

Medium Renewable Energy Fund

Description:

The Medium Renewable Energy Fund (MREF) provides funding of up to one-third of the cost of qualified alternative energy systems. The funding will be provided to eligible owners of businesses, including off-grid lodges and camps. The maximum amount that will be provided to any recipient will be \$15,000 per year. To qualify for funding assistance, the system must be installed in a facility located in the Northwest Territories.

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) can help business owners to plan and implement alternative energy projects. Other institutions with alternative energy expertise include the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) and Aurora Research Institute (ARI). These organizations offer valuable services to help the public attain the following goals:

- Build awareness, confidence and acceptance of alternative energy systems
- Expand the alternative energy supply industry in the NWT
- Reduce long-term dependence on imported fossil fuels
- Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases
- Reduce long-term real cost of energy for NWT residents and businesses

General Requirements:

- The proponent is responsible to obtain all necessary approvals, permits and licences for the project.
- All materials must be purchased new to qualify for funding assistance.
- All system hardware and installation must meet strict quality criteria. All eligible equipment must be Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Underwriters Laboratory of Canada (ULC) certified.
- A certified electrician must install all 120-volt systems components.
- Systems funded through this program must include the purchase of new alternative energy generation capacity using one of the listed eligible technologies.

Medium Renewable Energy Fund

Eligible Technologies:

The following technologies have been approved for funding under MREF:

- **Photovoltaic (PV)** technologies collect solar radiation to produce electricity.
- **Wind Turbines** capture the energy of the wind and convert it into electricity.
- **Solar Hot Water Heating Systems** consist of large, flat panels that contain a network of pipes that collect energy from solar radiation for heating water.
- **In-stream Hydro/Micro-hydro** consists of a small turbine that is rotated by water pressure from a moving body of water or from water delivered by a pipe.

Eligible Costs Include:

- Alternative energy systems and all materials required for system installation
- Shipping costs
- Inverters and electrical control systems
- Batteries for stand-alone applications
- Installation costs

Ineligible Costs Include:

- Removal costs of an existing system
- Structural components of a building
- Spare parts inventory in support of a qualifying system
- Operations and maintenance
- Replacement of existing batteries

Requirements for Projects:

All applicants must include the following information to be considered for funding:

1. Information on the applicant (i.e. name, address, telephone and facsimile number)
2. Description of building or asset, building usage and legal description of location
3. Project description
4. Technical information on the proposed system (i.e. system description, brand name, model type, size, capacity, expected utilization, amount of energy to be displaced by the system, expected cost of the system, expected annual financial savings)
5. An itemized price quote for the materials, including the name of the supplier
6. Amount of MREF funds requested
7. Simple payback of energy savings in years
8. Signatures to demonstrate support for the project (including building owner and equipment supplier)

Application form is available in Appendix A.

Applications must be submitted to:

Alternative Energy Specialist
Environment Division
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Phone: (867) 920-3484
Fax: (867) 873-0221

Medium Renewable Energy Fund

Evaluation:

Proposals must meet all the requirements listed in these guidelines.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Technical feasibility
- Potential energy savings
- Environmental benefits including greenhouse gas emission reductions

Priority will be given to projects that are supplied by a Northwest Territories supplier. Eligible applications will be funded on the basis of first come/first served until the program is fully subscribed.

The Director of the Environment Division will make final approval decisions.

Post-funding Requirements:

Proponents will be required to enter into a standard Contribution Agreement, which will outline the terms and conditions under which funding is being provided.

The Alternative Energy Specialist must approve any changes in scope or cost of projects after the Contribution Agreement is signed.

The proponents will be reimbursed for eligible expenses after the system is installed. Reporting requirements are described in greater detail in the Contribution Agreement. Photographs of the installed product must be provided as part of this documentation and subsequently become the property of ENR. Copies of all necessary approvals, permits and licences must be provided.

All documentation must be received within 60 (sixty) days after the project completion date, and before April 15.

The recipient shall:

- Keep proper accounts and records of the revenues and expenditures incurred and paid under the Contribution Agreement, including all original invoices, receipts and vouchers relating thereto for a period of three years from the completion of the agreement
- Permit an ENR representative to audit, inspect and make copies of those accounts and records at all reasonable times during the three year period
- Provide access to facilities to an ENR representative for those audits and inspections
- Promptly refund to ENR any overpayments of the contribution disclosed by an audit