

**Douglas County
Enterprise Zone Process Guide
March 2018**

**Administrator of the
Douglas County Enterprise Zone:**



TUSCOLA

Tuscola Chamber &
Economic Development, Inc.

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Effective January 1, 2018, the State of Illinois designated portions of Douglas County as an Enterprise Zone for a term of fifteen years. Thirteen years after the original designation date, the state will review the performance of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone, as well as others around the state that were designated at the same time, before awarding an additional ten-year life cycle. Qualified new and existing businesses in the Zone are offered state and local tax incentives and other benefits to reduce operating and construction costs associated with job creation and retention.

The Enterprise Zone Program is a true partnership between state and local government. It emphasizes a creative coalition of state and local governments, business, labor and community groups to encourage economic growth in the Enterprise Zone. The Douglas County Enterprise Zone is set aside to attract new industry and revitalize existing businesses by providing targeted initiatives and financial incentives.

The information in this Guide provides further information on which projects might qualify for the Douglas County Enterprise Zone as well as further information on the incentives potentially available.

At the request of the Designating Units of Government, The Executive Director of the Tuscola Chamber and Economic Development, Inc. serves as Administrator of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone.

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FORMS

BMEC Project Application
Contractors Application
Form EZ-1
Form RG-61 Gas Use Tax Exemption Certificate

Property Tax Abatement

A number of taxing bodies have agreed to participate in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone Property Tax Abatement Program, for eligible projects.

Project Application Approval – No project shall be granted property tax abatement until or unless a Project Application has been submitted to the Administrator of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone, to insure eligibility and qualifying criteria have been met.

*Enterprise Zone Property Tax **Abatement will not be granted if a project has begun construction prior to receiving approval** of an Abatement request from the Administrator.*

*Applicants requesting Building Materials Exemption Certificates (BMEC) from the Administrator and the Illinois Department of Revenue **will not receive benefits for materials purchased prior to the issuance of a BMEC** by the Illinois Department of Revenue.*

The formal written request must include submission of a completed Project Application or Building Materials Exemption Certificate (BMEC) Application form along with all required documentation and a narrative describing the project. The property tax abatement request will then be presented to the local Enterprise Zone Advisory Board for their review and concurrence. Although, the project review/approval process could take up to 45 days, every effort will be made to expedite eligibility confirmation to facilitate project timelines.

The Douglas County Enterprise Zone currently offers a variety of property tax abatement incentives, which are targeted depending on the project's applicable business sector in the Zone.

DEFINITIONS

- 1) **"Project Application"** as defined herein is the written application for Douglas County Enterprise Zone benefits for job development and capital investment projects. The application must be completed by the company seeking benefits (or the company's designated representative) and submitted to the Douglas County Enterprise Zone Administrator **PRIOR** to the initiation of construction for said project. The Application provides information necessary for the Administrator to verify eligibility for Enterprise Zone benefits including, but not limited to,

Property Tax Abatement and Sales Tax Exemption for Construction Materials in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Revenue processes and procedures in effect at the time of the Application.

- 2) **"Memorandum of Understanding" or "MOU"** as defined herein is the written agreement between the Douglas County Enterprise Zone Administrator, on behalf of the Taxing Bodies participating in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone Property Tax Abatement Program, and the Applicant receiving tax abatement. The MOU defines the terms and conditions by which abatement of real estate property tax is authorized.
- 2) **"Industrial/Manufacturing Projects"** as defined herein, are enterprises where the manufacturing or assembling of goods takes place.
- 3) **"Logistic(s)/Distribution Center Projects"** as defined herein, are warehousing and distribution enterprises that are engaged in the storage and/or packaging of goods and the transfer or transportation of products from a point of origin to a point of consumption.
- 4) **"Office Projects"** as defined herein are enterprises that are research oriented and that require a highly skilled workforce such as biotechnology, electronics and/or professional services such as engineering, architecture, finance, law and telemarketing companies.
- 5) **"Retail/Commercial Companies"** as described herein, are enterprises in the business of selling products or services in the following categories: Stores selling products to the general public or wholesale customers, restaurants, hotels/motels and related concerns.

