

Community Renewable Energy Grant Program

R3 Application Scoring Guide - Planning

This scoring guide aims to provide competitive reviewers with a consistent method to score specific application responses against the scoring criteria published in the opportunity announcement. This guide is meant to be a resource for subsequent C-REP rounds but not intended to reflect the exact application questions, which can alter slightly between rounds.

Project Strength

<p>TEAM & PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Quality of the project team based on clearly defined roles that show a sufficient number of team members (including partners) with the required experience in relation to the renewable energy project's need and complexity; and a complete project description summary that adequately describes the project being planned.</p>	<p>10</p>
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Strength of planning project team:

- A list of significant planning team members with clearly defined roles.
- There is a sufficient number of team members, with experience on similar projects.

Score using the following application sections and questions:

- **Section 3** Partner Information (if applicable)
- **Section 4** Consultant/Contractor Information (if applicable) - *Please note most projects will not have selected a contractor/consultant due to public body proposal request laws.*
- **(7.2)** List planning team members, their roles and lines of authority, and their experience with similar planning projects.
- **(8.5)** Project and community leaders involved in community outreach directly related to the proposed project.

Strength of project description: A description of the project to be planned.

Score using the following questions in Section 6.

An adequate description should include at a minimum:

- **(6.3 - 6.4)** A description that shows the system meets the definition of a community renewable energy system. This should include information regarding major system components, to the extent known, such as renewable energy generation, energy storage, electric vehicle charging systems, and microgrid enabling technologies.
- **(6.6 Technologies Considered)** If the project is for producing energy this description should also include:
 - **(6.7)** A description of the renewable energy resource, that the resource is in adequate supply, and how the system will access the resource.
 - **(6.8)** A description of the market for the energy produced by the system.
 - **(6.9)** If known, anticipated nameplate capacity of proposed system in kW

- (6.12) A description of how the system will connect or transmit energy to the community identified in the application. The anticipated nameplate capacity if known.
- (6.13) A description how the community building(s), infrastructure or other community assets that will benefit from the proposed system.
- (6.6 Technologies Considered) If the project is planning for energy storage, information on:
 - (6.10) If applicable and known, anticipated storage nameplate capacity in kW and capacity in kWh
 - (6.11) If applicable, a description that shows the system meets the definition of a community energy resilience project. (Note, This should include information on how the community renewable energy project would support the energy resilience of structures or facilities essential to the public welfare, how the energy resilience will be increased, and the energy resilience benefits it will bring).
 - (6.13) A description how the community building(s), infrastructure or other community assets that will benefit from the proposed system.
- (6.5) If the community renewable energy project will add capacity to or be paired with an existing renewable energy system, provide a description of the existing renewable energy system.

PLAN & SCHEDULE: Strength of the renewable energy project plan. Applicant adequately describes the project to be planned. Applicant demonstrates the planning will be completed within 6 months and will include a complete development plan for a renewable energy system.	15
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Strength of planning project plan and schedule: The applicant has demonstrated that the planning will be completed within 6 months. *Score using all questions in Section 7.*

BUDGET & FINANCES: The demonstration of the applicant's ability to fund or finance the renewable energy project to completion in order to qualify for grant disbursement (grant is reimbursable).	10
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Strength of financial plan and budget: The applicant has demonstrated the financial ability to complete the planning. *Score using the following questions in Section 9.*

RESILIENCE: The level the renewable energy project's ability to maintain the availability of energy needed to support energy-dependent critical public services to the community following nonroutine disruptions of severe impact or duration of utility provided energy.	10
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Score using the following questions in Section 6 and Section 8:

Strength of Community Energy Resilience: If applicable, applicant demonstrates the community energy resilience aspects of the project, which may include:

- (6.4) Detailed summary overview of the planned project concept. Include technologies, major components, configuration and use. Include descriptions of any engineering studies or calculations and planning already done.
- (6.10) If applicable and known, anticipated storage nameplate capacity in kW and capacity in kWh
- (6.11) If applicable, a description that shows the system meets the definition of a community energy resilience project. (Note, This should include information on how the community renewable energy project would support the energy resilience of structures or facilities essential to the public welfare, how the energy resilience will be increased, and the energy resilience benefits it will bring).

Equity Priorities

PROJECT LOCATION & EJ COMMUNITY IMPACT: The renewable energy project is located in an Environmental Justice community and the degree to which the project will primarily serve and provide direct benefits to Environmental Justice community members.	5
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Score using the following questions in Section 6 and Section 8:

Location in Community: Proposed project is located in a qualifying community.

- (6.13) Describe the community building(s), infrastructure or other community assets that will benefit from the proposed system.
- (8.3) Is the community renewable energy project located in a qualifying (Environmental Justice) community? (Yes or No)
- (8.4) If yes, describe in detail how and to what extent the community qualifies as an Environmental Justice community.

Communities Served: Proposed project provides direct benefits to one or more qualifying communities.

- (8.1) Does the community renewable energy project primarily serve members of a qualifying (Environmental Justice) community? (Yes or No)
- (8.2) If yes, describe the qualifying (Environmental Justice) community and detail how the members of the qualifying community are those primarily served by the community renewable energy project.
- (8.15) Describe how the community renewable energy project would integrate with broader community energy and environmental goals.

EJ COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN: The quality of the community outreach plan to include EJ community members and regional stakeholders in the siting, planning, designing, or evaluating of the proposed project. This could include, but is not	5
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limited to, descriptions of surveys of the local community, attendance or participation at public meetings, community ideas and recommendations incorporated in the project plan.	
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Score using the following question in Section 8:

Community Outreach Plan

- **(8.7)** Details how planning project has/intends to incorporate feedback into the project from the following groups:
 - Members of qualifying communities served by the community renewable energy project;
 - Businesses located in the communities served by the community renewable energy project;
 - Electric utilities that have customers in the communities served by the community renewable energy project; and
 - Other regional stakeholders.

