# 2017 GFOA of South Carolina: Financing Energy Efficiency Projects – Creative Financing Approaches

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Energy Efficiency Finance – Market Overview and Financial Solutions





### **Markets Served**



#### **Governmental Entities**

- Federal government
- State/local governments
- Municipal utilities
- Government authorities/agencies
  - Public housing authorities
- Waste water treatment facilities

#### **Public Education**

- K-12 public schools
- Community colleges
- State colleges and universities



#### Institutions

- Private colleges and universities
- Cultural institutions
- Scientific/research facilities

### **Healthcare (not-for-profit 501c3)**

- Hospitals and medical centers
- Hospital not-for-profit Support Entities
- Medical office buildings
- Municipal hospitals
- Continuing care centers



### **Commercial/Industrial**

- Manufacturing facilities
- Commercial properties
- Commercial Real Estate

### **Hospitality**

Hotels



# **Market Dynamics**

### **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**



#### **Positive Market Conditions**

- Demand for energy independence
- Pursuing energy efficiencies for local economic development
- Societal support for renewable/clean energy
- Need to reduce demand on the grid
- Backlog of deferred maintenance
- Economic benefits

### Financial Incentives

- Financing subsidies
  - QECB's
  - QZAB's
  - New CREB's
- Grant programs

### **Legislative Support**

- State and federal programs and mandates
- Energy Policy Act of 2005
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- Executive Order 13693: Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade
- Energy Independence and Security Act 2007

#### **Deterrents**

- Fiscal budgets
- Prevailing energy prices
- Political priorities
- Federal sequestration reduced subsidies

# **Energy Performance Contracting**



### **Fundamentals**

- Contracting method by which an entity procures energy savings and deferred maintenance facility improvements typically under a Guaranteed Savings Energy Performance Contract or similar agreement (an EPC) from an Energy Services Company (ESCO)
- Utility or cost avoidance savings generated from the project are typically guaranteed by the ESCO
- Savings may be measured or stipulated (agreed to between the customer and the ESCO upfront)
- Savings are generally used to cover the financing of the improvements
- Most states have passed performance contracting statutes to facilitate but also standardize EPC terms and requirements for public entities within the state
- Contract tenors and EPC requirements vary by state

### **Common Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) Covered Under Performance Contracts**

- Energy efficient indoor lighting
- Building control systems and occupancy sensors
- Boilers, chillers, HVAC and mechanical systems
- Central plants
- Outdoor lighting, parking lights, street lights
- LED traffic signals

- Water meters, electric meters and automated meter reading systems
- Water flow conservation fixtures
- Energy recovery systems
- Roof replacements, insulation and windows

# **Financing Solutions**



### **Traditional Products**

- Cash
- Tax-exempt lease purchase agreement (TELP) municipal and 501(c)(3)
- Commercial rated debt (LIS and loans)
- GO Debt
- Tax/operating leases
- Purchase of Receivables

### Non-Tax and Tax Structured Financing

- Energy/utility service agreements
- Commercial PACE

### **Tax Advantaged Structures**

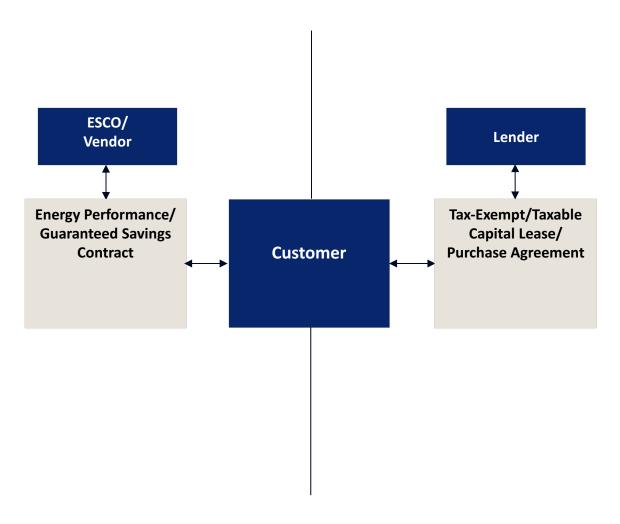
- Tax Credit Obligations provide financing incentives which reduce interest costs
- Qualified Zone Academy Obligations (QZABs)
- New Clean Renewable Energy Obligations (New CREBs)
- Qualified Energy Conservation Obligations (QECBs)

# **Energy Performance Contracting Diagram**



Financing Example Using a Lease/Purchase Agreement

The issuer's obligations under the Lease/Purchase Agreement are independent of the vendor's obligations under the Energy Performance Contracting Agreement.