EXCLUSIONS - Retail/Commercial Companies engaged in the following categories of business below shall be ineligible for any property tax abatement as provided herein:

- a) self-storage (mini warehouse facilities)
- b) automobile service station
- c) automatic or self-service coin operated car wash
- d) commodity scrap processing
- e) convenience food and beverage store
- f) gasoline station

- g) package liquor store
- h) recycling facility
- i) cash advance, pay day loan and title loan stores
- j) adult entertainment venues including adult bookstores

Additional Exclusions – Residential projects shall be ineligible for any benefits in the Douglas Enterprise Zone.

PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- I) Property Tax Abatements shall be applicable for eligible **OFFICE, INDUSTRIAL, MANUFACTURING AND LOGISTICS/ DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECTS** for improvements to real property upon which new construction, improvements, renovation or rehabilitation has been completed after January 1, 2018, and before the expiration, termination or decertification of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone, whichever is sooner. Abatement shall only apply to the incremental increase in taxes assessed as a result of the project and its related improvements.

Questions as to the eligibility of a project and resulting improvements will be decided by the Douglas County Enterprise Zone Administrator, with advice and consent of the Enterprise Zone Advisory Board.

- A) Building Permits – If a Building Permit is required within the applicable Designating Unit of Government’s jurisdiction, then its issuance is also a condition of abatement approval.
- B) Both a minimum capital investment of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) and the creation and/or retention of at least one (1) full-time job are necessary for a parcel to receive real tax abatement as provided herein for eligible **OFFICE, INDUSTRIAL, MANUFACTURING AND LOGISTICS/DISTRIBUTION CENTER**-based projects.

The abatements outlined above will be effective after the said rehabilitation, expansion, or new construction has been completed and will begin following the first full year of a facility's commercial operation.

Abatements are also contingent upon execution of a Memorandum of Understanding as outlined in the Ordinances, Resolutions and Inter-governmental Agreement.

- II) Property tax abatements shall be applicable for eligible **RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL** projects involving real property upon which construction, improvements, renovation or rehabilitation which results in an increase in the Equalized Assessed Valuation of at least \$15,000 has been completed after January 1, 2018 and prior to the expiration, termination or decertification of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone.

Building Permits – If a Building Permit is required within the applicable Designating Unit of Government’s jurisdiction, then its issuance is also a condition of abatement approval.

The abatements outlined above will be effective after the said rehabilitation, expansion, or new construction has been completed and will begin following the first full year of a facility's commercial operation and reassessment of the property.

Abatements are also contingent upon execution of a Memorandum of Understanding as outlined in the Ordinances, Resolutions and Inter-governmental Agreement.

PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT SCHEDULES

The broadly adopted Abatement Schedules are described below. The Zone Administrator will verify abatement participants based on the project location prior to project initiation.

I) OFFICE, INDUSTRIAL, MANUFACTURING AND LOGISTICS/DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECTS

Effective for projects beginning on or after January 1, 2018, taxes on real property levied by the participating taxing bodies shall be abated on property located within the Zone and upon which new improvements have been constructed according to the following schedule:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1) For taxes levied in the first year of abatement: | 100% |
| 2) For taxes levied in the second year of abatement: | 80% |
| 3) For taxes levied in the third year of abatement: | 60% |
| 4) For taxes levied in the fourth year of abatement: | 40% |
| 5) For taxes levied in the fifth year of abatement: | 20% |
| 6) For taxes levied in the sixth year and beyond: | 0% |

Said abatements shall be for five (5) consecutive years beginning with the real estate taxes payable in the year following the first full year of a facility's commercial operation after which said improvements have been made and fully assessed. Abatement for a specific project will cease after the fifth year or upon expiration, termination or decertification of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone, whichever is sooner.

The above property tax abatements shall be applicable for eligible **OFFICE, INDUSTRIAL, MANUFACTURING AND LOGISTICS/DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECTS** for improvements to real property upon which new construction, improvements, renovation or rehabilitation has been completed after January 1, 2018, and before the expiration, termination or decertification of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone, whichever is sooner. Abatement shall only apply to the incremental increase in taxes assessed as a result of the project and its related improvements.

II) RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

Effective for projects beginning on or after January 1, 2018, taxes on real property levied by the participating taxing bodies shall be abated on **RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL** property developments located within

the Zone with the exception of those projects outlined under **EXCLUSIONS** above, and upon which new improvements have been constructed according to the following schedule:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1) | For taxes levied in the first year of abatement: | 100% |
| 2) | For taxes levied in the second year of abatement: | 50% |
| 3) | For taxes levied in the third year of abatement: | 25% |

Said abatements shall be for three (3) consecutive years beginning with the real estate taxes payable in the year following the first full year of a facility's commercial operation after which said improvements have been made and fully assessed. Abatement for a specific project will cease after the third year or upon expiration, termination or decertification of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone, whichever is sooner.

Questions as to the eligibility of a project and resulting improvements will be decided by the Douglas County Enterprise Zone Administrator, with advice and consent of the Enterprise Zone Advisory Board.

PARTICIPATING TAXING BODIES

Depending on the location of the project in the Zone and the jurisdiction related to that location, the following Governmental Units/Taxing Bodies have chosen to participate in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone property tax abatement program.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) County of Douglas | 10) Carmargo Township |
| 2) Village of Atwood | 11) Garrett Township |
| 3) City of Arcola | 12) Lakeland Comm. College |
| 4) Village of Arthur | 13) Newman Township |
| 5) City of Newman | 14) Parkland Comm. College |
| 6) City of Tuscola | 15) Shiloh CUSD #1 |
| 7) City of Villa Grove | 16) Tuscola CUSD #301 |
| 8) Arcola CUSD #306 | 17) Tuscola Township |
| 9) Arthur CUSD #305 | 18) Tuscola Township |
| | 19) Villa Grove CUSD #302 |

ABATEMENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING PROCESS

Entities meeting abatement qualification criteria outlined above must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Douglas County Enterprise Zone through its Enterprise Zone Administrator.

The MOU shall outline projected job creation and/or job retention numbers and capital investment for the eligible Non-Residential-based projects as defined in Section 2.A above. Said Administrator is hereby authorized to enter such agreements on behalf of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone.

- 1) Entities receiving property tax abatement for eligible projects must agree to maintain a minimum of 75% of the employment levels at that location as described in the Memorandum of Understanding for the term of abatement. At the discretion of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone Administrator, with the advice and consent of the Enterprise Zone Advisory Board, failure to maintain a minimum of 75% of the employment levels during the agreement period may result in the immediate termination of remaining abatement and/or the pro-rata repayment of previously abated real property taxes to the applicable taxing districts.
- 2) The Administrator of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone will annually monitor the performance of the eligible recipients of property tax abatement in order to ensure that job and investment projections as well as changes in equalized assessed valuation outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding are being met.
- 3) The Douglas County Enterprise Zone Administrator will also inform the entity of required state of Illinois reporting requirements. Failure to report Enterprise Zone benefits as required by the Illinois Department of Revenue, and/or other state agencies, as may be dictated by state statute, may result in termination of all locally designated Douglas County Enterprise Zone benefits.
- 4) The Administrator of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone, with the advice and consent of the Enterprise Zone Advisory Board, may elect to waive enforcement of any performance measures outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding based on a finding that the waiver is

necessary to avert an imminent, demonstrable, and material hardship to the entity that may result in such entity's insolvency or discharge of workers.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the enterprise zone property tax abatement incentive?

The Illinois Revenue Act 35 ILCS 200/18-170, as amended, provides that any taxing district may order the county clerk to abate (that is, to give up) any portion of its taxes on real property, or on any particular class thereof, located within a zone and upon which new improvements have been constructed or upon which existing improvements have been renovated or rehabilitated.

Are taxes reduced on the current value of the property (or on existing improvements)?

No. The abatement applies only to taxes on the increase in assessed value attributable to the new construction, renovation or rehabilitation. Taxes based on the assessed value of land and existing improvements continue to be extended and collected.

If property tax abatement is authorized, are new improvements made to property located within a zone assessed?

Yes. By law, every time property is improved, it is reassessed.

How do these incentives affect the multiplier?

They don't. The multiplier or equalization factor is the application of a percentage increase or decrease, generated by the Illinois Department of Revenue, in order to adjust assessment levels in various counties to the same percentage of full value. Multipliers are not affected by the enterprise zone property tax abatement provision or by county assessment reductions.

Does the abatement of taxes on improvements in an enterprise zone affect the tax rate?

Yes, however in most cases the effect will be marginal. Tax rates depend on the levy (amount of tax revenue the local government is raising) and the size of the tax base (total equalized assessed valuation of the district less homestead exemptions, plus the value of any State assessed property).

