:

- PennTAP’s RISE PA Team: penntap_risepa@psu.edu
- InfoReady Platform Support: psu-infoready@psu.edu
- Penn State Supplier Support: psusuppliers@psu.edu



Useful Links:

- PennTAP’s RISE PA Website – RISE PA SAT Grant Guidelines PDF
 - <https://penntap.psu.edu/grants-and-rebates/rise-pa/>
- Catalyst Connection’s RISE PA Website – RISE PA Technical Assistance
 - <https://www.wemakeithere.org/rise-pa/>
- RISE PA SAT Application on InfoReady (Search for ‘RISE’)
 - <https://psu.infoready4.com/#homePage>
- EPA’s Simplified Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator
 - <https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/simplified-ghg-emissions-calculator>
- Penn State Supplier Registration
 - <https://procurement.psu.edu/become-supplier>
- Reference “How to find your Supplier Number”
 - <https://help.paymentworks.com/knowledge-base/how-to-find-your-vendor-number>
- Unique Entity ID (UEI) Registration
 - <https://sam.gov/>
- Prevailing Wage:
 - <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/resources/compliance-laws-and-regulations/labor-management-relations/labor-law/prevailing-wage.html>
- PA DEP’s RISE PA Website
 - <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/energy-programs-office/rise-pa.html>
- RISE PA Community Benefits Bonus Mapping Tool Guidance
 - https://files.dep.state.pa.us/Energy/OfficeofPollutionPrevention/RISE_PA/Community_Benefits_Bonus_PennEnviroScreen_Instructions.pdf
- Forms for SAT Application – Applicants will need to search for the RISE PA SAT application to locate these forms. (Search for ‘RISE’).
 - Detailed Budget (required): <https://psu.infoready4.com/#homePage>
 - Landowner Consent Form (as applicable): <https://psu.infoready4.com/#homePage>
 - Fair Labor Bonus Form (as applicable): <https://psu.infoready4.com/#homePage>



Questions about the Grant Program

Q: What is RISE PA?

A: RISE PA is \$396 million statewide industrial decarbonization grant program that will award up to \$360 million to substantially reduce greenhouse gas and co-pollutant emissions by funding small-, medium-, and large-scale decarbonization projects at industrial facilities across the Commonwealth.

Q: What is the Small-scale Award Track (SAT)

A: The Small-scale Award Track (SAT) is one of three programs within RISE PA. This funding supports Small- or Medium-sized Manufacturers (SMMs). PennTAP is the administrator of the RISE PA SAT implementation grant program and has been funded to support a percentage of the Technical Assessment Reports. In addition to PennTAP, [Catalyst Connection](#) is a partner of RISE PA SAT. Catalyst Connection is serving SMMs across the state by providing education, outreach, and has also been funded to support a percentage of the required Technical Assessment Reports.

The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#). Updates may be made to the guidance document prior to the opening of each funding round. Applicants need to follow the most recent guidance revision.

Questions about Applicant Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to apply for Small-scale Award Track (SAT) RISE PA grants?

A1: Eligible applicants include Small- or Medium-sized Manufacturers (SMMs), with 500 or fewer full-time employees at the applicant plant site. Manufacturing is defined as an entity that engages in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products, assembled goods or assembled component parts of manufactured products, like-new rebuilt goods.

A2: The total project costs (TPC) must be \$1M or less to be a SAT project. A project with a total cost of over \$1M is not eligible to apply.

A3: Manufacturing facilities located within Pennsylvania (PA). If a company is headquartered outside of Pennsylvania but has a manufacturing facility or facilities located in PA, the PA locations would be eligible to apply.

Q: If a project cost is above \$1M, can the project still apply under the small-scale program? For instance, if the eligible Total Project Cost (TPC) for a project were \$2M, would a participant just submit the maximum cost of \$1M and therefore be eligible for a grant up to \$500k?

A: No. One of the requirements for the Small-scale Award Track (SAT) is that all eligible project costs are to be between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000 per project.



Q: Can projects that qualify for Act 129 or other applicable utility incentive programs also apply to RISE PA?

A: A project could include Act 129 or utility rebate program funding as part of the capital stack for meeting the cost share requirement if the funding has already been secured. The Applicant must include documentation with their application that shows that funding has been approved and the value of this funding.

Q: Can a company with more than one location in Pennsylvania apply for a grant for all its locations?

A: Each location must submit their own application to make baseline data easier to collect from 'each' site and to keep the paperwork clean for the project measurement and verification and for reimbursement. A single facility may submit one application per funding round.

Q: How does a company factor its employee count?

A: For the SAT program - the location must have 500 full-time employees or less. We are not adding up the total number of employees across a company's multiple locations to reach 500. If Site A has 250 employees and Site B has 600 employees, only Site A has met the metric to apply for SAT funding.

Q: Are part-time, remote, or contracted employees considered when determining whether a facility can qualify for the SAT?

A: No.

Q: Can an energy-as-a-service or sustainability-as-a-service company apply on behalf of a Manufacturing Facility seeking RISE PA SAT funding?

A: As of September 2025, Energy-as-a-Service or Sustainability-as-a-Service companies may *not* submit an application on behalf of a Manufacturing Facility. Qualified third parties (see Appendix E of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance document) may support applicants in completing the technical assessment report. Applicants should contact the PennTAP RISE PA team for questions about completing the RISE PA SAT grant application.

Q: What does a Property Manager need to do to apply on behalf of their manufacturing facility?

