



RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

On March 12, 2019, the Oregon Department of Energy issued an Opportunity Announcement (OA No. 19-001) for \$2.75 million in available Renewable Energy Development Grant funding. ODOE accepted applicants' questions through March 25. The questions received and their answers are below. RED Grant applications are due by April 22, 2019.

More information is available on our website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/Renewable-Energy-Grants.aspx>

1. We are proposing a three-site project. Does this mean we need to fill out and pay the \$500 application fee three times?
 - a. Project owners that have multiple energy production systems at different locations can choose whether or not they apply as one project or submit individual project applications for each system.
 - b. The department considers a single renewable production system as one or more electrical energy production devices that are applied for in response to the same Opportunity Announcement, use the same renewable resource, are located at the same site and are owned or controlled by the same person.
 - c. If submitted as a single application all of the attributes of each project will be combined for evaluation purposes. If applying by project site, each site will need to submit a separate application and fee but would be evaluated only on its own attributes.
2. In the case the project is considered solar + battery storage, is it still eligible for this program?
 - a. Battery storage that is included as part of a new or expanding solar or other production system can be included in eligible cost. Adding battery storage by itself to an existing solar system is not eligible for RED grant.
3. According to the instructions, construction must be started within 12 months of award. If actual construction starts after 12 months, does the project lose the right of grant even if the project is selected?
 - a. Yes. Projects selected to receive a RED grant enter into a performance agreement which stipulates that the project must start construction within 12 months of signing the performance agreement. Projects that are unable to meet this requirement will be ineligible to receive the grant.
4. If the existing owners are working with a partner and plan to submit additional documentation and supplemental evidence documents, will the documents be acceptable and qualified for review of the project?

- a. Applicants must submit a complete application during the opportunity period. The criteria for a complete application is outlined in the opportunity announcement. Only documentation submitted by the application deadline will be used for the competitive evaluation. The department may request additional documentation after the competitive selection if necessary to complete the technical review.
 - b. The department will not accept amendments to applications during the opportunity period but an applicant may withdraw an application and submit a replacement application during the opportunity period without paying an additional fee.
5. Does the Department have a specific format or template required for report submissions?
- a. There is an application form that must be submitted with your RED application but there is not a specific format for the supporting documentation. While there is not a specific format please be sure that your application is complete and clearly labels the required attributes outlined in the opportunity announcement. Applications that fail to demonstrate completeness will not be considered for competitive review.
 - b. Should your project be selected to receive a RED grant there are quarterly and annual reporting requirements. The department does have specific templates for these reports which can be viewed on our website.
6. Could the Department explain why community benefit has the least number of points allocated to it?
- a. While encouraging community benefits is a desired outcome, the primary goal of the program is renewable energy generation. The amount of points given to any particular category is designed to align with legislative criteria and Oregon Administrative Rule.
7. Do the 12-month construction rules apply the same to repower projects (brownfield construction) as they do for greenfield construction?
- a. Yes, all projects selected to receive a RED grant will be required to start construction of the new or expanded renewable production system within 12 months of executing a performance agreement. Further guidance on the start of construction requirement can be found on the RED website.
8. Can two organizations serve as co-applicants, so long as one organization is the owner of the proposed system?
- a. Only project owners should be listed on the application. Applicants/grantees must be the owner, contract purchaser or system lessee at the time of the system's installation or construction.
 - b. RED grant funds are only paid to the grantee.
 - c. Partnerships, joint ventures or associations are eligible to apply; and the application must include the names of each person participating in the partnership, joint venture or association.
9. Two organizations have designed a 2-phase project: (1) an 81kW rooftop array (completed); (2) a 41kW rooftop array + storage (in development). Is this 122kW rooftop array + storage considered a single system for purposes of an ODOE RED application?
- a. RED grant application should be submitted prior to the installation or construction of the system. Only the costs and attributed 2nd phase of the system should be included

in the application and will be used for competitive review. The completed system and its related cost are not eligible for inclusion in a new RED grant application.

10. Is a solar storage battery an eligible expense?
 - a. Battery storage that is included in a new or expanding solar project for resiliency can be included in eligible cost. Adding battery storage by itself to an existing solar system is not eligible for RED grant.

11. Can you provide examples of the "special circumstances" under which a system start date waiver would be granted, as described in section 2.2?
 - a. We have not yet granted waivers as described in 2.2 so we do not have an example.

12. Page 5 lists "Project construction plan" as required supporting information. Is this just a general arrangement plan and not completed design plans and specifications? However, the information requirements that continue on Page 6 seem to require a completed design including equipment specifications, system schematic, and controls. Is that an accurate description of what is needed?
 - a. All of the criteria in section 2.1 of the opportunity announcement need to be included to your application for it to be considered complete. At minimum the project construction plan should include a general project plan. All the criteria on pages 5 and 6 need to appear somewhere in the supporting documents. However, "complete" project will be competing against each other "complete" projects, so additional information may help inform the selection committee when they determine your score.

13. If I purchase and then refurbish/rebuilt/restart an existing project that has been shut down by others, would such a project be eligible for a RED grant?
 - a. Costs to maintain, operate or repair the system, costs incurred to bring a host building up to building code standards, or other costs to repair the building in order to install the system, including design or engineering expenses would not be RED grant eligible. However cost to expand production capability of an existing energy production system are eligible for RED.

14. Could you guide us to resources that would provide guidelines around job creation figures?
 - a. Applicants should provide an estimate of the number of work hours that are directly related to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the energy production system. The department will use this number to determine the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) associated with the project. 2080 work hours is the equivalent of 1 full year FTE.

15. We are working with our local utility Eugene Water and Electric Board to determine potential incentives for efficiency. I'm not clear whether EWEB would be considered a government entity and would thus need to be listed on the application. If the utility is considered a government agency, would an in-kind donation of upgraded electrical service be considered as a grant that would need to be taken into consideration?
 - a. PUDs and municipal utilities are statutorily established entities. It is unclear if incentives from these entities would count against the 75% cap on government

- incentives. All incentives received or anticipated related to the renewable energy system, regardless whether government or private, should be listed in your application.
- b. The costs and incentives of other energy efficiency work that occurs at the project site, but is not directly related to the installation of the renewable production project, should not be included.
 - c. If the project owner is a public or government entity, the application must include written authorization from the entity's governing body allowing submission of the application.
16. Can community solar projects apply for RED?
- a. Community solar project would be eligible for RED depending on the ownership structure. If the system is legally owned by an entity and the community purchases shares of the entity, the entity should apply as the project owner and would receive the grant.
 - b. Partnerships, joint ventures or associations are eligible to apply; the application must include the names of each person participating in the partnership, joint venture or association.
17. Can we apply for the RED grant together as one project? We are one entity, we have a single owner but have multiple locations (all in Salem).
- a. Projects that have multiple locations and a single owner can submit a single application for all sites or individual applications for each site. If submitted as a single application all of the attributes of each project will be combined for evaluation purposes but require a single application fee. If applying by project site, each site will need to submit a separate application and fee but would be evaluated on its own attributes.
 - b. The department considers a single renewable production system as one or more electrical energy production devices that are applied for in response to the same Opportunity Announcement, use the same renewable resource, are located at the same site and are owned or controlled by the same person.
 - c. If submitted as a single application all of the attributes of each project will be combined for evaluation purposes. If applying by project site, each site will need to submit a separate project application and fee but would be evaluated only on its own attributes.