

Community Renewable Energy Grant Program

Guidance for Assessing the Level of Resilience

This document is supplemental to the program Opportunity Announcements and provides a brief overview and guidance for assessing the level of resilience a community energy resilience project provides in connection with applying to ODOE's [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#).

What is Community Energy Resilience?

Community energy resilience is the ability of the energy systems to withstand and restore energy delivery rapidly following nonroutine disruptions. To be considered a community energy resilience project, planning or construction projects must tie renewable energy systems with a resilience component to supporting broader local community benefits that are **essential to the public welfare**.

Resilience aspects of an application for a Community Renewable Energy Grant are reviewed using these definitions from [Oregon Revised Statute 330-250-0010](#):

“Community renewable energy project” means one or more renewable energy systems, storage systems, microgrids or energy-related infrastructure that promote energy resilience, increase renewable energy generation or renewable energy storage capacity and provide a direct benefit to a particular community in the form of increased community energy resilience, local jobs, economic development or direct energy costs savings to families and small businesses.

“Community energy resilience” means the ability of a specific community to maintain the availability of energy needed to support the provision of energy-dependent critical public services to the community following nonroutine disruptions of severe impact or duration to the state’s broader energy systems.

“Community energy resilience project” means a community renewable energy project that includes utilizing one or more renewable energy systems to support the energy resilience of structures or facilities that are essential to the public welfare.

Assessing the Level of Resilience

Applicants for planning and construction community energy resilience projects need to demonstrate an assessment of a project’s energy resilience components and an assessment of the scale of the resilience benefits by demonstrating the system’s planned and/or intended operational use case(s).

Operational Use

The proposed use and beneficial impact of a community energy resilience project for a facility, community or the public welfare will be detailed and demonstrated in the application with:

- A resource assessment of the renewable energy system(s) (see the [Resource Assessment Guide](#) for more information).
- The anticipated/known size of the renewable energy system and major resilient components (i.e., nameplate capacities), including expected kWh output and energy storage capacities/key technical equipment specifications.
- What the resilience components are designed to provide in a use-case event (i.e., grid power outage).

- The description can be strengthened with an explanation of the following:
 - The importance of the structure and/or service for the Applicant, community and/or public welfare in a use-case event.
 - The duration of time the resilience components are expected to maintain designated circuits as well as the details of what services are provided by those circuits.
 - How the project/components will add to and/or increase the energy resilience of a specific structure, community service or create benefits that are essential to public welfare.

Competitive Review

Applicants who wish their project to qualify and be competitive as a community energy resilience project will be asked to provide these details in addition to the other application requirements:

1. A description of the energy resilience benefits provided by the proposed project.
2. The key resilience factors, including,
 - a. The nature of the facility being served
 - b. A description of the community being served
 - c. The importance of the facility to the community
 - d. Specific natural hazards being planned for
 - e. The duration of backup power provided by the project.

Applications that qualify for competitive review can score up to 10 points under these resilience criteria from the Competitive Review Criteria table in the Opportunity Announcement:

Strength of community energy resilience aspects of the project: How well does it support and increase the community energy resilience of structures or facilities that are essential to the public welfare, level of importance of the critical public services, how many people will it serve?

Additional Resources & Tools

- [Clean Coalition Framework](#) (VOR: Value of Resilience framework)
- [Resilience Planning Roadmap](#) (Interactive presentation from NREL.gov)
- [Microgrid-Ready Solar PV - Planning for Resiliency](#) (NREL.gov)
- [REopt Energy Integration & Optimization Home | NREL](#)
 - [NREL: REopt Tool](#)
 - [NREL: REopt Web Tool Training Videos](#)