A: Property Managers must include an Application-by-Proxy letter with the application. The letter must include authorization from the Manufacturing Facility's senior leadership allowing the Property Manager to complete the RISE PA SAT application on their behalf. This letter must include the UEI number assigned to the Manufacturer Facility. This letter must also acknowledge that the Manufacturing Facility is responsible for MMV activities for 13 months following the implementation of the proposed project. The RISE PA SAT program may only award funds to a manufacturing facility.



Q: Who qualifies as “Senior Leadership” for SMM facilities?

A: Senior leadership is defined as upper management positions such as, but not limited to, CEO, President, Vice President, General Manager, CTO, CFO or Department Head.

Q: Have there been any common conversations that the PA RISE SAT Team has had with interested facilities:

A1: ‘Can a natural gas metering and regulating station be eligible for the SAT?’ No, this type of facility would be considered power generation vs. manufacturing. The SAT program does not support grid resiliency projects.

A2: ‘Will a mining facility/quarry facility be eligible for the SAT?’ Yes. Extracting the raw materials and processing them to create a saleable good is manufacturing.

Questions about Eligible Projects

Q: What types of projects are eligible for funding?

A1: Eligible projects must involve technologies such as electrification, energy efficiency, industrial process emissions reductions, fugitive emissions reductions, fuel-switching to low-carbon fuels, on-site renewable energy generation, and carbon capture, utilization, and storage. Refer to Section 4.2 of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document for a detailed description. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP’s RISE PA SAT website](#).

A2: Other technology not explicitly listed that reduces industrial GHG emissions may also be eligible as determined by RISE PA.

Q: Are there any ineligible projects?

A1: Projects required for compliance with federal, state, or local laws, those receiving funding under the IRS’s Advanced Energy Project Credit Allocation Program, or those involving well plugging are ineligible. Refer to Section 4.3 of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP’s RISE PA SAT website](#).

A2: Used or refurbished equipment is not eligible for grant funding. Equipment must be new and support decarbonization of the manufacturing process and/or facility, within the defined boundary.

A3: Product development projects, grid resiliency projects, and projects focused on Scope 3 emissions reductions are outside the scope of the RISE PA SAT grant program.

A4. Projects involving power purchasing agreements are not eligible for the RISE PA SAT grant program.

A5. Projects involving equipment that has already been shipped to the manufacturer or has been purchased outside of a properly documented down payment, as noted in the RISE PA SAT Guidance document, Section 4.4.



A6: Projects with construction already started prior receiving written permission from the PennTAP RISE PA Team. This is provided AFTER the successful completion of the Administrative Review of the application.

A7: Projects that are oversized beyond current operations or for planned future growth (e.g., solar projects oversized for current energy consumption).

Q: Can the 20% facility-wide emissions reduction requirement apply to a single facility not including all the facilities within the site's entire footprint?

A1: SAT projects are not limited by a GHG reduction requirement. The 20% emissions reduction requirement only applies to Medium- and Large-Scale Award Track (MAT/LAT) projects.

A2: The SAT is a competitive grant project. Funding is not guaranteed to the applicants. SAT Applicants will compete against each other within the Total Project Cost Tier they are assigned.

A3: The Applicant must define the boundaries of the Manufacturing Facility and account for the Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions within the identified boundary regardless of source. We recommend using the Manufacturing Facility's address to define the boundary.

A4: If an Applicant has more than one building within the footprint of their property, the boundaries of the Manufacturing Facility can include single, multiple, or all the buildings within the footprint of the property. This should be well described in the application to reduce confusion during application review.

Q: Can a company have more than one type of project in their application?

A: A location can have more than one project in their one SAT application (i.e., lighting and HVAC in the same application) if the total eligible project costs are \$1M or less. If the total project cost is over \$1M, the applicant can break it into two different applications and pace the applications across two different rounds. In this case, each individual project must independently function and reduce GHG emissions - meeting the intent of this program. An applicant can only receive up to \$500,000 in base grant funds per round. Pushing a project out to a future round may be advantageous - applicants can apply every round. Funding in future rounds is not guaranteed.

Q: Can a company split their projects into separate MAT and SAT applications if one project is greater than \$1M and the other is less?

A: A company can submit two separate applications if their projects are unrelated systems (for instance solar in the MAT category vs. new energy efficient gas boiler in the SAT category). If the two projects are related (for instance solar and new electrical upgrades to support the solar installation) then these would need to be submitted within the same application.

Q: Is labor an eligible cost?

A: If labor is needed to implement the project, then it would be regarded as an eligible cost and should be included in the itemized project quote. Please note that Prevailing Wage applies under



Davis Bacon and Related Acts on the construction of the project; Refer to the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance for additional context.

Q: Are there any risks that are disqualifying to a project or award?

A1: Starting a project, such as removing existing equipment or installing new equipment before a grant application is awarded, would make the project ineligible for RISE PA SAT program participation. Applicants may pay a down payment to secure equipment, as noted in the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance document, Section 4.4. Applicants may move forward with their project after receiving written permission from the RISE PA SAT program. If eligible, the written permission will be sent after a successful Administrative Review has been completed for a submitted project application (within 30 days of application submission). Please contact the PennTAP RISE PA team (PennTAP_RISEPA@psu.edu) if you have questions about beginning your project prior to applying for or receiving a RISE PA SAT award.

A2: If a project moves forward after receiving the written permission from the RISE PA SAT program but then finds out that the project will not receive a subaward agreement. This project is ineligible to apply in a new funding round.

A3: If the applicant makes significant changes to their project scope after they were approved under the original scope.

