



Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 Fact Sheet

Clean Energy Tax Incentives Relevant to U.S. Real Estate

April 6, 2023

President Biden signed the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 \(IRA\)](#) into law on August 16, 2022. The legislation will invest almost \$370 billion over the next 10 years to tackle the climate crisis.

A number of the IRA's changes to the federal tax code may help the U.S. real estate sector reduce its carbon footprint, particularly:

- A deduction to help make commercial and multifamily buildings more energy efficient (Section 179D);
- A credit to encourage investments in renewable energy generation and other "clean energy" technologies sited at buildings and other facilities (Section 48);
- A credit to incentivize the installation of EV charging stations (Section 30C); and
- A credit to incentivize energy-efficient new residential construction, including multifamily (Section 45L).

The Real Estate Roundtable (RER) has [encouraged Congress](#) for a [number of years](#) to make clean energy tax incentives more usable for building owners, managers, and financiers—and more impactful to help meet national GHG reduction goals. Below is our summary of key IRA provisions.

179D Tax Deduction for Energy Efficient Buildings

Amount of Deduction

- The 179D deduction amount is on a "sliding scale."
 - Amount increases with higher levels of building efficiency.
 - Minimum efficiency gain eligible for the deduction: 25%, pegged to a minimum deduction amount of 50 cents per building ft².
 - Each percentage point increase in building efficiency correlates to a 2-cent increase in the deduction amount.





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| Efficiency Gain Over Baseline | Deduction Amount "Base Rate" | Labor Standards "Bonus Rate" |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 25% (minimum) | 50 cents per ft ² | \$2.50 per ft ² |
| 30% | 60 cents per ft ² | \$3.00 per ft ² |
| 35% | 70 cents per ft ² | \$3.50 per ft ² |
| 40% | 80 cents per ft ² | \$4.00 per ft ² |
| 50% (maximum) | \$1.00 per ft ² | \$5.00 per ft ² |

- 179D deduction amount increases five times if the building project meets labor standards that: (1) pay "prevailing wages" to laborers that "install" equipment; and (2) satisfy "apprenticeship" hiring requirements.
 - IRA's general approach: Projects meeting labor standards are eligible for "Bonus" incentives that are five times more than "Base" incentives.
 - See prevailing wage and apprenticeship guidance ([published by the IRS](#) on Nov. 30,

2022)

179D is a "deduction" – not a "credit."

- 179D effectively works as a form of "accelerated depreciation" for energy efficient building "property" – as long as the property achieves the performance standard along the "sliding scale." explained above.

Eligible Energy Efficient "Property"

- Projects to achieve whole-building efficiency gains through installations of any combination of:
 - Interior lighting (not "exterior")
 - HVAC and hot water systems
 - Envelope (roof, windows, insulation)





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Timing

- IRA sliding scale amounts apply to energy efficient property “placed in service” after December 31, 2022.
- No sunset for this deduction. 179D became a permanent part of the tax code in December 2020.

Eligible Building Types

- Any building within the scope of the [ASHRAE 90.1 energy standard](#) for commercial and larger (not “low-rise”) multifamily buildings.

General 179D Baseline for New Construction

- New construction must model at least 25% more efficient over the ASHRAE 90.1 baseline to qualify for an incentive on the sliding scale.
- The 2007 version of ASHRAE 90.1 provides 179D’s general baseline for equipment “placed in service” up to Dec. 31, 2026 (see [IRS guidance published on Dec. 23, 2020](#)).
- The 2019 version of ASHRAE 90.1 will provide 179D’s general baseline for equipment “placed in service” on or after Jan. 1, 2027.

Retrofits—Section 179D(f) “Alternative Deduction”

- Retrofit baseline: The building’s own specific level of pre-retrofit site energy usage intensity (EUI).
 - Post-retrofit site EUI reductions of at least 25% are measured against the pre-retrofit baseline to determine the “sliding scale” incentive amount.
- A building must be five years or older to qualify for 179D(f)’s retrofit path.
- Project must be set forth in a “qualified retrofit plan” certified by a professional engineer or registered architect.
 - No requirement that the government review or approve the qualified retrofit plan.
- Taxpayer must wait to claim the retrofit deduction for at least one year after the equipment is in service and the project results in anticipated site EUI reductions of at least 25%.
 - Taxpayer cannot claim the retrofit deduction in the year it buys or installs equipment.





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- Architect/engineer must make a “final certification” of site EUI at least one year after the retrofit plan is implemented to show the efficiency gain.
- 179D(f) retrofit deduction amount and cap:
 - Uses the same sliding scale in the table on pg. 1
 - The deduction amount increases with greater efficiency gains proved out in the retrofit plan’s “final certification.”
 - The deduction amount is capped at the retrofit plan’s cost (i.e., “aggregate adjusted basis...of energy efficient building retrofit property placed in service”).

