



Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project: Coastal, Remote, and Island Community Technical Assistance

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the goal of ETIPP?

ETIPP advances coastal, remote, and island communities toward their self-defined energy resilience goals. ETIPP provides technical assistance using a community-driven approach to identify and plan strategic clean energy and energy resilience solutions that address communities' specific challenges. This approach leverages the experience and expertise of local community leaders, residents, and organizations within the ETIPP partner network.

How is energy resilience defined under ETIPP?

Energy resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from energy disruptions.

Can a community be too small or too large to apply?

There is no size limit for ETIPP communities. All teams will be evaluated on their engagement with a local community partner, but teams can include support from regional or state development organizations as well.

Does the application need to come from a civic department, or can a nonprofit be the applicant for the community?

Nonprofits are eligible, as are special-purpose districts, such as a school district or an administrative district.

Will ETIPP only consider specific projects, or can an applicant propose multiple project goals and initiatives as an integrated approach to the technical assistance project?

Eligible applicants can propose one project with multiple goals. If a community is selected for technical assistance, ETIPP's scoping process can help further define the scope of the project and identify which options would best address the community's challenges, goals, and priorities. It's for this reason that applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to an ETIPP regional partner to collaboratively prioritize and define the scope of the project they wish to propose.

What projects are not eligible under ETIPP?

ETIPP technical assistance is not available for:

- Conducting energy efficiency audits
- Buying or installing equipment (e.g., solar panels, wind turbines, wind measurement towers)
- Writing grants
- Providing advocacy support.

Does ETIPP provide advocacy support to communities?

ETIPP does not provide advocacy support. However, an ETIPP regional partner can help communities understand energy transition needs and the potential impacts of various policies and technology pathways, which can inform energy transition policies and decision-making.

Will my community receive funding from ETIPP?

As of 2024, new communities accepted to ETIPP will receive financial assistance through ETIPP in support of their participation in the ETIPP project and time spent building community capacity. The purchase and deployment of energy infrastructure*, however, is not available through ETIPP. One representative from each community will also be reimbursed for travel costs to attend the ETIPP annual meeting, subject to the availability of travel.

*“The term infrastructure includes the structures, facilities, and equipment for roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property; and structures, facilities, and equipment that generate, transport, and distribute energy including electric vehicle charging.” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/M-24-02-Buy-America-Implementation-Guidance-Update.pdf>

If selected, how much time will communities commit to participating in ETIPP technical assistance? How long does technical assistance last?

The total time commitment varies based on the type of technical assistance project. Communities should expect to commit time to participating in regular community meetings every month and time to support the technical assistance planning and analysis work. Following the application evaluation process, selected communities will embark on a project scoping phase (approximately 2 to 6 months) to discuss community priorities and finalize project proposals and deliverables with technical assistance providers. Selected communities and technical assistance providers will then execute the project informed by the scoping phase over

a period of 12 to 18 months. Applicants should consider whether the proposed project is feasible within the time parameters of ETIPP technical assistance.

How competitive is the selection process?

The competitiveness depends on the total number of communities that apply. When a community is not selected, ETIPP will notify the applicant and work with the regional partner and national labs to identify any resources or funding opportunities that can better address the specific challenges of the community.