A4: If an applicant does not submit the required progress reports to identify the project as complete and/or the MMV savings.

A5: If an applicant has any compliance issues with local, state, or federal requirements.

A6: Not submitting the required documentation within the application.

A7: If an applicant defines their RISE PA project boundary to include both manufacturing buildings and non-manufacturing building(s), the non-manufacturing buildings may be ineligible if their operations are standalone from the manufacturing processes. Please contact the PennTAP RISE PA team for questions (PennTAP_RISEPA@psu.edu).

Q: Will making a down payment or signing a financing agreement for new equipment to be installed prior to receiving a subaward make those costs ineligible?

A: No, acquiring a loan or financing your project is not paying for your project. However, if payment for the project is made prior to receiving authorization to incur costs, it will be ineligible for reimbursement.

Down payments may be required to secure equipment prior to a fully executed grant agreement. Only down payments related to project equipment may be eligible for financial reimbursement. *Down payments for services, freight, permits, excavation, supplies, etc., will not be eligible for financial reimbursement.* PennTAP will accept documentation for down payments made for equipment after



the date of October 1, 2024. The payment invoice must indicate that this is a down payment for equipment.

Q: Can a project be oversized beyond current operations or for planned future growth (e.g., solar)?

A: No.

Questions about the Application Process

Q: How do I apply for a RISE PA grant?

A: RISE PA SAT applications must be submitted through the Penn State InfoReady Application Portal: <https://psu.infoready4.com/#homePage>.

Q: Can I submit multiple applications?

A1: In a single application round, applicants are to submit one complete application.

A2: If the applicant has different locations, then each location must submit their own application.

Q: Can I submit one application for different projects at multiple locations?

No. An applicant would need to submit a separate application for each location.

Q: What information is required in the application?

At minimum, an applicant is required to submit the following attachments for a complete application:

- Twelve consecutive months of all eligible site's utility bills (not including cable/internet).
- A Technical Assessment Report as defined in the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document. This assessment can be performed by PennTAP or another Qualified Assessor.
- All relevant project quotes. **Quotes must be itemized** so that eligible and ineligible costs are easily identified (see the [itemized quote reference guide](#)).
- A complete budget template itemizing the eligible project expenses (see the [budget form instructions](#) and [budget form](#)).
- Equipment specification sheets, brochures, and any technical design and engineering documentation as applicable to the project.
- Letter(s) that documents the financial commitment of the facility and source of funds for the total cost of the project (internal business capital, financing, or other funding mechanisms, such as other grant programs) prior to reimbursement.
- EPA's Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator for requesting site's GHG Baseline emissions.
- EPA's Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator for requesting site's GHG project emissions savings.



As a best practice, please highlight the information on any specification sheets and/or project documentation to indicate where the relevant information is listed on the reference(s). This will aid in the review process and ensure information is not missed.

You may need the following attachments:

- Content related to the Community Benefits Bonus and/or Fair Labor Bonus, if you choose to apply for these bonuses.
- The facility’s lease agreement and Landowner Consent Form if the facility or land is rented.
- A letter from the Manufacturing Facility’s leadership authorizing a Property Manager to complete an application on their behalf if a Property Manager completes the application. This letter must include the UEI number assigned to the manufacturer and acknowledge that the Manufacturing Facility is responsible for the required MMV reporting for a project completed by a property manager. Funds may only be awarded to the manufacturing facility.
- A Technical Assessment Letter as an addendum to the Technical Assessment Report, if the Technical Assessment Report is out-of-date and requires an updated utility bill analysis.

All applications will be reviewed collectively within their SAT funding tier after the close of the grant round. Refer to Section 2.1 of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document for more context. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP’s RISE PA SAT website](#).

Note: The Manufacturing Facility will need to acknowledge in the application that they will provide a financial statement for review by Penn State **prior to the execution of any subaward agreement** as part of a Penn State-required financial risk assessment. This process may engage a company’s CFO. This information will not be collected during the application process and is considered confidential business information (CBI).

Q: Can a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) be applied to a RISE PA SAT grant application?

A: No. An NDA cannot be applied to the information included in the grant application per the conditions of the grant.

Q: What are Scope 1 & Scope 2 GHG emissions?

A: Scope 1 Emissions are direct greenhouse (GHG) emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization. Scope 2 Emissions are indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of electricity or steam.

The RISE PA program requires that all Scope 1 and Scope 2 baseline GHG emissions within the defined boundary of the Manufacturing Facility must be estimated. This includes the estimation of Scope 1 and 2 emissions sources that are unrelated to the proposed RISE PA project. The estimation of GHG baseline emissions will allow for a more comprehensive evaluation of GHG emissions reductions over the life of the RISE PA project.

Use [EPA’s Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator](#) to determine Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions.

- Scope 1: Direct Emissions



- Stationary Combustion
- Mobile Combustion
- Fugitive Emissions
- Process Emissions
- Scope 2: Energy-related Indirect Emissions
 - Purchased Electricity
 - Purchased Heat and Steam
- For the purpose of this grant program, please focus on the following areas. Some of these areas may not apply to your defined boundary:
 - Electricity Data
 - Stationary Fuel Data (for all Fuel types)
 - Mobile Fuel Data
 - Refrigeration and AC Data
 - Fire Suppression Data
 - Purchased Gases
 - Purchased Steam
- Use Location-Based Emissions for this grant program.
- Scope 3 GHG Emissions and offset options that are outside the defined boundary (such as purchased carbon credits) are not part of this grant program.

Q: What if I do not have a UEI or Penn State Supplier Number?

