



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

NREL coordinates technical assistance and cash awards for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) to help U.S. coastal, remote, and island communities become more energy resilient.

Application Timeline

ETIPP opens applications annually during the spring of each year. The timeline for the 2024 ETIPP application and selection process is:

- Application release: April 10, 2024
- Informational webinar: April 24, 2024
- Application deadline: July 10, 2024
- Application review period: July–August 2024
- Community selection notification: Late summer 2024
- Period of technical assistance: Up to 24 months (2 to 6 months for project scoping followed by 12 to 18 months for project implementation).

Note: Communities must consult with an [ETIPP regional partner or regional lead](#) before applying.

Background

DOE's ETIPP works alongside coastal, remote, and island communities seeking to transform their energy systems and increase energy resilience. These communities have unique physical features that fundamentally shape what energy options are available. For many of these communities, access to resilient, affordable, sustainable, and clean energy resources is a priority. ETIPP helps communities to assess and advance the solutions that best meet their needs.

In addition to supporting communities in their energy system transformation, ETIPP is also committed to the [Justice40 Initiative](#). This governmentwide initiative has a goal of delivering 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments in climate and energy to disadvantaged communities, and it tracks performance toward that goal. **Applications that demonstrate their project will directly benefit a disadvantaged community are strongly encouraged.**

Eligibility

ETIPP is open to communities and organizations in the United States and its territories. To be eligible for the program, applicants must meet the following criteria.

- The benefitting community must match at least one of these descriptions:
 - It is located on an island.
 - It is within 50 miles of a coastline (ocean or seacoast, or along the Great Lakes).
 - It is in Alaska and not serviced by the Railbelt grid utilities.
 - It is a federally recognized tribe in an [ETIPP-supported region](#).
- The lead applicant is a local government (e.g., municipality, county, city, town), a Tribe or Tribal organization, a community-based organization (including nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations), a special purpose district (e.g., school district, water district, sewer district), an academic institution, a municipal utility, or an electric co-op.
- A group competing as one team may be selected, provided that the online account holder of the submission is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Individuals competing as part of a team may participate if they are legally authorized to work in the United States.
- Private entities that are part of an application must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States.
- Academic institutions that are part of an application must be based in the United States.

Applicants that are ineligible for ETIPP include:

- Individuals
- DOE employees, employees of sponsoring organizations, members of their immediate families (e.g., spouses, children, siblings, or parents), and persons living in the same household as such persons, whether or not related
- Individuals who worked at DOE (federal employees or support service contractors) within 6 months prior to the submission deadline
- Federal entities and federal employees
- DOE national laboratory employees
- Entities and individuals publicly banned from doing business with the U.S. government, such as entities and individuals debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in federal programs
- Entities identified in Department of Homeland Security Binding Operational Directives as publicly banned from doing business with the U.S. government
- Entities and individuals identified as restricted parties on one or more screening lists of Department of Commerce, State, or the Treasury
- Individuals participating in a foreign government talent recruitment program* sponsored by a country of risk** and teams that include such individuals
- Entities owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a country of risk.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible, reach out to an [ETIPP regional partner](#) for more information and/or contact ETIPP@nrel.gov.

* Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program is defined as an effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, or a foreign government instrumentality or entity, to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, or whether having a full-time or part-time position). Some foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs operate with the intent to import or otherwise acquire from abroad, sometimes through illicit means, proprietary technology or software, unpublished data and methods, and intellectual property to further the military modernization goals and/or economic goals of a foreign government. Many, but not all, programs aim to incentivize the targeted individual to relocate physically to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at United States research facilities or receipt of federal research funds while concurrently working at and/or receiving compensation from a foreign institution, and some direct participants not to disclose their participation to U.S. entities. Compensation could take many forms including cash, research funding, complimentary foreign travel, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, promised future compensation, or other types of remuneration or consideration, including in-kind compensation.

**DOE has designated the following countries as foreign countries of risk: Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China. This list is subject to change.

Eligible Organization Types

Types of community organizations eligible to apply include but are not limited to:

- Local governments (e.g., municipalities, counties, cities, towns)
- Tribes or tribal organizations
- Community-based nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations
- Special purpose districts (e.g., school districts, water districts, sewer districts)
- Municipal utilities and electric co-ops.

External Stakeholder Support

Prospective ETIPP communities must arrange for at least two external organizations to submit Stakeholder Support Forms to support their applications. Ideally, these supporters should play a role in decision-making for proposed ETIPP projects. Stakeholders may include community organizations, government leaders, local utilities, and others. Regional partner organizations can help communities identify stakeholders to support their projects.

Access the [Stakeholder Support Form online](#) or [download the PDF version](#).

Acceda al [formulario de apoyo a partes interesadas en línea](#) o [descargue la versión PDF](#).

Types of Technical Assistance

ETIPP offers energy planning for communities and technical assistance for specific energy projects. Communities with an existing and current energy plan or specific project may engage in in-depth technical assistance. Communities without an energy plan will engage in an energy planning process with ETIPP prior to embarking on technical assistance for specific energy projects.

Examples of technical assistance available through ETIPP include:

- Assessing community energy needs to determine achievable goals for resilient energy transitions
- Analyzing the feasibility and impacts of deploying energy technologies that can provide resilience and other community benefits, such as energy efficiency measures, hydropower, microgrids, solar, wind, geothermal, energy storage, tidal or wave energy, and transportation electrification
- Developing strategic energy plans or incorporating energy considerations into existing plans
- Producing guidance for energy transition policy and decision-making.

Interested applicants may also explore additional technical assistance options under ETIPP by contacting an ETIPP regional partner.

Selection Process and Criteria

A review committee of DOE staff and other energy experts will evaluate submitted applications.

