



Oregon

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Building Automation Control Projects

The Oregon Department of Energy is receiving a significant increase in the number of Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) applications for building automation control projects. Systems that control energy consuming equipment in a building are eligible when energy-saving features exceed standard practice and applicable code requirements. (Applicable state and local building codes are those that are in effect the date the Department of Energy receives the application for preliminary certification.) Reviewers are monitoring the eligibility of these projects to ensure consistency with the BETC Administrative Rules.

The following review criteria are provided for guidance when applying for building automation controls projects. These criteria support, but do not replace, the Administrative Rules. Project owners should contact the Department of Energy for more detailed assistance (Toll-free 1-800-221-8035).

- **For existing systems within service life:** The baseline is the existing system's capabilities in fully functional and operating condition. Eligible costs will be based on the cost and energy savings of the proposed system as compared to the baseline system.
- **For existing systems beyond service life or for new buildings:** The baseline is the current standard practice for a fully functional, code-compliant system. The baseline system must incorporate similar technologies to the proposed system (e.g. do not compare a new DDC-based system with a new pneumatic-based system). Eligible costs and energy savings will be based on the incremental cost and energy savings between the proposed system and the baseline system. The minimum standard or baseline system should have the following features, plus any additional features required by code:
 - Start/Stop Program
 - Night Setback Program
 - Variable Flow (10 hp and above)
 - Enthalpy Control Program (Economizer)
 - Lighting Control Program (Sweep>5,000 sq.ft.)
- **Energy savings:** The project must achieve energy savings of 10 percent or more to be considered a qualified project. Components that do not contribute to energy savings are not considered eligible costs. Proposals that include such additions as infrastructure upgrades or that add convenience to the owner/operator, but don't contribute to energy savings are not eligible costs.
- **Operations and maintenance:** Any costs associated with operations, maintenance and repair activities are not eligible. This criteria is in the BETC Administrative Rules, OAR 330-090-0110 16(b)(D).

Contacts: Business Energy Tax Credit Program 1-800-221-8035

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Existing Controls System

Service Life (per ASHRAE)
Pneumatic – 20 years
Electric – 16 years
Electronic – 15 years