A: A valid, active UEI for the manufacturing facility is required for all applications and no decisions will be made on an application until these numbers have been received. The process of requesting a UEI can take several weeks. The applicant must have applied for their UEI prior to submitting the RISE PA SAT application. However, if this has not yet been received by the time of application submission, please note on the application that the UEI has been requested. Once received, please send the UEI to PennTAP_RISEPA@psu.edu.

Property Managers of manufacturing facilities should not register a UEI as part of the application process. Only the manufacturing facility should register for and provide their UEI on the application.

As of January 2026, a current Penn State supplier number is not required at the application stage. Applicants who are awarded the grant will be required to apply for a Penn State supplier number. If the applicant already has a Penn State supplier number, they may enter this in the RISE PA SAT application.

Q: Is there an advantage to applying earlier in this program as opposed to later?

A: No, all applications will be reviewed at the close of the round.

Q: Do I need to identify whether the project will take place in an impacted community area?



A: Yes, starting in Round 2 of the RISE PA SAT program. Applicants will be required to identify whether the proposed project is located in or will benefit an impacted community area. Please see the Additional Resources section of the PennTAP RISE PA website for information about using the DEP [PennEnviroScreen](#) mapping tool to identify tracts located in an impacted community area (PennEnviroScreen final score of 80th percentile or above). Instructions for how to use the mapping tool can be found on the PennTAP RISE PA [webpage](#). Projects located in or benefiting an impacted community area that also submit an approved Community Benefits Plan will be eligible to receive the Community Benefits Bonus, equal to 10% of the total project cost. Technical Assessment Reports should include information about the impacted community status of the project boundary and applicants will also provide this information in the SAT Application.

Q: Do I need a complete project plan in my application? What level of planning is required for my application?

A: PennTAP requests that an applicant provide as much information about the project timeline as is relevant. The Period of Performance is 12 months after an applicant has been notified that they will receive a subaward. PennTAP will evaluate each eligible application in the Technical Review on the risks of the timeline and project scope.

Note that permits and other auxiliary documentation are not included in the Total Project Cost and therefore can be incurred prior to submitting an application. Please share what permits and/or relevant documentation is set or is pending and any additional information related to those timelines.

Q: How do I meet the qualified apprenticeship requirement?

A: The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidelines (see Section 4.2) states that project must ensure that at least 15% of the total labor hours for the construction, alteration, or repair of the project work are performed by qualified apprentices. Additionally, all projects must satisfy the apprentice-to-journeyworker ratio requirement such that each facility, contractor, or subcontractor involved who employ four or more individuals to perform the project's construction must employ one or more qualified apprentices to perform the work. This is in accordance with Commonwealth and federal requirements. Please see the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidelines document for more details.

There are several pathways for meeting this requirement, as well as an option for securing an exemption for qualified projects.

- Facilities or their contractors/subcontractors hired to perform the work can use apprentices from any Registered Apprenticeship Training program.
- Facilities can create an apprenticeship training program with assistance from the [U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Apprenticeship Office](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Apprenticeship & Training Office](#).



- If qualified apprentices or a Registered Apprenticeship Training program is not available for the proposed project, the facility may submit documentation that the on-the-job training provided aligns with existing training programs defined by RISE PA.
- If the training programs described above do not align with the workforce development needs for a project, facilities can develop an alternate training program and include this description for review and approval by the PennTAP RISE PA team. The program must provide a minimum of 1,000 hours of combined on-the-job training and work experience to provide an effective and meaningful training opportunity.
- If an applicant can demonstrate that they have pursued these different pathways and are unable to meet the apprenticeship requirement, the PennTAP RISE PA team may work with the applicant to secure a Good Faith Exemption from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Applicants should consider this requirement early in the project development and application process. Applicants should first determine if they are required to comply with the requirement based on their project scope or if they are eligible to apply for a good faith exemption. Applicants with projects that can comply or must comply with the requirement should confirm that any contractors selected to implement the project will use qualified apprentices. Applicants should describe on their application how they will approach the fulfillment of the qualified apprenticeship requirement, as well as their plan to meet and track this requirement. Applicants applying for an exemption should describe their approach in attempting to meet the requirement and why the project qualifies for an exemption. Applicants who require additional support with understanding the qualified apprenticeship programs available in PA should contact the PennTAP RISE PA team at PennTAP_RISEPA@psu.edu.

Q: Do I need itemized quotes or proposals?

A: Yes. Any quotes or proposals attached to the RISE PA SAT application should be itemized to the degree possible. Please review the [RISE PA Itemized Quote Reference Guide](#) on the PennTAP RISE PA [webpage](#) for more information about itemized quote requirements. The cost breakdown could include labor, equipment and supplies, and contractual expenses. Any ineligible expenses should be clearly indicated in the quote (e.g., permitting costs). Please review the list of eligible and ineligible costs in Sections 4.4 and 4.5 of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance.

How do I fill out the detailed budget template?

A: The applicant should review the [Detailed Budget Form Instructions](#) document on the PennTAP RISE PA [webpage](#), as well as follow the instructions on the detailed budget form. Categorize the expenses listed in the itemized project quotes that are eligible for reimbursement and/or cost-share. For example, itemized costs associated with labor should be placed in the labor category. Expenditures that are ineligible for reimbursement or cost share do not need to be included as these are not considered to be part of the total project cost for the purposes of the RISE PA SAT application.



Table 5 in the detailed budget template should include a listing of sources from which the applicant will cover the total cost of the project prior to receiving reimbursement from the RISE PA SAT program.