EJ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP: The level of community engagement in <u>developing the grant application for a renewable energy project</u> , including the degree to which EJ community members are involved in the project leadership.	5
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Score using the following questions in Section 5 and Section 8:

Community Partnerships & Engagement: A description of the consultations with regional stakeholders and community groups, and any additional community engagement process as part of developing the grant application.

- **(5.1)** Describe prior consultations or outreach with stakeholders and community groups, and any community engagement as part of developing the grant application.
- **(5.3)** Describe consultations with the local electric utility that ensured the feasibility of the project.
- **(8.7)** Details how planning project has/intends to incorporate feedback into the project from the following groups:
 - Members of qualifying communities served by the community renewable energy project;
 - Businesses located in the communities served by the community renewable energy project;
 - Electric utilities that have customers in the communities served by the community renewable energy project; and
 - Other regional stakeholders.

Community Project Leadership: Members of qualifying communities are involved in the project and represented in project leadership.

- (8.5) Provide a brief bio of the project leaders and any community stakeholders.
- (8.6) Detail the current or planned involvement of and leadership by members of qualifying/environmental justice communities in the siting, planning, designing or evaluating of the proposed project. *(Note, are leaders from Qualifying/Environmental Justice communities included?)*

EQUITY FRAMEWORK: The degree to which an equity framework(s) is used to guide development, implementation and/or evaluation <u>of the renewable energy project.</u>	5
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Score using the following question in Section 8:

- (8.8) Describe any equity framework that will be used to guide development, implementation and/or evaluation of the project.

PROCUREMENT POLICIES: The degree to which disadvantaged business enterprises, emerging small businesses, or businesses that are owned by minorities, women, or disabled veterans <u>are incorporated in the renewable energy project.</u>	5
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Score using the following question in Section 8:

- (8.9) Describe any policies in place for the proposed project to be planned or later constructed in part or in whole by disadvantaged business enterprises, emerging small businesses, or businesses that are owned by minorities, women, or disabled veterans and how they will be involved.

HIRING POLICIES: The degree to which inclusive hiring and promotion policies <u>are incorporated in the renewable energy project.</u>	2.5
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Score using the following question in Section 8:

- (8.10) Please describe the extent to which the project includes inclusive hiring and promotion policies.

Program Priorities

PRIOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS: The level of significant prior investments in energy efficiency measures and/or the number of aggregate improvements to demand response capabilities <u>at the project location.</u>	2.5
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Score using the following question in Section 6:

- (6.14) Describe any prior investments in energy efficiency measures at the project location or how, if at all, the proposed project will result in aggregate improvements to demand response capabilities. Evidence may include utility or Energy Trust of Oregon project documentation or finance statements demonstrating investments and may be uploaded below.

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: The extent to which the <u>renewable energy project</u> assists the applicant in achieving goals included in a related natural hazard mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.	5
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Score using the following question in Section 8:

- **(8.11)** If organization participates in a FEMA approved natural hazard mitigation plan, describe the sections/goals of the NHMP this project assists and supports, and upload the related NHMP.

BUSINESS AND FAMILY DIRECT ENERGY COST SAVINGS: The level of <u>the renewable energy project's anticipated direct energy cost savings</u> to families and small businesses (amount of savings predicted relative to the grant request amount, number of families and businesses that see direct savings, diversity and types of families and businesses that see the direct benefits).	2.5
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Score using the following question in Section 8:

- **(8.12)** Detail any direct energy cost savings to families and small businesses from the proposed project (Enter “none” or “Unknown at this time” if applicable).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Not including job creation, the types and level of economic development the <u>renewable energy project will provide</u> . (Consider increases to average incomes, ensure sustainable economic growth, innovation, workforce development, business retention and expansion, and promotion of an environment that supports entrepreneurship and small business development).	2.5
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Score using the following question in Section 8:

- **(8.13)** Describe the level of economic development that will result from the project (Enter “none” or “Unknown at this time” if applicable).

JOB CREATION: Level of estimated local jobs created by the construction, installation, and operations of the <u>renewable energy project's lifetime</u> , in relation to the estimated size/cost of the renewable energy project.	5
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Score using the following questions in Section 8:

- **(8.14)** List the expected number and local job type(s) created by this project, and number and job type(s) required through the life of the system.

Project Diversity

DIVERSITY: Geographic diversity including locations of prior grantees and the diversity of technology, resource types and renewable energy project/system size.	10
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Score using reviewer determination based on the following sections, questions and documentation:

Geographic Diversity: Is the proposed project located in an area of Oregon where there are no, or few, other projects proposed?

- **(6.2 & 6.3)** Planned project site where the proposed renewable energy system will be located.
- Has applicant been awarded prior C-REP grant(s) at same location for a different project? *(Note, prior C-REP planning grant awardees now applying for a C-REP construction grant for the same project should not be considered in scoring (this is a program focus to provide planning funds to create a stronger construction project application))*
 - See [C-REP Round One Awardees and Project Type/Summary/Location](#)
 - See [C-REP Round Two Awardees and Project Type/Summary/Location](#)

Diversity of technology/resource types/project size: Proposed project uses a technology or resource type that no, or few, other projects are proposing. The project is of a different size from most other proposed projects submitted under the opportunity announcement.

- **(6.4 - 6.13)** Review project summary, system type, key energy generation/storage details, sizing, resource assessment, operational use cases and community/facility benefits of project.

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Applications will be ranked based on the competitive review scores and recommendations from the competitive review committee. Final recommendations will be determined by the department. Applicants that are recommended for awards may be offered a Performance Agreement.