Under normal circumstances, the tax rate for a district is calculated by dividing the district's tax levy by its tax base. The greater the tax base, the lower the rate needed to generate the amount of the levy.

Under the Enterprise Zone Program, the value of abated property is subtracted from the tax base prior to the calculation of the tax rate. In most cases, the tax base is large enough and the enterprise zone abatements are low enough that the overall effect is negligible.

How does the enterprise zone property tax abatement provision in 18-170 of the Revenue Act differ from the general property tax abatement provision in 18-165 of the Act?

The enterprise zone provision is broader and more flexible. The enterprise zone property tax abatement:

- May be offered on all classes of real property, including commercial, residential and industrial (18-165 abatements are limited to commercial and industrial improvements). Please see page 4 through 7 of this Guide to see if your project qualifies under the Douglas County Enterprise Zone provisions.
- May be offered for any number of years, up to the termination date of zone certification (18-165 abatements cannot exceed 10 years). Please see page 8 of this Guide to see the years and percentage abatement offered to qualified projects under the Douglas County Enterprise Zone provisions.
- May be offered by a taxing district in amount (the abatement offered under 18-165 limits the aggregated amounts of an abatement offered by all taxing districts to \$3,000,000).

Are tax incentives and other benefits offered on a case-by-case basis?

No. "Case-by-Case" is contrary to the intent of the Enterprise Zone Act. Tax incentives must be offered uniformly and equitably by class. The local ordinance authorizing tax incentives, such as property tax abatement, extends the incentives automatically through eligibility criteria, such as class of property (i.e., residential, commercial and industrial) and formulas (i.e., percentages and number of years available).

Can property tax be abated in a tax increment finance district (TIF)?

Tax increment financing is a financing technique that cities may use to pay for public improvements such as land assemblage, building demolition, utilities, streets, and sidewalks. Property owners in the project area do pay their full share of taxes. Taxes generated by the increase in assessed valuation -- the tax increment -- go into a special allocation fund used to pay the bonds which financed the public improvement costs. This financing method is not a tool to speculatively

prepare for development -- tax increment financing requires an advance commitment by a developer to a project.

Property tax abatement is, however, a tool that is used for development. It is not a financing technique. The Revenue Act provides that any taxing district, upon a majority vote of its governing authority, may order the county clerk to abate any portion of its taxes on improvements made to real property located in a zone. The increase in assessed valuation due to new construction, rehabilitation or renovation is not taxed for the term of the abatement as set by local ordinance.

A TIF district may be included in the legal description of the zone and consequently be eligible to receive other tax incentives and benefits, but the property tax abatement provision must exclude the TIF district from the area eligible for abatement.

Sales Tax Exemption

(See additional information related to this topic later in this document)

A point-of-sale tax exemption is available on building materials which are permanently incorporated into real estate in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone. In order to receive this exemption, building materials must be used for remodeling, rehabilitation or permanent new construction. ***Construction must be of a nature that a building permit would be required. A Project Application form with original signatures must be submitted to the Zone Administrator prior to the start of the project.*** A Project Application/Building Materials Exemption Certificate Application is attached to this document.

In addition to the completed exemption form, the applicant must submit a copy of the approved building permit issued by the applicable local unit of government. The Administrator will verify the project is eligible and located within the Zone boundary. The approval process for a sales tax exemption could take up to 5 days.

If an applicant requests certification for a project that does not require a building permit according to the enacted rules, regulations, ordinances and resolutions of the appropriate Designating Units of Governments and/or Douglas County, the Zone Administrator may still approve an exemption certificate in certain circumstances. Documentation from the Designating Unit of Government or the County of Douglas that a permit is not required must be submitted by the contractor or business seeking the exemption to the Zone Administrator for review and consideration.

Residential properties are not eligible for sales tax exemption.

The City, County and State exemptions provide a full exemption of sales tax on construction materials. Companies undertaking projects in the Enterprise Zone are encouraged to purchase building materials locally and to use local labor; however, are no longer required by statute to do so.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE BUILDING MATERIALS EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (BMEC)

Upon receipt and review of a valid Project Application, the Zone Administrator will request a BMEC directly from the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). Once the project information is entered into the IDOR BMEC system, the Department will review the applicant's tax status to make sure there are no outstanding tax liens, collection decrees or judgements pending against the applicant or its contractors and/or sub-contractors.