The detailed budget template submitted at the time of application represents the maximum amount that can be reimbursed to the manufacturer following the successful completion of the proposed project, regardless of whether the total project cost changes over time.

Questions about the Technical Assessment Report and Simplified Greenhouse Gas Calculator

Q: Is the energy assessment a required first step?

A: An energy assessment is required to put together the Technical Assessment Report. Applicants are encouraged to have project quotes for their preferred equipment prior to the assessment, but this is not required. This information is required to complete the Technical Assessment Report. Refer to Appendix E of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidelines on who is a Qualified Assessor for the assessment. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#).

Please note that PennTAP does not provide project cost estimates, equipment quotes or preferred vendors. The Manufacturing Facility is responsible for collecting this information.

Q: Who can complete the technical assessment report or technical assessment letter?

A: The Technical Assessment Report must be supplied by a Qualified Assessor that meets one of the following criteria:

- A certified energy auditor certified by the Association of Energy Engineers;
- A certified energy manager certified by the Association of Energy Engineers;
- A licensed professional engineer in the State of PA with at least 1-year experience and who has completed at least two similar type assessments; or
- An individual with a 4-year engineering or architectural degree with at least 3 years of experience and who has completed at least five similar type assessments.
- An individual from a third-party greenhouse gas (GHG), decarbonization, carbon accounting and/or verification firm who has performed similar types of GHG emissions assessments for industrial facilities in accordance with The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol and/or the intent of ISO 14064, ISO 14065, and/or ISO 14067, or equivalent.

The Qualified Assessor will provide documentation that demonstrates their possession of at least one of the credentials described above and that they are in good standing. Industrial Training Assessment Center (ITAC) assessors and "ITAC qualified" assessors are considered Qualified Assessors.

Q: The most recent utility bills used for my technical assessment report are from more than 8 months ago. Do I need to have a new technical assessment performed at my facility?



A: A new technical assessment is not needed. You will need to provide a Technical Assessment Letter from a Qualified Assessor (see Appendix E of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance) that provides an updated utility bill analysis using more recent utility bills and related greenhouse gas data.

Q: Does an applicant (the Manufacturer facility) have a choice of Qualified Assessor, and does the Qualified Assessor have to be a PA registered business or just be licensed in the state?

A1: The Qualified Assessor needs to meet the criteria defined in Appendix E of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidelines. The applicant may work with any Qualified Assessor that meets the criteria. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#).

A2: If a Manufacturing Facility has paid for a Technical Assessment Report after October 1, 2024, then up to \$10,000 could be used as cost share.

A3: If the Manufacturing Facility has an equivalent Technical Assessment Report for an eligible project dated January 1, 2022, or after, then this report can be submitted. A Technical Assessment Letter can be submitted as a complement to the Technical Assessment Report to provide information on any missing information or to update any antiquated information. Refer to Section 3, item 9 in the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document for more context. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#).

Q: My Technical Assessment Report did not include cumulative greenhouse gas emission reductions for the periods 2025-2030 and 2025-2050. What is the best approach for calculating this?

A: There are two options for calculating the cumulative greenhouse gas reduction over these periods. Both approach as acceptable.

Basic accuracy approach: Expected emissions reduction for the period = (predicted emissions reduction per year) X (remaining period [in years])

Higher accuracy approach: Expected emissions reduction for the period = (predicted emissions reduction per year) X (remaining period [in years]) - (Current level of emissions per year) x (time period from Jan 1 2025 to present). This will account for GHGs emitted in the present year.

Q: The EPA's Simplified Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator is supposed to be used to quantify the current annual emissions at the facility, as well as the expected savings. What information should be included on this calculator beyond data from my utility bills? For example, does this include sources of emissions outside the scope of our proposed project?

A1: This should include all sources of emissions for the boundary defined in the application, including all sources of Scope 1 and 2 emissions regardless of whether they are associated with the proposed project as listed within the EPA Simplified Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator. Be sure to describe the methodology used for calculating the facility's baseline emissions and the estimated project emissions and to use this methodology during the MMV process. The utility bills will be attached to the application. The information related to other Scope 1 emissions will have a reference to their impact in the Technical Assessment Report.



A2: Use [EPA's Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator](#) to determine Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions.

- Scope 1: Direct Emissions
 - Stationary Combustion
 - Mobile Combustion
 - Fugitive Emissions
 - Process Emissions
- Scope 2: Energy-related Indirect Emissions
 - Purchased Electricity
 - Purchased Heat and Steam

A3: The EPA's Simplified Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator guidance is based on the GHG Protocol. The GHG Protocol covers gases under the Kyoto Protocol, all of which are HFCs. The Kyoto Protocol does not cover HCFCs or CFCs.

Only when the proposed project includes HCFCs and/or CFCs as part of the emissions reduction should the refrigerants/gases related to the existing equipment and/or process be included in the facility footprint. In this case, the refrigerants/gases related to proposed equipment and/or process must be included in the project reduction calculations. If the project does not include HCFC or CFCs as part of the emissions reduction, then these do not need to be added to the calculator. Refer to Appendix A: GHG Emission Calculation Guidance for alternative resources that could be used concurrently with the EPA Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator. Include any calculations completed outside of the EPA Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator within the Technical Assessment Report and/or Technical Assessment Letter. Project data can be included in the Offset Tab of the EPA's Simplified Calculator to have its impact on the Summary Tab. Note the sign (+/-) of a value entered in the Offset Tab and how it impacts the Summary.