# **Qualified Energy Conservation Obligations (QECBs)**



### **QECBs**

- \$3.2BN Program
- Capital expenditures for:
  - Reducing energy use in public buildings by at least 20%
  - Implementing green community programs
  - Rural development involving production of electricity from renewable energy resources and research facility expenditures for certain technologies
  - Renewable energy
- Allocated to the States in proportion to US population, with sub-allocations to large local governments with a population > 100,000, and the reminder allocated at the discretion of the State
- No expiration date for allocations
- Sub-allocations may be waived by large local governments
- Up to 30% of the allocation may be used for non-governmental purposes
- Carry over of unused credits
- 2% costs of issuance limitations
- Davis-Bacon Applies
- Only 70% of the posted tax credit may be utilized
- Direct Pay Option Permitted via Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act of 2010 – "Jobs Act"

| QECB Allocation By State (sample list) |    |             |  |
|--|----|-------------|--|
| AL                                     | \$ | 48,346,000  |  |
| AR                                     | \$ | 29,623,000  |  |
| FL                                     | \$ | 190,146,000 |  |
| GA                                     | \$ | 100,484,000 |  |
| IL                                     | \$ | 133,846,000 |  |
| IN                                     | \$ | 66,155,000  |  |
| KY                                     | \$ | 44,291,000  |  |
| MI                                     | \$ | 103,780,000 |  |
| МО                                     | \$ | 61,329,000  |  |
| MS                                     | \$ | 30,486,000  |  |
| NC                                     | \$ | 95,677,000  |  |
| SC                                     | \$ | 46,475,000  |  |
| TN                                     | \$ | 64,476,000  |  |

# **New Clean Renewable Energy Obligations** (NewCREBs)<sup>1</sup>



### **Fundamentals**

- Provide funding for renewable energy projects that create electricity
  - Solar PV (not thermal)
  - Wind
  - Biomass/landfill gas
  - Small hydro
- Lender/bondholder receives a federal tax credit, which reduces the rate to the borrower/issuer
- Separate application for each project location
- Allocations are awarded from smallest-to-largest locations
- CREBs must be issued within 3 years of allocation notice from IRS

