

Study Definitions Table

Valid Jan. 1, 2026 - Dec. 31, 2026

Overview

1. All studies require customer engagement and follow-up throughout the process
2. \$/Therm: The goal for the Total Cost of Private Sector studies, grants, and projects is around \$1.20/therm (this is not a hard ceiling but is a guideline to start with)
 - a. Example 1 Gas Optimization Study (GOS): If a customer wants to begin a GOS (\$20,000), the program would hope the study identifies and the customer will implement projects saving 80,000 therms (assuming projects are paid at \$1.00/therm)
 - i. $\text{GOS } (\$20,000) + \text{Incentives } (\$80,000) / \text{Therms } (80,000) = \$1.25/\text{therm}$
 - b. Example 2 (GOS + Staffing Grant): If a customer completed a GOS study (\$20,000) and wants to use a Staffing Grant (\$50,000) to manage the implementation of several projects identified, the program would hope the total identified opportunities be around 280,000 therms (assuming projects are paid at \$1.00/therm)
 - i. $\text{GOS } (\$20,000) + \text{Staffing Grant } (\$50,000) + \text{Incentives } (\$280,000) / \text{Therms } (280,000) = \$1.25/\text{therm}$
3. Qualification is at the discretion of the Program Manager approval

Currently offered energy efficiency studies

Study type	Description	Written application qualifications	Internal qualifications	Target audience	Deliverables
Gas assessment	- Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas will perform a 1-2 hour assessment of your facility to identify common efficiency opportunities at your facility, similar to an ASHRAE Level 1 - Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas Energy Advisor or Energy Engineer 1-2 hour assessment - Identifies common prescriptive and custom energy efficiency measures	No application required	- Annual gas usage greater than 50,000 therms 1-2 hours onsite for audit - Commitment to follow-up meeting with customer to review results with Energy Engineer and Energy Advisor	All customers that meet annual gas usage threshold	Report identifying common energy efficiency measures with estimated cost, rebates, and paybacks

Study type	Description	Written application qualifications	Internal qualifications	Target audience	Deliverables
Gas optimization study (GOS)	A GOS provides customers up to \$20,000 for on-site engineering assistance from a 3rd party study provider to complete a multi-day energy survey and analysis at a customer's facility. The Study is similar to an ASHRAE Level 2 Audit: • Engineering firm staff time of up to \$20,000 • Up to 1 week on site • Focus on low-cost/no-cost measures as well as capital improvements for prescriptive and custom programs	All Studies: 1. Facility free of major maintenance issues 2. Customer has a monetary commitment to spend on measures identified in the study 3. Customer must spend 20 hours of staff time on-site during the study and/or report presentation Building Heating Optimization (see app) Funding: \$20,000 Customer Commitment: \$0 4. > 75,000 sq ft of conditioned area 5. Majority of building controlled by Building Automation System with Digital Direct Controls Steam Plant Optimization (see app) Funding: \$20,000 Customer Commitment: \$0 6. > 250hp combined boiler capacity (MBH equivalent would be 8368.8 MBH Output / 80% Efficiency = 10,461 MBH Input) 7. > 500,000 annual gas usage 8. Intend to operate current systems for next 4 years Process Heating Optimization (see app) Funding: \$20,000 Customer Commitment: \$0 9. > 5 million BTU in process heating 10. > 500,000 therms annual gas usage	Customer selects an approved service provider Customer interested in and committed to completing low-cost/no-cost measures Customer committed to a follow-up meeting to review results with Engineering firm and Energy Advisor and schedule timeline for project implementation Energy savings potential for full incentive amount: • Ideal case identified therm savings > 75,000 • 5%-10% annual gas usage savings from low-cost/no-cost measures • > 2-5% annual gas usage savings from capital measures	Large customers with complex systems that require detailed/in-depth analysis to quantify opportunities • Customer types: Manufacturing, Healthcare, Universities, Large office buildings, Hospitality, customers with many similar sites • Systems: Process energy use, simultaneous heating and cooling, central steam plants, etc.	Report identifying and detailing: • Low-cost/no-cost measures (with paybacks of 18 months or less) which reduce natural gas loads or increase energy efficiency throughout their facility • Large potential project savings which Energy Efficiency team can discuss with a customer

Study type	Description	Written application qualifications	Internal qualifications	Target audience	Deliverables
Engineering study	Provides grantees up to \$20,000 to offset the costs of on-site 3rd party engineering staff to perform an implementation study, investment-grade audit or process evaluation required for large custom, capital-intensive energy saving projects. This study is typically an in-depth focus on one process or project— not a comprehensive facility review like a GOS Study • Gives Engineering firm staff up to \$20,000 towards the study (\$7,500 after report presentation. \$7,500 if project is implemented) • Evaluating a single measure or process • Perform an implementation study or investment grade audit	Engineering Study costs may be reimbursed up to 100% of the study costs to a maximum of \$20,000 not to exceed 5% of the customer's natural gas expenditures in the previous 12 months Incentives are paid in two parts: 1) upon study presentation 2) the implementation bonus which is added to custom or prescriptive rebates if the project is installed	Customer must have a single identified opportunity that they want to better understand • Savings potential (in ideal case) greater than 100,000 therms Must meet minimum qualifications for GOS Study program (Steam Plant or Process Heating Optimization)	Customers that have had a GOS or have conducted their own analysis which identified a large, energy savings opportunity	Report detailing the completed investment grade audit, biddable drawings, or feasibility study of identified measure
Staffing grant	Provides grantees up to \$50,000 for a full- or part-time employee to oversee the implementation of natural gas efficiency projects that would otherwise not be implemented due to limited staffing • Up to \$50,00 for staff time • Oversee implementation of identified projects	Eligible customers must be a Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas customer with an annual natural gas usage of 200,000 therms or greater • Grant Score: • 40 points – Annual energy savings per requested funding • 30 points – Need for funding • 20 points – Thoroughness of responses • 10 points – Project completion deadline	Guideline for grant dollars is to remain under \$1.20/therm with all program costs included: studies, staffing grant, and project implementation	Large customers with significant identified opportunities and statement of need with convincing evidence of lack of staff time to implement projects	Completed projects per scope