A4: Delivery vehicles do not need to be included, as they are part of Scope 3 emissions. If the facility has vehicles within the boundary, such as forklifts, then they should be included. If the vehicles use propane and have several invoices related to their usage, the Manufacturing Facility can request the total propane for the date range that aligns with the other utilities. In this case, for this grant program, the propane can be included under stationary fuel sources, when completing the footprint of the facility.

Questions about the Award Notification Process

Q: What is the RISE PA SAT Timeline?

A1: The first round of funding opened in May 2025, followed by Round 2 in September 2025 and Round 3 in January 2026. The current funding round opened in May 2026 and will close at 11:59pm on August 17, 2026. The fifth round of funding will open in September 2026.



A2: A Committee Review will take place after the close of the application. This is planned to take two months. Subawards will be announced in November 2026. The Committee Review will take place after the close of the funding round and then sub-awards will be announced.

A3: PennTAP intends to operate the funding rounds for 3 to 4 years. PennTAP is free to disperse funds as much or as little within the rounds, until April 1, 2029.

Q: How do projects compete for funding?

A1: There are three stages of reviews.

- Stage 1 is the Administrative Review process. During this review, PennTAP will confirm that all the documentation has been submitted for a full and complete application. This process is completed within 30 days after the application has been submitted.
- Stage 2 is the Technical Review process. This review will take place once the application has closed. PennTAP will confirm that the projects are technologically sound and will evaluate the risks in the project timeline which will then be shared with the Committee Review for the final review.
- Stage 3 is the Committee Review process. This review will take place after the portal has closed, and the Technical Review has been completed. To remain unbiased, a committee of RISE PA program individuals will review the projects to determine which projects will receive funding. If a RISE PA committee reviewer was involved with the project that is being evaluated, they will not assess that project.

A2: There are three funding tiers within the SAT grant program. The tiers are based on the total project cost and range from:

- Tier 1: \$50,000 – \$149,999
- Tier 2: \$150,000 – \$299,999
- Tier 3: \$300,000 – \$1,000,000

The applications will be competitively reviewed and scored based on the tier that the project falls into; Meaning that a \$50,000 project will not compete for funding with a \$1,000,000 project. Projects of a specific category (e.g., solar) may also be competitively scored within their own tier based on the total number of projects within that category that apply in each application round.

Questions about Funding, Reimbursement and Cost Share Requirement

Q: How much funding is available per project?

A: SAT: 50% of Total Project Costs (TPC). Note that expenditures that are ineligible for reimbursement or cost share do not need to be included in the TPC.

Q: What costs are eligible for funding?



A: Labor and capital costs associated with project implementation, including materials, equipment, delivery, software, construction, installation, retrofitting, tools, and contractual work directly related to the project. Refer to Section 4.4 in the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document for more context.

All work or delivery of equipment, etc., must occur during the stated period of performance in the grant agreement. No reimbursement will be given for costs expended prior to the grant period of performance. Refer to Section 7.5 in the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document for more context. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#).

Q: What costs are ineligible for funding?

A: Please review the list of the restricted expenditures found in Section 4.5 of the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidelines.

If the costs are ineligible for reimbursement, then they are outside of the scope of the Total Project Cost.

The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#).

Q: What about reimbursement for costs already incurred?

A: Projects that incur costs prior to written permission or a subaward agreement may be ineligible for RISE PA SAT funding. There are only two costs that can be incurred prior to submitting a project application.

- If an applicant paid for a Technical Assessment Report (no later than October 1, 2024), then up to \$10,000 of that cost can be used towards cost share.
- If an applicant needs to put a down payment on their project to secure the equipment, this cost is eligible for reimbursement.
- Refer to the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance document, Section 4.4 for Eligible Expenditures and Section 4.5 for Expenditures Restrictions.

Applicants should not move forward with their projects without written permission or receiving a subaward agreement. If an applicant moves forward with a project prior to written permission or receiving a subaward agreement, then the project application is no longer eligible for funding.

Review the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidelines for eligible expenditures and restrictions. If the costs are ineligible for reimbursement, then they are outside of the scope of the Total Project Cost. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#).

Q: Can I be reimbursed for costs associated with preparing an application?

A: No, applicants cannot receive direct reimbursement for the costs of preparing an application. Applicants will only be reimbursed for eligible expenses after they have completed the project within the Period of Performance set forth in the subaward agreement. Review the SAT Grant Guidance Document for which costs are considered eligible for reimbursement, which are considered eligible



to count towards cost-share, and which are not eligible for either. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#).

Q: Are the costs associated with performing measurement, monitoring, and verification (MMV) reimbursable?

A: No.

Q: How will RISE PA funding be disbursed?

A: RISE PA is a reimbursement grant program. Applicants will be reimbursed 30 days after they have submitted the proper documentation showing that the project has been implemented and can operate. Penn State will disburse the funds via the PaymentWorks Vendor Number.

Q: What are the cost share requirements?

A: Applicants must provide a 50% cost share of the total project cost. Cost share includes cash or in-kind contributions provided by the Applicant, subrecipients, or other project related sources. Please remember that the RISE PA SAT program is a reimbursement grant program and applicants will need to fund the total cost of the project prior to reimbursement.

Q: Can tax credits be used toward meeting the cost share requirement?

A: If the tax credit has already been received, then it can be counted toward meeting the cost share requirement. If the tax credit has not yet been received, it cannot count toward meeting the cost share requirement. However, if a project such as a renewable energy project that will generate the Investment Tax Credit upon project completion, a bridge loan could be secured for the value of the tax credit, and that loan could be part of the cost share capital stack.