Deduction Reset

- The 179D deduction can apply to a specific building every 3 years (or every 4 years in the case of a building owned by a governmental or tribal body, or a non-profit organization).

REITs

- Includes earnings and profits (E&P) “conformity” accounting fix.
 - 179D deduction amount reduces E&P in the year that the energy efficiency components are installed (not ratably over a five-year period, as prior law required).
 - REITs and their shareholders may thus receive a fuller and more immediate financial benefit by claiming the 179D deduction.

Section 48 Investment Tax Credit

Types of Projects

- “Energy Property” covered by prior law: solar to generate electricity for heating or cooling; fiber-optic solar to illuminate the inside of a structure; “small wind” and microturbines; geothermal used to produce electricity; geothermal heat pumps to heat or cool a structure; fuel cells; waste recovery; and combined heat and power.
- IRA adds: energy storage (including thermal energy storage); dynamic glass; microgrid controllers; biogas property; linear generators; and “interconnection property” to the electric grid.





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Credit Amount (see also separate RER chart on “Base and Bonus Rate Amounts”)

- 6% of the cost of the Energy Property (“Base Rate”).
- Can scale up to 30% of cost (“Bonus Rate”) if project pays prevailing wages and meets apprenticeship requirements for the duration of the project’s “construction.”
 - Except for microturbines: 2% “Base Rate” and 10% “Bonus Rate.”
- “Small solar” and other projects that generate less than one MW of electricity can qualify at the 30% “Bonus Rate” even if they do not meet wage and apprenticeship standards.
- Credit amount increased by 2% if project meets “domestic content requirements” (i.e., materials are made in the USA).
 - Boost to 10% if prevailing wage/apprenticeship standards are met.
- Credit amount increased by 2% if project is located in an “energy community” (i.e., Brownfield site, census tract [or immediately adjacent tract] where a coal mine closed after Dec. 31, 1999, or coal-fired electric plant was retired after Dec. 31, 2009).
 - Boost to 10% if prevailing wage/apprenticeship standards are met.

Increased Credit Amounts for Low-Income Housing and Communities

- Any credit amounts under Sections 48, 48E, or 45Y do not reduce the basis of buildings supported by Section 42 LIHTCs.
- 20% credit boost for solar and wind projects, generating less than 5 MW, installed “on” low-income housing buildings (such as those supported by LIHTCs).
- 10% credit boost for solar and wind projects, generating less than 5 MW, located in census tracts eligible for New Markets Tax Credits (NMTCs).
- Credit increases for low-income housing and communities are competitive. They are capped at annual capacity limits, require an application to US-DOE, and approval by Treasury/IRS.

Timing and Switch to “Technology Neutral” Tax Credits

- Generally: Section 48 project construction must commence in 2023 or 2024.
 - Except for geothermal heat pumps: Construction must commence through 2034.





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- Tax credit starts to scale down for geothermal heat pumps constructed in 2033 and 2034.
- For Section 48 projects constructed after Jan 1, 2025:
 - Transition to the technology-neutral “Clean Electricity Production Credit” (Section 45Y) or the “Clean Electricity Investment Credit” (Section 48E).
 - Taxpayer to opt for either the 45Y PTC or the 48E ITC.
 - Credits start to phase out by 2032 or when the electric power sector emits 75% less carbon than 2022 levels (whichever comes later).
 - Section 45Y PTC or Section 48E ITC is available for any “zero carbon” electricity facility or technology.
 - 45Y PTC = tax credit per kWh of “zero carbon” electricity produced and sold in the 10- year period after the facility is placed in service.
 - Base Rate of .5 cents per kWh.
 - Bonus Rate of 2.5 cents per kWh (if prevailing wage/apprenticeship standards are met).
 - 48E ITC = tax credit based on same Base Rate and Bonus Rate structure discussed above.
 - Base Rate: 6% of the cost investment in the “zero carbon” facility.
 - Bonus Rate: 30% of the cost of investment in the facility (if prevailing wage/ apprenticeship standards are met).
 - 5-year depreciation for any qualifying “zero carbon” 45Y facility or 48E property.

30C Tax Credit for EV Charging Stations

- Extended through 2032.
- Same Base Rate (6%) and Bonus Rate (30%) structure discussed above.
- Credit capped at \$100K for each charging station or refueling pump installed at a property.
- Third-party “transferability” applies.





