Supplemental Optional Priority List (SOPL)

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: What is the purpose of the Supplemental Optional Priority List (SOPL)?

Answer:

The SOPL establishes guidelines for using supplemental funds to support deeper weatherization upgrades beyond standard DOE-funded measures.

Question 2: What Fund sources can be used with the SOPL?

Answer:

Currently-- LIHEAP, WxDef, WxSup.

Question 3: When can a measure be funded through the SOPL?

Answer:

A measure must first be evaluated through the DOE-approved audit tool; if it does not qualify as a DOE ECM, it may be considered under SOPL.

Question 4: Are SOPL measures required to be installed?

Answer:

No. SOPL measures are optional and may be declined by the client or agency.

Question 5: What supplemental insulation measures are eligible?

Answer:

Eligible insulation upgrades include attic, wall, sill box, floor, conditioned foundation wall, and mobile home insulation.

Question 6: What criteria apply to heating system replacement?

Answer:

Heating systems may be replaced if the existing unit is over 18 years old or below 90% AFUE; replacement units must meet ENERGY STAR or AFUE 95%+ standards.

Question 7: What boiler replacement criteria must be met?

Answer:

Boilers qualify if they are over 20 years old or below 90% AFUE; replacement units must be ENERGY STAR or AFUE 90%+.

Question 8: Which water heaters qualify for replacement?

Answer:

Eligible water heaters include units over 13 years old or atmospherically vented; replacements must meet updated UEF or ENERGY STAR efficiency standards.

Question 9: When can central air conditioners be replaced?

Answer:

Central air conditioners may be replaced **only** alongside forced-air heating system replacement and must meet specific SEER criteria.

Question 10: What requirements apply to refrigerator or freezer replacement?

Answer:

Units must be older than 15 years, metered, and shown to use more energy annually than an ENERGY STAR replacement; proper disposal is required.

Question 11: Can agencies request approval for measures not listed on the SOPL?

Answer:

Yes. Agencies may submit waiver requests with installation conditions, efficiency standards, and justification for need.

Question 12: Are incidental repairs allowed under SOPL funding?

Answer:

Incidental repairs supporting SOPL measures are allowed but cannot be funded with DOE dollars and must be properly itemized.

Question 13: What documentation is required for SOPL measures?

Answer:

All SOPL measures require documentation including audit confirmation, cost allocation, eligibility proof, removal documentation, invoices, and photos.

Question 14: How should SOPL measures be entered in the energy audit and cost systems?

Answer:

SOPL measures must be entered as user-defined measures (prefix EE) in WAweb and categorized appropriately in Wx Compass and empowOR.

Question 15: What oversight is required for SOPL measures?

Answer:

All SOPL measures must meet standard WAP requirements, including SWS, Field Guide, Energy Audit Guide, and SHPO consultation rules.

Question 16: Can DOE funds ever be used for SOPL measures?

Answer:

No. Only supplemental funds may be used for SOPL measures; DOE funds must follow DOE guidelines exclusively.