Q: How much funding does our company receive if the project comes in lower/higher than the initial cost that was submitted in the application?

A: If the total eligible project cost after project completion is less than the estimate included in the grant agreement, the reimbursement of eligible costs will be adjusted to match the percentage of cost share (50%) up to actual eligible project costs. The grantee would not receive the difference between the estimated base grant award and the adjusted award amount. The same logic will apply to recipients who apply for and receive the Community Benefits Bonus and/or Fair Labor Bonus.

If the eligible total project cost comes in higher than the initial total project cost estimate included in the grant agreement, the reimbursement of eligible costs will reflect the grant award amount specified in the grant agreement.



Q: When can I start spending money on my project?

A: When you have either 1) received written permission to move forward from the PennTAP RISE PA team or 2) have received a subaward agreement for grant funding.

- After the Administrative Review has been completed, the applicant will be notified that they have written permission to move forward with their project. NOTE, this notification does not mean the applicant will receive a subaward. Having written permission means that the applicant can CHOOSE to **move forward** with their project or to **wait** until the subaward agreements are announced. If an applicant WAITS to move forward with their project until the subawards have been announced, a project that was not funded may reapply in a future funding round. Projects moved forward and incurred costs AND did not receive a subaward will not be eligible to reapply in a future funding round.
- Applicants that receive a subaward grant agreement can move forward with their project.

Questions about Complying with Davis Bacon and Related Acts (Prevailing Wage)

All awarded RISE PA SAT projects must comply with Davis Bacon and Related Acts and the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act. This means that all workers, including those hired by contractors/subcontractors and all trainees/apprentices, who are involved in the project's construction and installation must be paid the applicable federal prevailing wage rates. The itemized project quote submitted with the application must account for prevailing wage rates and list the wage determinations used and worker classifications anticipated.

Grantees are responsible for ensuring that prevailing wage is paid to all workers involved in the construction of the project and must include in all contractors the following statement: **“By accepting this contract, [the contractor] acknowledges and agrees to the terms provided in the [DBRA Requirements for Contractors and Subcontractors Under EPA Grants](#).”** The grantee will be required to show proof that prevailing wage has been paid (e.g., certified payroll records; [form WH-347](#)) prior to reimbursement. Facilities that are awarded a RISE PA SAT grant will be provided with training on correctly documenting the prevailing wage requirement and other grant reporting requirements and will have access to the PennTAP RISE PA team for support. The facility must to work closely with the contractor hired to perform the work to ensure that grant requirements like prevailing wage are met and correctly documented.

Questions about Complying with Build America, Buy America

All awarded RISE PA SAT projects will need to determine whether and how Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) will apply to the project's construction. BABA applies to all federal financial assistance as defined in Section 200.1 of Title 2, Code of Federal Regulations where funds are



appropriated or otherwise made available and used for a project for infrastructure, regardless of whether the project is funded through IIJA or not and regardless of whether infrastructure is the primary purpose of the Federal award. Review the *EPA Programs Office of Air and Radiation: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program Build America, Buy America Act Frequently Asked Questions document* to understand the impacts of BABA. In many cases, the RISE PA SAT funded projects will be privately owned and not open to the public and, therefore, will not be subject to BABA. However, if this is not the case for your specific project, the project is likely subject to BABA requirements. There are [BABA waivers](#) listed online and may be a resource to applicable projects.

Questions about the Award Structure

Q: How much funding is available in each Award Track?

Small-scale (SAT): \$40 million for total project costs ranging from \$50,000–\$1,000,000.

Medium-scale (MAT): \$100 million for total project costs ranging from \$1,000,001–\$66,666,666.

Large-scale (LAT): \$220 million for total project costs above \$66,666,666.

Questions about Implementation and Measurement, Monitoring, and Verification (MMV)

Q: How is the 1-year follow-up to be submitted?

A: The 1-Year Follow-up Report is due 13 months after the project has been implemented. This report will be submitted through InfoReady as a final progress report.

Q: What kind of Measurement, Monitoring, and Verification (MMV) is required?

A: Measurement, Monitoring, and Verification (MMV) is the process of comparing the implemented project and/or process against the prior equipment and/or method. This will be unique to the applicant's project and will vary due to the different types of eligible projects.

The Applicant is required to submit a plan in their application on how they plan to complete the required MMV for the proposed project. This could be as simple as monitoring utility bills or could require recording hours of operation or recording the number of widgets produced or completing several of these steps together. The MMV plan needs to be detailed enough to know that:

1. It is feasible,
2. It is realistic, and
3. It will provide the appropriate data for the 1-Year Follow-up Report.



Questions Specific to Solar Projects

Q: If I am an applicant installing a solar project, do I need to provide a technical assessment report with my application?

A: Yes. A technical assessment report is a required component of all RISE PA SAT applications. Appendix E in the RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance document describes who is qualified to complete a technical assessment report and what information is required to be included in that report at a minimum. This information should include, but is not limited to, the new system performance ratio, the system design losses, new equipment quantities, new equipment efficiencies, and technical specifications sheets for solar panels, inverters, and/or optimizers. Information provided in the report beyond what is suggested in Appendix E is acceptable. If you are engaging a qualified third party to complete your technical assessment report, please have them closely review Appendix E.

Q: Is an energy assessment the same as a technical assessment report?

A: No. An energy assessment is required in order to put together a technical assessment report. The technical assessment report is a required component for all RISE PA SAT applications. See Appendix E for information about the technical assessment report. The RISE PA SAT Grant Guidance Document can be found on [PennTAP's RISE PA SAT website](#).

