

GRANT ALERT

September 3, 2024

Low Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Program

DEADLINES	PROGRAM NAME & LINK
<p>Monday, November 25, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST <i>(Submitting agencies must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the final application; the process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.)</i></p>	<p>Low Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Program</p>
DESCRIPTION	
<p>The discretionary grant program seeks to create less pollution by reducing the levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions, including concrete (and cement), glass, asphalt mix, and steel. The program has four key goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the use of lower carbon materials and products that are used in projects 2. Facilitate the use of low carbon transportation materials while ensuring appropriateness for use in projects 3. Promote technology transfer and enhance workforce development to increase the adoption of environmental quantification techniques used in decision making by transportation agencies 4. Encourage eligible recipients to begin LCTM activities and build successful low carbon transportation material identification frameworks. <p>For additional information on the LCTM Program please see the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCTM program website - https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/lowcarbon/ • Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) - https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/356233 • Email to submit questions - FHWALowCarbonMaterials@dot.gov • Informational webinar September 25, 2024, 2pm – 3pm EST – Registration <p>What’s New this Round? The LCTM is now ONLY open to eligible NON-STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION recipients.</p>	
ELIGIBILITY	
<p>Applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government • Political subdivision of a State • Territory of the United States • Federally Recognized Tribes • Federal Land Management Agencies • A metropolitan planning organization (MPO) • A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function. 	<p>Projects</p> <p>LCTM funds are available to use for activities required to develop a process to demonstrate materials meet the standard of ‘substantially lower embodied carbon and are appropriate for use. For purposes of this program, eligible materials categories are concrete (and cement), glass, asphalt mix, and steel.</p>

The LCTM Program will not fund entire construction projects, but provides funds for eligible activities, including the use of eligible materials on construction projects, including projects on:

- Federal-aid highways;
- Tribal transportation facilities;
- Federal lands transportation facilities; and
- Federal lands access transportation facilities.

FUNDING & COST-SHARING

General

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY 2022 provides up to \$800 million for LCTM awards.

FHWA does not have a requirement for a minimum or maximum award amount.

Cost-Sharing

If a reimbursement is provided under this LCTM Program, the total Federal share payable for the incremental costs or incentive amount shall be 100 percent. Identification of eligible materials and work needed to determine their appropriateness for use on eligible projects can be considered as wholly incremental, i.e., the work would not have been done except for the availability of this program, and an application could request reimbursement for 100 percent of these costs.

While LCTM funds are eligible for up to 100 percent Federal share, LCTM funds may only be applied to eligible activities associated with the use of the low carbon transportation material. The program is not intended to fund entire construction projects. This program may reimburse an amount equal to the incrementally higher cost of using eligible materials and products or an incentive amount equal to 2 percent of the cost of using low-embodied carbon materials.

APPLICATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

FHWA will award LCTM funds based on an evaluation of the following merit criteria:

- Substantially lower embodied carbon identification
- QA and materials acceptance
- Use of Materials and products on construction projects
- Schedule and budget

The Technical Review Team will review each application to determine whether the planned activities included in their application support the following Administration Priorities and Departmental Strategies

Goals:

- Safety
- Climate change and sustainability
- Equity and environmental justice
- Workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The period of performance for the award is anticipated to be 1 to 6 years from the effective date of the agreement. The start of the period of performance will begin on the date that an agreement is fully executed. FY 2022 LCTM funds are available for obligation until September 30, 2026 and once the grant agreement is fully executed and funds are obligated, funds must be expended by the period of performance end date or no later than September 30, 2031, whichever is sooner.

If a State DOT will serve as a pass-through to a non-State DOT entity awarded a grant, the DOT Payment System will be “Current Bill” in the “FMIS” and the start of the period of performance will begin on the date LCTM funds are obligated in FMIS and end on the project end date in FMIS.

If a grant recipient will be a non-State DOT entity, DOT Payment System will be “DELPHI eInvoicing” and the start of the period of performance will begin on the date the grant agreement is executed by the FHWA, which will obligate the LCTM and end on the period of performance that is listed in the grant agreement.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

An agency shall determine the substantially lower embodied carbon thresholds (i.e., best performing 20 percent, 40 percent, and industry averages) for materials/products eligible for reimbursement or incentive under this program through the following options:

1. An agency may reference the established thresholds as published on the FHWA Website. Stakeholders from concrete, glass, asphalt, and steel industries are working to provide industry-average data to support implementation of the LCTM Program.
2. An agency may determine local or regional thresholds for concrete (and cement), glass, asphalt mix, and/or steel. In this option, the agency shall follow accepted International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards to develop thresholds. Agencies shall disclose the Global Warming Potential (GWP), the methodology for determining the percentiles and averages, the source(s) used for each material/product, and the parameters (including performance specification) used to set the GWP.

Agencies may also use a combination of these two options for this program.

PENNDOT ROLE

PennDOT Emphasis

PennDOT continues to promote the adoption of low carbon transportation materials as a crucial step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainability within the transportation sector. By integrating low carbon materials into transportation projects, PennDOT aims to minimize the environmental impact of construction activities. Through these efforts, PennDOT is committed, along with its partners, to advancing environmentally friendly practices and contributing to a greener future for Pennsylvania’s transportation infrastructure.

Submitting an Application for the Low Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Program

Prior to completing an application for the LCTM Program, potential applicants in Pennsylvania are asked to contact the PennDOT Environmental Product Declarations Division in order to refine the project concept and coordinate efforts around the State. If you plan on submitting a project for the LCTM Grant Program, please reach out at RA-PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov, so that PennDOT is aware.