IDOR will not process BMEC requests for specific property owners, contractors or sub-contractors if unresolved tax delinquencies exist.

Assuming there are no past tax liabilities, IDOR will immediately issue a temporary BMEC and will forward the permanent BMEC via e-mail to the Applicant. The BMEC is typically valid for one to two years and will need to be provided to each point of sale where building materials for the project are purchased.

Enterprise Zone Fees

Approved Enterprise Zone projects requesting a sales tax exemption or property tax abatement, will be subject to an **administration fee not to exceed ½ % of the total cost of construction materials** included on the sales tax exemption application form. The fee will be due and payable to the Tuscola Chamber and Economic Development at the time of application for the Building Materials Exemption Certificate by the Zone Administrator. A summary of construction material costs must be provided to the Zone Administrator at the same time. The maximum fee allowed by Public Act 97-905 and local Ordinance is ½% of the total cost of building materials to a maximum of \$50,000 per project.

Applicants should be aware that detailed material cost lists may be required by the Illinois Department of Revenue prior to issuance of the final exemption certificate as well.

Enterprise Zone Boundary Amendments

Under special and unique circumstances, the Enterprise Zone Administrator will consider extending the Zone boundaries for qualified projects. This process is subject to the approval of the Enterprise Zone Advisory Board, the Designating Units of Government and the State of

Illinois. Upon completion of the local portion of the amendment application process, the state of Illinois review process may take up to 90 additional days. **All boundary amendment requests require an application fee of \$5,000 payable in advance to the Tuscola Chamber and Economic Development. Payment of the fee and submission of an Application does not guarantee approval.**

Additionally, per the Act above, the maximum combined fees for a boundary amendment AND Sales Tax Exemption Certification for a single project may not exceed ½ % of the total cost of building materials to a maximum of \$50,000.

Tax Credits

Investment Tax Credit

The Illinois Income Tax Act 35 ILCS 5/201, as amended, allows corporations, trusts, estates, individuals, partners and Subchapter S shareholders a 0.5 percent credit against the state income tax for investments in qualified property which is placed in service in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone. This credit is in addition to the existing 0.5 percent investment tax credit allowed statewide against the corporate personal property replacement tax. The investment tax credit applies against gross income subject to Illinois income tax and to the depreciable basis of qualified property placed in service within the Douglas County Enterprise Zone. It is a one-time credit given in the taxable year in which the property is placed in service. If the amount of the credit exceeds the tax liability for that year, the excess may be carried forward and applied to the tax liability of the five taxable years following the excess credit year.

Who are qualifying taxpayers?

The credit may be taken by corporations, trusts, estates, individuals, partners and Subchapter S shareholders who make investments in qualified property and who otherwise meet the terms and conditions established by statute.

What are examples of "qualified property"?

Examples of qualified property include:

Buildings, structural components of buildings, elevators, materials tanks, boilers and major computer installations.

Examples of non-qualifying property include:

Land, inventories, small personal computers, trademarks, typewriters and other small non-depreciable or intangible assets.

What does "Placed in service" mean?

Qualified property is "placed in service" on the earlier of 1) the date the property is placed in a condition of readiness and availability for use, or 2) the date on which the depreciation period of that property begins. To qualify for the enterprise zone investment tax credit, the property must be placed in service on or after the date the zone is certified by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and, on or before the last day of the firm's taxable year.

What is "depreciable" property?

Property must be depreciable pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 167. Depreciable property is used in the taxpayer's trade or business or held for the production of income (but not inventory) which is subject to wear and tear, exhaustion or obsolescence.

There are some types of assets that may not be depreciable, even though they are used in the taxpayer's business or trade or are held for the production of income. Good will and land are examples. Other examples of tangible property which are not depreciable are inventories, natural resources and currency.

Does "used" property qualify for the enterprise zone investment tax credit?

Used property does not qualify if it was previously used in Illinois in such a manner and by such a person as would **qualify** for either the statewide investment tax credit or the enterprise zone investment tax credit.

Example: A corporation purchases a used pick-up truck for use in its manufacturing business in an enterprise zone from an Illinois resident who used the truck for personal purposes in Illinois. If the truck meets the other requirements for the investment tax credit, it will not be disqualified because it was previously used in Illinois for a purpose which did not qualify for the credit.

