

Community Renewable Energy Fund

Description:

The Community Renewable Energy Fund provides funding of up to one-half of the project cost. Community and Aboriginal governments, GNWT departments, boards and agencies, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for this program. The maximum amount of contribution for any project will be \$50,000 per year. Work agreed to under any Contribution Agreement must be completed prior to March 31 of the year in which the Agreement is signed.

Approval must be granted prior to installation and construction. (Projects will not be funded after the fact.) The Community Renewable Energy Fund is available to assist community-based installations of alternative energy systems or the conversion of an existing conventional energy system to alternative energy technology. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) will work with proponents to monitor and assess performance of projects to determine the effectiveness of new technologies in northern locations.

ENR is available to help project proponents plan and implement alternative energy projects. Other institutions with alternative energy expertise that can assist project proponents 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 public 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 customers

General Requirements:

- To qualify for funding assistance, the system must be installed in a facility located in the Northwest Territories.
- 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-VAC systems. Any proposals for grid-tied electrical systems must include proof of approval from the electrical supply utility and meet all interconnection standards established for technical and safety requirements.

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Eligible Technologies:

The following technologies are eligible for funding under CREF:

- **Photovoltaic (PV)** technologies collect solar radiation to produce electricity.
- **Solar Hot Water Heating Systems** consist of large, flat panels that contain a network of pipes that collect solar radiation for heating water.
- **Solar Walls** are perforated panels installed on a south facing wall allowing air to be preheated before entering the air handler, reducing the load on the conventional heater.
- **Wind Turbines** capture the energy of the wind and convert it into electricity. Monitoring studies to assess and measure the wind resource are eligible.
- **Biofuel and Synthetic Gas** are new technologies for more efficient use of wood, vegetation or agricultural waste for fuels or energy sources.
- **Ground-source Heat Pumps** use heat from the ground and circulate it into a building. Other uses of geothermal energy will also be considered.

An applicant may apply for a contribution for a technology not on the list. If they do so, the applicant must provide substantiation that the project is technically feasible and otherwise complies with the program requirements.

Proposals for studies, workshops, conferences or other activities will be considered under this fund. However, acceptance will generally be reserved for projects that are able to demonstrate firm and measurable results in greenhouse gas reductions.

Eligible Costs Include:

- Alternative energy systems and all materials required for system installation
- Installation costs
- Shipping costs
- Batteries for off-grid applications
- Studies, workshops, conferences, training, etc.

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

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Requirements for Proposals:

There is no application form for the Community Renewable Energy Fund because a wide variety of different projects can be eligible for funding. We encourage the proponent to contact us and we will help turn your idea into a proposal. A written proposal should be submitted including the following information:

Proposals must include:

1. A covering letter that includes the following project description:
 - Technical information on the system
 - Brand name
 - Model type
 - Size/capacity
 - Legal name and address of the building or asset
 - Description of the building or asset and its use (for non-GNWT assets, the owner of building or asset must be identified)
 - Description of existing system, type of energy used and annual consumption rates
 - Amount of CREF funds requested, including proponent funding
 - Amount of funds from other sources, including in-kind support
 - Signatures (demonstrating support for the project):
 - Regional head of the department, board or agency requesting funding
 - Regional Superintendent of ENR
 - Person submitting the proposal – include mailing address, telephone and facsimile number

2. Calculations must be provided for expected annual savings of electricity, heating fuel or water in units of consumption *and* in dollars, where savings are applicable. Proposals for studies, workshops or other activities must include a description of the future energy conservation activities that the project could lead to.
3. A detailed cost estimate for implementation of project, e.g. shipping, labour, materials. Usually these are valid price quotes obtained from a contractor who will be available to undertake the work.

All proposals must be submitted to:

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

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Evaluation:

Proposals must meet all the requirements listed in these guidelines. ENR will help proponents with preparing proposals if assistance is needed.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

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

Systems that provide a clear and useful function on a long-term seasonal or year round basis will be given priority. Priority will also 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.

Proponents must provide at least 50% of funding for projects through sources other than the Energy Conservation Program, Alternative Energy Technologies Program or Energy Efficiency Incentive Program.

The Director of the Environmental Protection Division will make final approvals.

Allocation of Funds:

- CREF is not intended to provide supplemental funding for projects that have previously been granted full funding under other budgets.
- Upon approval of the project, ENR will enter into a funding agreement with the project proponent.
- All funds must be spent by March 31, 2009.

Post-funding Requirements:

- The Alternative Energy Specialist must approve any changes in scope or cost of projects after the Contribution Agreement is signed.
- The proponent is responsible to obtain all necessary approvals, permits and licences for the project.
- Upon completion of the project, the project proponent shall provide the Alternative Energy Specialist with final accounting information as described in the funding agreement.
- All surplus funding will be returned to ENR.
- Funding for projects during subsequent years may be withheld if these “post-funding requirements” are not met.