



THE Energy Alliance Group OF MICHIGAN



Michigan's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing Program

What is PACE?

PACE is a Michigan public act and a new and innovative way for industrial, commercial, non-profit and multi-family property owners to finance 100% of the costs for energy efficiency upgrades, on-site renewable energy projects and water conservation measures.

PACE allows qualified property owners to finance projects using long-term loans that are repaid through a voluntary property tax assessment facilitated by the local government. Assuming all eligibility requirements are met, **PACE** can also be used to refinance existing energy efficiency upgrade projects.

This tax assessment is a senior lien secured by the property and it "runs with the land" – meaning that upon the sale of the property, the subsequent owner is responsible for continuing the repayments. The costs of the upgrades are spread over the life of the project which is generally between 15 and 20 years.

This innovative method of "off-balance sheet" project financing eliminates the need for up-front capital and, for the vast majority of projects, provide property owners with immediate and steady cash flow. These projects lower monthly operating expenses, increase property values and often create a more comfortable work environment.

Benefits of PACE

PACE financing removes typical barriers to the adoption of energy efficiency measures.

- **PACE** is non-recourse and off-balance sheet financing
- 100% financing requiring no up-front capital
- Long-term financing, up to 20 years, allows for large capital projects like solar and geothermal
- No need to pay off the loan upon sale - **PACE** assessments remain with the property
- Assessment costs can be passed through to tenants (solves "split incentive" problem)
- For projects costing \$250,000 and greater, the energy savings are guaranteed by the PACE project developer and must be cash flow positive for the term of financing.

Who Qualifies for PACE?

Michigan has established **PACE** for commercial, industrial, non-profit and multi-family buildings only. Single family and government owned buildings do not qualify. Distressed buildings that require re-commissioning and new construction can also qualify.

Additional eligibility requirements are:

- Building must be located in a Michigan **PACE** district
- Building owner is not delinquent on current or past property tax and utility bills
- Business is basically healthy and likely to continue to use the property for 10-20 years
- Property is not overly leveraged – its debt load is 80% or less
- Maximum **PACE** loan is 25% of the property's assessed value
- Minimum value of a **PACE** loan is targeted at \$250,000, although smaller projects may qualify
- **PACE** financing can be used for projects that increase energy or water efficiency, or add renewable energy-generating capability
- Building tenants qualify with the building owner's consent

What Projects Qualify for PACE?

Michigan Public Act 270 allows **PACE** financing of projects that increase energy efficiency, water efficiency or add renewable energy generating capacity. The only exclusions are incinerators and digesters. The statute includes a list of allowed projects. New technologies are also allowable.

Examples include:

- Building Envelope Improvements
- Energy Control Systems
- Lighting
- HVAC Systems Including Boilers and Chillers
- Water Usage Improvements
- Solar, Wind & Combined Heat and Power
- Geothermal & Biomass
- Manufacturing & Assembly Process Improvements
- High Speed Doors
- Compressed Air Systems



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Where Has Pace Been Adopted?

Local government assessment financing has been used efficiently for decades throughout the United States to fund improvements to private property that meet a public purpose. Today, Michigan's **PACE** program has been adopted in nine counties and three cities. These locations represent 49% of Michigan's population. Owners of buildings in non-**PACE** jurisdictions can request its adoption through Levin Energy Partners, Michigan's **PACE** administrator.

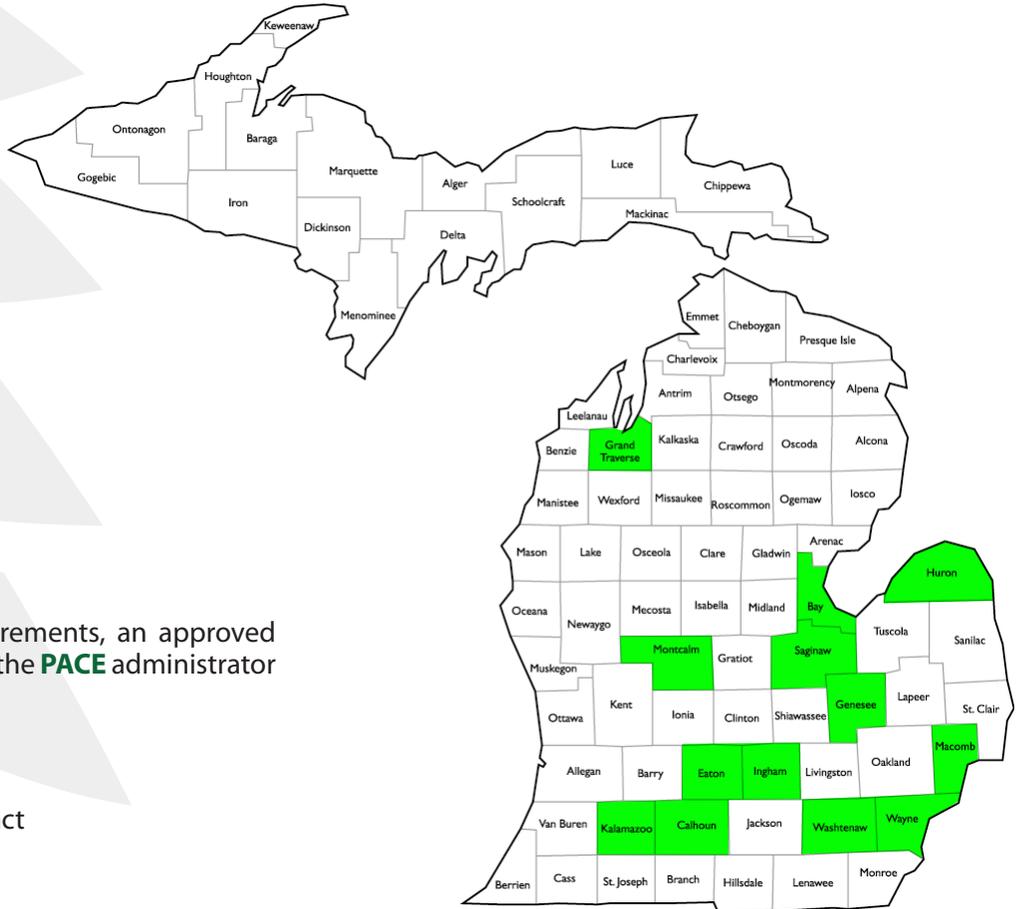
PACE has been adopted in the following locations:

Counties

Bay
Eaton
Genesee
Grand Traverse
Huron
Ingham
Kalamazoo
Macomb
Montcalm
Saginaw
Washtenaw
Wayne
Calhoun

Cities

Ferndale
Pleasant Ridge
Rochester Hills
Royal Oak
Southfield



What are the Steps to PACE Financing?

If the project appears to meet the requirements, an approved **PACE** contractor will submit the project to the **PACE** administrator for consideration.

If approved, typical steps would include:

- 1) Pre-Project Assessment
- 2) Prepare & Execute Proposal Contract
- 3) Conduct Facility Audit
- 4) Prepare & Approve Cost Analysis
- 5) Secure **PACE** District (If Required)
- 6) Prepare & Execute Energy Performance Contract
- 7) Secure **PACE** Financing
- 8) Implement Project
- 9) Close on **PACE** Financing
- 10) Conduct Annual Audits & Reporting



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An Approved **PACE** Project Developer