



Ohio Revised Code

Section 307.041 Contracts to analyze reducing energy consumption in buildings owned by county.

Effective: April 9, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 497

(A) As used in this section, "energy conservation measure" means an installation or modification of an installation in, or remodeling of, an existing building, to reduce energy consumption. "Energy conservation measure" includes the following:

- (1) Insulation of the building structure and of systems within the building;
- (2) Storm windows and doors, multiglazed windows and doors, heat-absorbing or heat-reflective glazed and coated window and door systems, additional glazing, reductions in glass area, and other window and door system modifications that reduce energy consumption;
- (3) Automatic energy control systems;
- (4) Heating, ventilating, or air conditioning system modifications or replacements;
- (5) Caulking and weatherstripping;
- (6) Replacement or modification of lighting fixtures to increase the energy efficiency of the system without increasing the overall illumination of a facility, unless such an increase in illumination is necessary to conform to the applicable state or local building code for the proposed lighting system;
- (7) Energy recovery systems;
- (8) Cogeneration systems that produce steam or forms of energy such as heat, as well as electricity, for use primarily within a building or complex of buildings;
- (9) Acquiring, constructing, furnishing, equipping, improving the site of, and otherwise improving a central utility plant to provide heating and cooling services to a building or buildings together with



distribution piping and ancillary distribution controls, equipment, and related facilities from the central utility plant to the building or buildings;

(10) Any other modification, installation, or remodeling approved by the board of county commissioners as an energy conservation measure.

(B) For the purpose of evaluating county buildings for energy conservation measures, a county may contract with an architect, professional engineer, energy services company, contractor, or other person experienced in the design and implementation of energy conservation measures for an energy conservation report. The report shall include all of the following:

(1) Analyses of the buildings' energy needs and recommendations for building installations, modifications of existing installations, or building remodeling that would significantly reduce energy consumption in the buildings owned by that county;

(2) Estimates of all costs of those installations, those modifications, or that remodeling, including costs of design, engineering, installation, maintenance, and repairs;

(3) Estimates of the amounts by which energy consumption could be reduced;

(4) The interest rate used to estimate the costs of any energy conservation measures that are to be financed;

(5) The average system life of the energy conservation measures;

(6) Estimates of the likely savings that will result from the reduction in energy consumption over the average system life of the energy conservation measure, including the methods used to estimate the savings;

(7) A certification under the seal of a registered professional engineer that the energy conservation report uses reasonable methods of analysis and estimation.

(C)(1) A county desiring to implement energy conservation measures may proceed under either of



the following methods:

- (a) Using a report or any part of an energy conservation report prepared under division (B) of this section, advertise for bids and, except as otherwise provided in this section, comply with sections 307.86 to 307.92 of the Revised Code;
- (b) Notwithstanding sections 307.86 to 307.92 of the Revised Code, request proposals from at least three vendors for the implementation of energy conservation measures. A request for proposals shall require the installer that is awarded a contract under division (C)(2)(b) of this section to prepare an energy conservation report in accordance with division (B) of this section. Prior to sending any installer of energy conservation measures a copy of any request for proposals, the county shall advertise its intent to request proposals for the installation of energy conservation measures once a week for two consecutive weeks, using at least one of the following methods:
 - (i) In the print or digital edition of a newspaper of general circulation in the county;
 - (ii) On the official public notice web site established under section 125.182 of the Revised Code;
 - (iii) On the web site and social media account of the county.

The notice shall state that the county intends to request proposals for the installation of energy conservation measures; indicate the date, which shall be at least ten days after the publication, on which the request for proposals will be mailed to installers of energy conservation measures; and state that any installer of energy conservation measures interested in receiving the request for proposals shall submit written notice to the county not later than noon of the day on which the request for proposals will be mailed.

- (2)(a) Upon receiving bids under division (C)(1)(a) of this section, the county shall analyze them and select the lowest and best bid or bids most likely to result in the greatest energy savings considering the cost of the project and the county's ability to pay for the improvements with current revenues or by financing the improvements.
- (b) Upon receiving proposals under division (C)(1)(b) of this section, the county shall analyze the



proposals and the installers' qualifications and select the most qualified installer to prepare an energy conservation report in accordance with division (B) of this section. After receipt and review of the energy conservation report, the county may award a contract to the selected installer to install the energy conservation measures that are most likely to result in the greatest energy savings considering the cost of the project and the county's ability to pay for the improvements with current revenues or by financing the improvements.

(c) The awarding of a contract to install energy conservation measures under division (C)(2)(a) or (b) of this section shall be conditioned upon a finding by the contracting authority that the amount of money spent on the energy conservation measures is not likely to exceed the amount of money the county would save in energy, operating, maintenance, and avoided capital costs over the average system life of the energy conservation measures as specified in the energy conservation report. In making such a finding, the contracting authority may take into account increased costs due to inflation as shown in the energy conservation report. Nothing in this division prohibits a county from rejecting all bids or proposals under division (C)(1)(a) or (b) of this section or from selecting more than one bid or proposal.

(D) A board of county commissioners may enter into an installment payment contract for the purchase and installation of energy conservation measures. Provisions of installment payment contracts that deal with interest charges and financing terms shall not be subject to the competitive bidding requirements of section 307.86 of the Revised Code, and shall be on the following terms:

(1) Not less than a specified percentage, as determined and approved by the board of county commissioners, of the costs of the contract shall be paid within two years from the date of purchase.

(2) The remaining balance of the costs of the contract shall be paid within the lesser of the average system life of the energy conservation measures as specified in the energy conservation report or thirty years.

(E) The board of county commissioners may issue the notes of the county specifying the terms of a purchase of energy conservation measures under this section and securing any deferred payments provided for in division (D) of this section. The notes shall be payable at the times provided and bear interest at a rate not exceeding the rate determined as provided in section 9.95 of the Revised Code.



The notes may contain an option for prepayment and shall not be subject to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code. Revenues derived from local taxes or otherwise for the purpose of conserving energy or for defraying the current operating expenses of the county may be pledged and applied to the payment of interest and the retirement of the notes. The notes may be sold at private sale or given to the contractor under an installment payment contract authorized by division (D) of this section.

(F) Debt incurred under this section shall not be included in the calculation of the net indebtedness of a county under section 133.07 of the Revised Code.