However, had the corporation purchased the truck from an Illinois taxpayer in whose hands the truck qualified for the credit, the truck would not be qualified for the investment tax credit, even though the party from whom the truck was acquired had never received an investment tax credit for it.

What is the "basis" value of property?

The "basis" value of property, for the purposes of this credit, is defined the same way it is defined for purposes of federal depreciation calculations. Essentially, the basis is the cost of the property, as well as related capital costs.

Does the enterprise zone investment tax credit carry forward?

Yes. The credit is allowed for the tax year in which the property is placed in service, or, if the amount of the credit exceeds the tax liability for that year, the excess may be carried forward and applied to the tax liability of the five taxable years following the excess credit year. The credit must be applied to the earliest year for which there is a liability. If there is credit from more than one tax year that is available to offset a liability, the credit accruing first in time is applied first.

Tax Exemptions

Sales Tax Exemption

Enterprise Zone participants have been granted an exemption of the State, City and County sales tax. Sales tax is exempted on building materials incorporated into real estate located in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone. The exemption applies to building and construction materials used for remodeling, rehabilitation or new construction.

What is the sales tax deduction and what is the retailer's role?

Each retailer, who makes a qualified sale of building materials to be incorporated into real estate by remodeling, rehabilitation or new construction in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone, may deduct receipts from such sales when calculating the tax imposed by this Act. For purposes of this Section, "qualified sale" means a sale of building materials that will be incorporated into real estate as part of a building project for which a Building Materials Exemption Certificate (BMEC) has been issued by the administrator for the enterprise zone in which the building project is located. To document the exemption allowed under this Section, the retailer must obtain from the purchaser a copy of the BMEC issued by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The Building Materials Exemption Certificate must contain:

- a statement that the building project identified in the Certificate meets all the requirements for the building material exemption of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone;
- the location or address of the building project; and

In addition, the retailer must obtain certification from the purchaser that includes:

- a statement that the building materials are being purchased for incorporation into real estate located in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone;
- the location or address of the real estate into which the building materials will be incorporated;
- the name of the enterprise zone – Douglas County Enterprise Zone - in which that real estate is located;
- a description of the building materials being purchased; and
- the purchaser's signature and date of purchase.

The Ordinance that governs the Enterprise Zone into which the building materials will be incorporated may neither require nor prohibit the

purchase of building materials from any retailer or class of retailers in order to qualify for the exemption.

How does the enterprise zone sales tax deduction affect Home Rule Municipal Taxes or County Supplemental Taxes?

Once the gross receipts from sales of building materials are excluded from the Illinois Retailers' Occupation Tax base by virtue of exempted building materials, these receipts are also excluded from the Home Rule Muni Tax Base and County Supplemental Tax Base.

Do all retailers offer a point of sale exemption?

No. Retailers are not required by law to participate. The purchaser must ask the retailer for cooperation on this incentive. Retailers have, however, demonstrated good cooperation throughout the history of this program, as this incentive permits them to give customers a "break" without cost to themselves.

What qualifies as "building materials" eligible for the sales tax deduction?

Building materials that are eligible for the enterprise zone sales tax deduction include items that are permanently affixed to real property such as lumber, mortar, glued-down carpets, paint, wallpaper and similar affixed items.

Utility Tax Exemption

What is the Utility Tax Exemption?

The Public Utilities Act 220 ILCS 5/9-222.1, as amended, and the Telecommunications Excise Tax Act 35 ILCS 630/2(a)(5), as amended, allows a business enterprise certified by DCEO as making an investment in a zone that either creates a minimum of 200 full-time equivalent jobs in Illinois or retains a minimum of 1,000 full-time jobs in Illinois, a 5 percent state tax exemption on gas, electricity. These business enterprises are additionally allowed an exemption of the Illinois Commerce Commission .1 percent administrative charge and excise taxes on the act or privilege of originating or receiving telecommunications. Local units of government may also exempt their taxes on gas, electricity and water.

How does a business become eligible for the Utility Tax Exemption?

To be eligible for this incentive, DCEO must certify that the business makes an investment of at least \$5 million in an enterprise zone and

has created a minimum of 200 full-time equivalent jobs in Illinois; or makes an investment of at least \$20 million in an enterprise zone and has retained a minimum of 1,000 full-time jobs in Illinois. A business must submit an application to DCEO documenting the eligible investment and that the job creation or job retention criteria have been met.