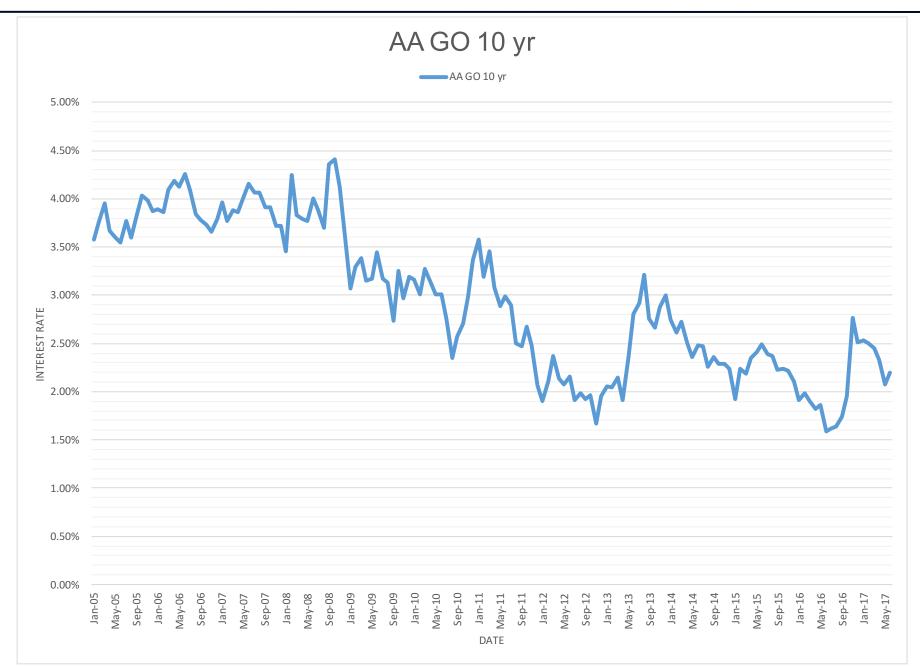
Market Rate Updates





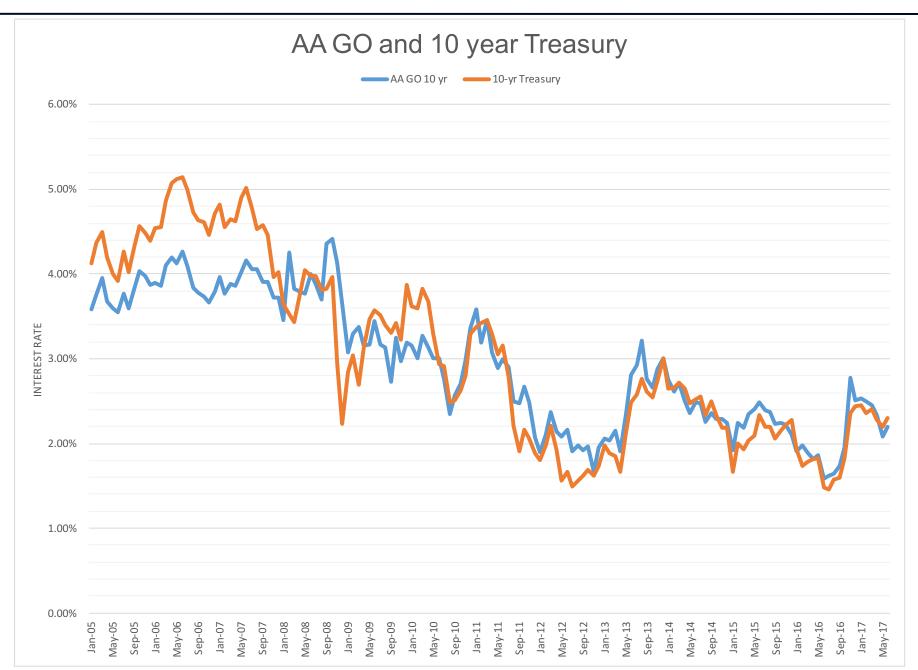
# **Municipal Rate Update**





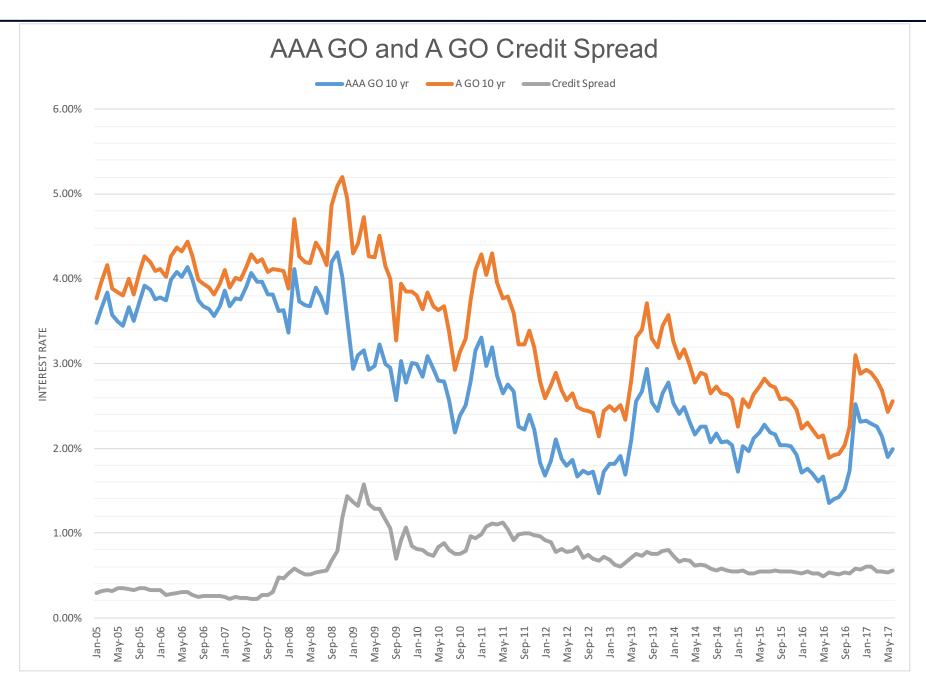
# **Municipal and Treasury Rate Update**





# **Municipal Rate Update**





Questions





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