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- Geographic limitations—charging station must be located in either:
 - A low-income or high-poverty Census tract under New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) criteria ([see NMTC tracking tool](#)); or
 - Not an "urban area" as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Section 45L "New Energy Efficient Home" Tax Credit

Duration and Building Eligibility

- Extended through 2032.
- Pertains to new construction including "substantial rehabilitation."
- All residential buildings—single-family and multifamily—are eligible.
- "High-rise" multifamily and apartment buildings can also qualify for the Section 179D tax deduction discussed above (if they are in the scope of the ASHRAE 90.1 standard).
 - ASHRAE 90.1 (and hence, Section 179D application) covers multifamily buildings of four stories or more.

Primary Use of Building

- Must be "residential."
- Mixed-use buildings: "Dwelling" units and common space (excluding parking garages) must exceed 50% of the building's square footage.

For Multifamily Homes

- Credit applies to "dwelling units" in a "building" [eligible for EPA's ENERGY STAR "Multifamily New Construction Program."](#)
- "Dwelling unit" must meet both:
 - EPA's most recent [National Program Requirements](#); and
 - Any applicable EPA [regional program requirements](#) (e.g., [California](#))





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Credit Amounts

- Credits are “per unit” in a qualifying multifamily building.
 - Increased amount if the unit meets [U.S.-DOE’s Zero Energy Ready Home Multifamily Program](#) (in development).
 - For single family: Increased credit amount if the home is [certified by U.S.-DOE](#) as a “Zero Energy Ready Home.”
- 5x “Bonus Rate” if prevailing wage requirements are met.
 - No apprenticeship hiring requirement for multifamily “Bonus Rate.”
 - No prevailing wage “Bonus Rate” for single family.

| | Base | Base Zero Energy | Bonus | Bonus Zero Energy |
|---------------|---------|------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Multifamily | \$500 | \$1,000 | \$2,500 | \$5,000 |
| Single-Family | \$2,500 | \$5,000 | n/a | n/a |

Low-Income Housing

- 45L credit amounts do *not* reduce the basis of buildings supported by Section 42 LIHTCs.
- However, 179D deductions *do* reduce the basis of LIHTC buildings.

Credit Transfers Allowed To Third Parties

- Companies with little or no tax liability that cannot typically benefit from tax credits—like REITs—have the option to “transfer” certain credits to another taxpaying entity that can use them.
- Transferability can be for the full or partial amount of a credit.
 - Transferability allowed for credits under Sections 30C, 45Y, 48, and 48E.
 - Transferability is *not* allowed for the Section 179D deduction (except state/local governments, tribes, and non-profit organizations can transfer 179D deduction amounts to architects and designers responsible for the building project).



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- Transferability is *not* allowed for the Section 45L credit.
- The recipient of the credit (the “transferee taxpayer”) must pay for the credit “in cash.”
- The “transferee taxpayer” must be unrelated to the company making the transfer.
- Transferred credit amounts are not “income” to the company making the transfer.
- Transferred credit amounts are not deductible by the “transferee taxpayer.”
- REITs can transfer the full amount of the credit.
- See summary chart on the next page.

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Summary of “Direct Pay” and “Transfer” Options for IRA Tax Incentives

| IRA Tax Incentive | Direct Pay from U.S. Government | Optional Transfer of Incentive |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 179D Tax Deduction for Energy Efficient Commercial and Larger Multifamily Buildings | Not allowed | <p><i>Who can transfer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only specified “tax-exempt entities” that own buildings can “allocate” 179D amounts. This includes federal/state/local government, tribal, and non-profit building owners. Private sector building owners <i>cannot</i> transfer 179D amounts. <p><i>Who can receive:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only the “person primarily responsible for designing” the energy-efficient property can receive allocated 179D amounts. E.g., Architects, engineers, efficiency contractors/consultants <p><i>NOTE:</i> Earnings and Profits “conformity” for REITs—i.e., full amount of 179D deduction reduces E&P in the same year that the REIT claims the deduction.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 48 Investment Tax Credit (projects constructed in 2023 or 2024) Section 48E Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit (projects constructed in 2025 or later) Section 45Y Clean Electricity Production Tax Credit (projects constructed in 2025 or later) | Direct pay eligibility limited to state/local governments, tribes, rural electric coops, and non-profits. | <p><i>Who can transfer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All business taxpayers that are not eligible for “direct pay.” E.g., REITs, partnerships, corporations <p><i>Who can receive:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any unrelated third-party that pays taxes (the “transferee taxpayer”), and that buys the credit amount “in cash.” |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 30C EV Charging Station Tax Credit | Same as immediately above for Section 48 ITC, etc. | Same as immediately above for Section 48 ITC, etc. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45L Tax Credit for New Energy Efficient Homes (Single- and Multifamily eligibility) | Not allowed | Not allowed |