What is an eligible investment?

For purposes of this incentive, eligible investment may be either:

1) investments in qualified property as defined in the Enterprise Zone Investment Tax Credit (described on Page 9 of this publication); or, 2) non-capital and non-routine investments and associated service costs made for the basic construction, renovation or improvement of qualified property including productive capacity, efficiency, product quality or competitive position. Regular maintenance and routine expenditures are not included.

Open Market Natural Gas Tax Exemption

Companies who are located within the boundaries of the Douglas County Enterprise Zone are entitled to an exemption on the state sales tax for "wheeled" or open market natural gas transactions.

In order to receive the exemption, the Form RG-61 Gas Use Tax Exemption Certificate (Addendum B) must be completed and given to your delivering supplier. If any of the information you provide on Form RG-61 changes, you must complete a new Form RG-61. Even if no changes are required, a new Form RG-61 must be completed every five years to keep records current and the exemption intact.

Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment (M, M & E) Sales Tax Exemption

What is the Enterprise Zone Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment (M, M & E) Sales Tax Exemption?

The Revenue Act 35 ILCS 120/Id-lf, as amended, allows a business enterprise that is certified by DCEO, as making a \$5 million investment that either: creates a minimum of 200 full-time equivalent jobs in Illinois; or retains a minimum of 2,000 full-time jobs in Illinois; or which retains 90% of the existing jobs, a 6.25 percent state sales tax exemption on all tangible personal property which is used or consumed within an enterprise zone in the process of manufacturing or assembly

of tangible personal property for wholesale or retail sale or lease. This exemption includes repair and replacement parts for machinery and equipment used primarily in the process of manufacturing or assembling tangible personal property for wholesale or retail sale or lease, and equipment, manufacturing fuels, material and supplies for the maintenance, repair or operation of manufacturing, or assembling machinery or equipment.

How does a business become eligible for the M, M & E Sales Tax Exemption?

To be eligible for this incentive, DCEO must certify that the business has made an investment of at least \$5 million in an enterprise zone and has created a minimum of 200 full-time equivalent jobs in Illinois, or has made an investment of at least \$40 million in an enterprise zone and has retained a minimum of 2,000 full-time jobs in Illinois or has made an investment of \$40 million in an enterprise zone and retained 90 percent of the jobs in place on date of certification. A business must submit an application to DCEO documenting the eligible investment and that the job creation or job retention criteria will be met.

What is an eligible investment?

For purposes of this incentive, eligible investment may be either: 1) investments in qualified property as defined in the Enterprise Zone Investment Tax Credit (described on Page 9 of this publication); or, 2) non-capital and non-routine investments and associated service costs made for the basic construction, renovation or improvement of qualified property including productive capacity, efficiency, product quality or competitive position. Regular maintenance and routine expenditures are not included.

Are eligible sales limited to the units of government sponsoring the zone?

No. Items eligible for the 6.25 percent state sales tax exemption may be purchased anywhere in Illinois.

What tangible personal property is eligible for the M, M & E sales tax exemption?

To be eligible for this exemption the tangible personal property must be directly used or consumed in the process of manufacturing or assembling tangible personal property for wholesale or retail sale or lease. Examples of this include: repair and replacement parts; hand tools; materials and supplies such as abrasives, acids or lubricants;

protective clothing and safety equipment; and, any fuel used for machinery and equipment.

NOTE: The above examples are only exempt to the extent they are used with machinery and equipment that qualifies for the statewide Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment Sales Tax Exemption.

Pollution Control Facilities Exemption

For eligible businesses, a sales tax exemption is available on tangible personal property (e.g., machinery, equipment, supplies, etc.) used or consumed within the Douglas County Enterprise Zone in the operation of pollution control facilities. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity must certify the business as “eligible” to qualify, which means a business must make an investment in the Douglas County Enterprise Zone that creates a minimum of 200 full time jobs or retains a minimum of 2,000 full time jobs.

State Regulatory Relief

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity reviews and identifies State agency rules and regulations affecting the conduct of business in Enterprise Zones. Enterprise Zone participants are exempt from any State regulations which impose excessive cost on the creation, expansion or conduct of business.