

NEW YORK STATE ENERGY LAW
ARTICLE 9 - ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS
IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

§ 9-101. Purpose

The purpose of this article is to obtain long-term energy and cost savings for agencies and municipalities by facilitating prompt incorporation of energy conservation improvements or energy production equipment, or both, in connection with buildings or facilities owned, operated or under the supervision and control of agencies or municipalities, in cooperation with providers of such services and associated materials from the private sector. Such arrangements will improve and protect the health, safety, security, and welfare of the people of the state by promoting energy conservation and independence, developing alternate sources of energy, and fostering business activity.

§ 9-102. Definitions

For the purposes of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context.

1. "Owner" means any state department, agency, board, commission, office, or division.
2. "Municipality" means a municipal corporation, as defined in section two of the general municipal law, school district, board of cooperative educational services, fire district, district corporation or special improvement district governed by a separate board of commissioners.
3. "Public authority" means any public authority, public benefit corporation, or the port authority of New York and New Jersey, to the extent its facilities are located within the state of New York.
4. "Energy performance contract" means an agreement for the provision of energy services, including but not limited to electricity, heating, ventilation, cooling, steam or hot water, in which a person agrees to install, maintain or manage energy systems or equipment to improve the energy efficiency of, or produce energy in connection with, a building or facility in exchange for a portion of the energy savings or revenues.

§ 9-103. Energy performance contracts

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any agency, municipality, or public authority, in addition to existing powers, is authorized to enter into energy performance contracts of up to thirty-five years duration, provided, that the duration of any such contract shall not exceed the reasonably expected useful life of the energy facilities or equipment subject to such contract.
2. Any energy performance contract entered into by any agency or municipality shall contain the following clause: "This contract shall be deemed executory only to the extent of the monies appropriated and available for the purpose of the contract, and no liability on account therefor shall be incurred beyond the amount of such monies. It is understood that neither this contract nor any representation by any public employee or officer creates any legal or moral obligation to request, appropriate or make available monies for the purpose of the contract."
3. In the case of a school district or a board of cooperative educational services, an energy performance contract shall be an ordinary contingent expense, and shall in no event be construed as or deemed a lease or lease-purchase of a building or facility, for purposes of the education law.
4. Agencies, municipalities, and public authorities are encouraged to consult with and seek advice and assistance from the New York state energy research and development authority concerning energy performance contracts.
5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in order to convey an interest in real property necessary for the construction of facilities or the operation of equipment provided for in an energy performance contract, any agency, municipality or public authority may enter into a lease of such real property to which it holds title or which is under its

administrative jurisdiction as is necessary for such construction or operation, with an energy performance contractor, for the same length of time as the term of such energy performance contract, and on such terms and conditions as may be agreeable to the parties thereto and are not otherwise inconsistent with law, and notwithstanding that such real property may remain useful to such agency, municipality or public authority for the purpose for which such real property was originally acquired or devoted or for which such real property is being used.

6. In lieu of any other competitive procurement or acquisition process that may apply pursuant to any other provision of law, an agency, municipality, or public authority may procure an energy performance contractor by issuing and advertising a written request for proposals in accordance with procurement or internal control policies, procedures, or guidelines that the agency, municipality, or public authority has adopted pursuant to applicable provisions of the state finance law, the executive law, the general municipal law, or the public authorities law, as the case may be.

7. Sections one hundred three and one hundred nine-b of the general municipal law shall not apply to an energy performance contract for which a written request for proposals is issued pursuant to subdivision six of this section.

8. In the case of a school district or a board of cooperative educational services, an energy performance contract shall be developed and approved pursuant to the requirements of this section and pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commissioner of education in consultation with the New York state energy research and development authority. Such regulations shall include, but shall not be limited to: a list of the appropriate type of projects that qualify as energy performance contracts; an approval process that includes review of the type and nature of the proposed project, the scope and nature of the work to be performed, and a detailed breakdown of the energy savings to be derived each year and for the duration of the energy performance contract; and a process for ensuring that districts have obtained financing at the lowest cost possible. Such regulations shall require that all energy performance contracts which contain maintenance and monitoring charges as part of the energy performance contract price state such maintenance and monitoring charges separately in the contract in a clear and conspicuous manner. Such regulations shall not apply to energy performance contracts entered into prior to the effective date of such regulations, nor shall they apply to energy performance contracts for which a request for proposals was issued prior to such effective date.

Added L. 1985, c. 733, § 2; amended L. 1989, c. 638, §§ 1,2; amended L. 1994, c. 368, §§ 1,2; amended L. 1995, c.83, §47; amended L. 1997, c. 436, §78.