

SULPHUR SPRINGS
AND WEST TAMPA

Tampa WeatherWise Small Business Grant Program



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The WeatherWise program supports small businesses to strengthen their resilience against extreme heat, flooding and other climate-related disruptions. The following resources and programs provide complementary support, available to small businesses regardless of their participation in WeatherWise.

[Learn more](#) about the program



City of Tampa Support Programs



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

SIGN-UP FOR **ALERT TAMPA**

Alert Tampa is the City of Tampa's official, free emergency communication system. By subscribing, residents and businesses receive timely alerts about emergencies, public safety issues, and important city updates directly to their phones or email.

HEAT SAFETY ALERT

Extreme heat can be dangerous, especially for outdoor workers, seniors, and small business owners. Stay informed by signing up for heat alerts by Texting "Heatsafe" to 888-777 for cooling tips, and other important heat-related updates from the City of Tampa. These timely messages can help you plan ahead, stay safe, and protect your health during hot weather.

BEAT THE HEAT THIS SUMMER

Start receiving timely text alerts on:

- Heat advisories
- Tips to stay cool
- Other important heat-related info



Text **HEATSAFE**
to **888-777**



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES

TAMPA ENTREPRENEUR SUPPORT HUB

Funded by a Community Development Block Grant, the City of Tampa Entrepreneur Support Hub provides essential, free resources to help local entrepreneurs launch and expand their ventures:

- Mentorship, training, and technical assistance
- Business incubation
- Scale-up services
- *Micro lenders are available to help businesses access additional capital.*

Waterwise Support Programs



WATER-USE EFFICIENCY

CUSTOMIZABLE REBATE

The Tampa Bay Water Wise Customizable Rebate program offers businesses and organizations rebates covering up to 50% of project costs (up to \$40,000) for installing water-saving upgrades. Eligible projects include irrigation improvements, Florida-Friendly landscaping, cooling-tower efficiency upgrades, commercial kitchen equipment, and other measures that reduce water use. Businesses must complete a pre-inspection, submit project plans, install the upgrades, and pass a post-inspection to receive the rebate, helping lower long-term operating costs through improved water efficiency.

HIGH EFFICIENCY TOILET AND URINAL RETROFIT

This program offers rebates for multi-family, commercial, and other non-residential properties that replace older, high-volume toilets with EPA WaterSense certified high-efficiency toilets through the Tampa Bay Water Wise initiative, providing up to \$200 per fixture when replacing older toilets (1.6 gpf or higher) with models using as little as 0.8 gpf and \$100 per fixture for other WaterSense upgrades, helping businesses cut water use and lower utility bills by installing toilets that flush significantly less water per use.



TECO Support Programs



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ENERGY AUDIT

Tampa Electric offers free Home Energy Audits to help customers understand how they use energy and identify opportunities to reduce costs. Through an in-home or virtual assessment, an energy expert reviews appliances, insulation, lighting, and overall energy efficiency, then provides personalized recommendations to lower monthly bills, improve comfort, and enhance energy performance.

CUSTOM ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Tampa Electric Custom Energy Efficiency Program provides rebates to commercial businesses that install energy-saving or demand-reducing upgrades not covered by other TECO incentive programs. Rebates are based on how much the improvement reduces the business's peak electricity demand during TECO's critical peak periods (January and August), making measures like insulation upgrades, cool roofs, refrigeration improvements, and other custom efficiency projects more affordable. Businesses must apply before purchasing equipment, undergo pre-approval, and complete verification after installation, with rebates paid in two stages.

LIGHTING UPGRADES

The TECO Lighting program offers rebates to commercial businesses that upgrade outdated lighting to high-efficiency LED systems, resulting in lower energy costs and improve lighting quality. Rebates are awarded based on the reduction in electrical demand, with higher incentives for conditioned indoor spaces. Eligible retrofits include replacing older fixtures or reducing excess lighting, as long as industry lighting standards are maintained. Projects require pre-approval and documentation after installation.

LIGHTING OCCUPANCY SENSOR PROGRAM

The TECO Lighting Occupancy Sensor program provides rebates to commercial businesses that install hard-wired occupancy sensors that automatically turn lights off when spaces are empty, resulting in lower energy use and utility bills. The rebate is \$26 per kilowatt of controlled lighting, covering up to 50% of equipment costs. Sensors must be permanent (not plug-in), code-compliant, and installed in existing buildings. Businesses must apply for pre-approval and submit proof of installation.

STANDBY GENERATOR PROGRAM

The Standby Generator Program lets commercial and industrial customers earn monthly credits on their electric bill by allowing Tampa Electric to call on their on-site standby generator during grid peak-demand periods. Participants receive roughly \$6.15 per kilowatt (kW) for load transferred during peak hours, even if no call occurs. To qualify, a facility must have at least 25 kW of transferable load. By shifting load off the grid during critical times, businesses can reduce their energy costs and support grid reliability.

Access to Capital

The following financial institutions offer microloan and small-business financing programs that may help support climate resiliency upgrades, emergency preparedness improvements, and facility enhancements.

Participation in the WeatherWise program does not require businesses to work with these specific lenders. They are provided as optional resources to help participants explore financing options that may align with their business needs.



Black Business Investment Fund, Inc. (BBIF)
Provides affordable financing, technical assistance, and support services to small businesses.

CONTACT:
Tarneisha Peters
813-771-0378
tpeters@bbif.com



Suncoast Credit Union
Offers microloans and small-business financing solutions to support operational improvements and growth.

CONTACT:
689-239-9133
microloans@suncoast-creditunion.com



Total Mortgage Lending
Provides lending products and guidance for business owners seeking capital for property and facility-related improvements.

CONTACT:
Monique Gamble
(833) 832-6865
mo@teamtml.com



Valley Bank
Small-business lending options, including financing for property improvements and resiliency investments.

CONTACT:
Karina Ojeda
201-773-7271
kojeda@valley.com



City of
Tampa
Florida

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with Resilient Cities Catalyst