Q: What is considered “on-site” generation?

A: On-site generation occurs if the project is within two miles of the facility, which would make it eligible to be net-metered in Pennsylvania.

Q: How do I define the facility boundary is the proposed single solar project would support multiple sites that meet the “on-site generation” definition?

A: If multiple buildings of the single manufacturer are supported by a single solar array within this on-site generation zone, the RISE PA project boundary must be clearly defined to include all eligible manufacturing buildings and exclude all non-manufacturing buildings supported by the proposed array. Buildings on the property that do not meet the definition of manufacturing use are ineligible to participate in the RISE PA SAT program. Requested grant funds must be adjusted to remove costs associated with implementing the solar project for these non-manufacturing buildings. The technical assessor and applicant must carefully identify and describe in the technical assessment report and RISE PA SAT application which sites and utility bills are included and excluded from the RISE PA project boundary.

Q: Is sub-metering allowed?

A: Yes, if necessary.

Q: Is remote net crediting allowed?



A: Yes, if the meter and building that is producing the credits is included in the defined boundaries and included in the scope of the emissions calculations. The credits must be directed to a meter also located within the defined boundaries and included in the scope of emissions calculations.

Q: Are Power Purchase Agreement projects eligible?

A: No. Power Purchase Agreements are a part of a facility's operational cost, so they would be ineligible for funding.

Q: Is battery storage eligible?

A: Yes, battery storage is an eligible cost.

Q: Can a project be oversized beyond current operations or for planned future growth?

A: No. If a system is expected to produce more than 100% of the annual electric consumption, the only eligible cost is the portion of the system that supplies up to 100% of the facility's annual electric consumption. If the system is expected to consistently produce more than 100% of the facility's annual electric consumption, the facility must not include the cost associated with the portion of the system producing over 100%.

Q: My proposed solar array is sized to produce more than 100% of my current annual electricity use. Is the entire project eligible for RISE PA funding?

A: No. RISE PA will only reimburse the portion of a solar installation that offsets up to 100% of the facility's annual electricity consumption. Costs associated with any portion of the system expected to produce more than 100% are ineligible and must be removed from the Total Project Cost (TPC).

Q: How do I calculate the "RISE PA Eligible Portion" for an oversized system?

A: The eligible cost is determined by the following ratio:

$$\text{Eligible TPC} = \text{Total Project Cost} \times (\text{Annual Facility Consumption, kWh} \div \text{Total System Output, kWh})$$

Q: Are solar projects that have already begun the interconnection process still eligible for the RISE PA SAT program?

A1: Yes. Beginning the interconnection process prior to submitting a RISE PA SAT application does not disqualify a manufacturer from applying and increases the likelihood that a solar project can be completed within the required 12-month period of performance for the RISE PA SAT program. In this case, any costs associated with interconnection would not be eligible for reimbursement and cannot be counted towards the total project cost.

For solar projects that have not begun the interconnection process prior to receiving a RISE PA SAT subaward, the costs associated with interconnection can be included in the total project cost. If



costs associated with interconnection are included in the total project cost, the applicant cannot move forward with the project until they have received written permission from PennTAP RISE PA.

Q: If a solar array will power two of the five buildings at a location, but those two buildings do not have enough roof space for all the panels, can excess panels be placed on the roofs of the buildings that will not receive power from the array?

A: Yes. In this scenario, the building(s) hosting the excess solar panels do not need to be included within the boundary of the Industrial Facility, and the Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions in those building(s) do not need to be included in the baseline emissions calculation.

Q: Are additional structural improvements eligible to be included in the Total Project Cost (TPC) if required by the project? For example, if a rooftop solar installation requires additional structural support of the building to accommodate it.

A: Yes, this expense can be included in the Total Project Cost (TPC).

Q: If solar projects are below 1MW AC output, are they exempt from the prevailing wage requirement?

A: Paying prevailing wage for the installation of the project is a requirement for all RISE PA projects because it involves federal funding from EPA that is subject to Davis-Bacon. So even if a project is under 1 MW, it still must pay prevailing wage.

Q: How should contractors handle the 5% "Safe Harbor" payment required for the federal tax credit?

A: To qualify for the "begin construction" safe harbor under federal law, many customers must pay 5% of project costs by early summer 2026. For the purposes of RISE PA, this 5% payment should be invoiced by the contractor as a "down payment" on equipment.

Q: Does paying a safe harbor deposit count as "starting the project" under RISE PA and making it ineligible for RISE PA grant funds?

A: No. Under RISE PA guidance, the act of paying a down payment to safe harbor equipment does not constitute "starting the project." Furthermore, if a solar contractor has already purchased equipment and is storing it in their own warehouse, this is not considered a project start. However, the applicant must not take physical possession of the equipment or pay the full balance of the equipment invoice until the application has passed administrative review.

Q: How should this be documented in the reimbursement request?

A: The applicant should provide an invoice from the contractor clearly labeled as a "Down payment for [Project Name] solar equipment and components." This ensures the cost is categorized as an



eligible expense under Program Guidance Section 4.4.1 rather than an ineligible pre-award equipment delivery.

Q: My proposed solar project has already been submitted for utility interconnection review. Is it still eligible?

A: You may still apply. Beginning interconnection before applying does not disqualify the project and may improve the likelihood of completing within the 12-month period of performance. However, interconnection costs already incurred are not eligible for reimbursement and cannot be counted toward the TPC. If the interconnection process has not been started, then those costs can be included in the TPC.