



Renewable Energy Grants

Guidelines and Application

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For More Information Contact:

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PURPOSE

The Minnesota Legislature has allocated funds to Iron Range Resources for local government renewable energy projects, pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Section 298.2961, Subdivision 6.

The Renewable Energy grant program supports projects that are unique to our region and that strategically utilize locally available renewable energy resources to stimulate the green economy. This program will bring financial resources to community-based renewable energy projects and site-specific installations for local units of government. The intent of the grant program is to support renewable energy projects which will promote community and economic development in the region.

I. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are cities and townships located in the region statutorily defined as the Taconite Assistance Area (TAA) M.S. §273.1341. Multi-organization, collaborative projects are eligible for this grant program.

II. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible projects are as follows:

- Renewable energy projects including, but not limited to, wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal
- Community-based and site-specific renewable energy projects

Applicants may partner with businesses, non-profit organizations and schools within their jurisdictions for projects that clearly benefit the community as a whole.

III. FUNDING

The Renewable Energy grant program is funded at \$1,300,000 for the FY2010 cycle. It is the intent of Iron Range Resources to limit grant awards to a maximum of \$250,000; however, the agency reserves the right to grant awards higher than this amount when circumstances warrant.

IV. EVALUATION AND CRITERIA

These criteria will be evaluated to determine grant awards:

(A) PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT – Priority #1

- Organizational experience with relevant projects
- Qualifications of key partners and project personnel
- Professional and technical qualifications of contracted vendors, service providers, staff or volunteers
- Demonstrated financial viability of the organization and the project

- Adequacy and security of project financing
- Matching funds at a recommended ratio of 1:1
- Technical viability of the project

(B) COMMUNITY BENEFIT – *Priority #2*

- The project provides benefit to the community
- The project demonstrates innovative value to the community

(C) PROJECT READINESS – *Priority #3*

- Project must be ready to begin within one year after the grant award

(D) IMPACTS – *Priority #4*

- Environmental benefits
- Economic impact in the following areas:
 - Stimulate the local green economy
 - Supporting smart growth and sustainable communities
 - Creating construction or permanent jobs

V. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to general organizational overhead, existing deficits, and administrative costs, including grant-writing. Grant and match funds cannot be used for research, development, or demonstration of technologies that are not commercially available, or the purchase of equipment for those purposes. Building repair or retrofit that is not intrinsic to the project is not an eligible expense. The costs of activities initiated and incurred prior to Governor approval are not eligible expenses.

VI. APPLICATION PROCESS

Application forms are available online at www.ironrangeresources.org under the heading “Grow Your Community.” **Completed applications are due at Iron Range Resources by July 1, 2010.** Information in the application may become public data according to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn.Stat.Ch.13. Grant awards are expected in August or October of 2010.

The project application must include the following:

- 1) A completed Project Application Cover Sheet (page 4)
- 2) A Project Budget and Timetable (page 5)
- 3) A narrative description that defines how the project meets criteria outlined in Section IV.(page 6)

All projects submitted for funding are evaluated individually based on how well they address the criteria in Section IV, Evaluation and Criteria Applications are reviewed by internal staff and the Commissioner’s Office. **Project funding is subject to Commissioner, Board and Governor Approval.** Multiple applications from one entity must be prioritized. Successful grantees will receive a grant agreement which outlines required grant outcomes and reporting requirements.

VII. AWARD PROCESS

Grant applicants selected for an award will be notified in writing. Award letters include a grant agreement that must be signed by the grantee and other parties. The grant becomes fully executed the date the last signature is obtained.

VII. EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A Final Report is required to close out the grant agreement. The report includes project results, goals and objectives, challenges or successes, economic impact and other outcomes and measures. The final report form is online at www.ironrangeresources.org. Click on “Grow Your Community” and “Grantee Forms.”

Renewable Energy Grant Application

Cover Sheet

Date Submitted: _____

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Phone #'s: Work: _____

Cell: _____

Fax: _____

Home: _____

Email Address: _____

Project Description: _____

SIGNATURES

I declare that any statement in this application, or information provided herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the following statement:

"The State of Minnesota and its agents have the right to verify information provided in this application. False information, in addition to disqualifying the applicant from future consideration for financial assistance, may also subject the applicant to the penalty provision of M.S. §609.645."

Organization: _____

By: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Authorized Representative (1)

_____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Authorized Representative (2)

Renewable Energy Narrative

Please include the following information in a narrative format:

1) Project Planning and Management

- Provide an example of your organization's relevant program or project experience.
- Identify the qualifications of key partners and project personnel
- Provide the qualifications of vendors, service providers, staff or volunteers involved in the project.
- Complete the project budget and timetable on page 5.
- Provide letters of commitment for the matching funds.
- Attach the projected engineering and architectural cost estimates.
- Separate renewable energy uses from energy efficiency and conservation. Energy efficiency and conservation components are an allowable match.
- Describe the technical viability of the project:
 - Adequacy of technical information.
 - Reasonableness of assumptions and methodologies.
 - Adequacy of performance and durability testing.
 - Previous experience in commercial deployment.
 - Status of patents and other rights necessary to project implementation.

2) Community Benefit

- Identify the community benefits.
- Describe the innovative value of the project to the community.

3) Project Readiness

- Confirm that the project will begin within one year of the grant award.

4) Impacts

- Describe the environmental benefits of the project.
- Demonstrate the impact on the local green economy.
- Provide construction and permanent job estimates, including average wage levels.