The following details provide more guidance on what information applicants may include in their applications and how experts will evaluate and score submissions. Reviewers will evaluate submissions by assigning a single score for each of the scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

0	1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree/Does Not Address	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree Strongly	Agree/Fully Addressed

Each application will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

Suggested Content Competitor Provides

- Describe energy resilience challenges, including frequency of energy disruptions or threats to energy infrastructure from natural hazards.

- Clearly describe a project that could be undertaken within the program that is related to increased energy resilience.
- Showcase engagement from the benefiting community. This engagement could be demonstrated through letters of support or commitment or inclusion as a part of the applicant team.
- Explain the backgrounds of the team members, their interest and support of the project, and their role in decision-making or advocacy in the community.
- Describe the impact this project would have within the community and how the project will help the community meet their energy resilience needs.
- Explain how engagement with the relevant regional partner as a part of the application development process supported the community.

Each of the Following Statements Will Be Scored on a 0-5 Scale

- **Need:** The applicant clearly describes the energy resilience challenges, including frequent energy disruptions or threats to energy infrastructure from natural hazards, and the relationship of those challenges to the coastal, remote, or island community that will benefit from the project.
- **Project:** The applicant clearly describes an energy project that will support increased energy resilience for the benefiting community.
- **Community Engagement:** The applicant clearly demonstrates engagement and interest from a variety of community members that will benefit from the project.
- **Commitment:** The team engaged to participate on the project includes various community members that serve in decision-making or advocacy roles.
- **Replicability:** The proposed project, if successfully completed, can inform progress on similar challenges in other coastal, remote, or island communities.
- **Support:** The applicant has leveraged available support from the appropriate Regional Partner as a part of developing their application.

Based on the review process, DOE and NREL will make recommended selections of communities for ETIPP, and the program judge will make the final decisions. More information on the program judge can be found in the Additional Terms and Conditions section.

DOE intends to select up to 15 communities annually to receive technical assistance and a supplementary cash award of \$50,000 per community. The final number of communities selected will depend on the applications received, availability of funds, and approval by DOE.

ETIPP will be governed by 15 U.S.C. §3719 and the requirements outlined on this website. This is not a procurement under the Federal Acquisitions Regulations and will not result in a grant or cooperative agreement under 2 CFR 200. The DOE and NREL team reserves the right to modify requirements if necessary and will publicly post any such notifications as well as notify registered participants.

Regional Partner Contacts

ETIPP's regional partners are experienced in supporting community-based energy transitions. They are committed to supporting ETIPP applicants by providing detailed information about the program and application process. **Applicants are encouraged to consult with an ETIPP regional partner before applying.** During consultation, regional partners will help applicants:

1. Determine whether ETIPP is the right fit for their community based on eligibility criteria and community circumstances.
2. Clarify their energy challenges and goals for ETIPP technical assistance.
3. Identify potential stakeholder support organizations for their application.
4. Discuss staffing and community engagement expectations for their ETIPP project.

ETIPP is expanding regional partner representation to include the Gulf Coast, Great Lakes, Hawaii/Pacific Territories, and Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands, so interested communities should contact the regional partner that best represents their geographic location, or email ETIPP@nrel.gov to get connected to the appropriate organization. Communities may also contact an ETIPP regional partner to learn about other technical assistance or funding opportunities.

For areas without a designated regional partner, please contact ETIPP@nrel.gov to get connected to a regional lead for the program.

Alaska Region

[Renewable Energy Alaska Project](#)

Haleigh Reed

hreed@realaska.org

Bertha Prince

bprince@realaska.org

907-929-7770 ext. 8

Great Lakes Region

A regional partner is in the process of being selected for this area. Please contact ETIPP@nrel.gov to connect to a regional lead for the program.

Gulf Coast Region

A regional partner is in the process of being selected for this area. Please contact ETIPP@nrel.gov to connect to a regional lead for the program.

Hawaii/Pacific Territories Region

A regional partner is in the process of being selected for this area. Please contact ETIPP@nrel.gov to connect to a regional lead for the program.

Northeastern Seaboard Region

Island Institute

Jamie Cook

jcook@islandinstitute.org

207-553-3184

Pacific Northwest Region

Spark Northwest

Mia Devine

mia@sparknorthwest.org

206-267-2213

Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands Region

A regional partner is in the process of being selected for this area. Please contact ETIPP@nrel.gov to connect to a regional lead for the program.

Southeastern Seaboard Region

A regional partner is in the process of being selected for this area. Please contact ETIPP@nrel.gov to connect to a regional lead for the program.

Additional Terms and Conditions

Please read the [additional terms and conditions](#) before applying to ETIPP.

Lea los [terminos y condiciones adicionales](#) antes de presentar su solicitud a ETIPP.

Applicant Commitment

Selected communities must agree to participate in the following activities:

- Participate in virtual meetings (30–90 minutes each) with ETIPP staff every 2–4 weeks during project scoping (fall and winter 2024) and throughout the remainder of the project (6–18 months after the scope is finalized).
- Provide information and input requests by ETIPP staff in a timely manner.
- Submit feedback about your experience in ETIPP every 6 months during project execution and 6–12 months after its conclusion.

- Be available to other local communities to share your experience and lessons learned via webinar or conference call.
- Coordinate with community members and other stakeholders needed to participate in ETIPP meetings.

Contact Us

If you have additional questions about ETIPP, please contact ETIPP@nrel.gov.

Sign up for NREL's [State, Local, and Tribal newsletter](#) to receive alerts about the next ETIPP application period.

Apply for Technical Assistance

[Access the online application](#) form or [submit a PDF application](#) by email or mail by July 10, 2024.

[Register for an informational webinar](#) on April 24, 2024, to learn more.