

Questions and Responses
Minnesota Weatherization Assistance Program:
Renewable Energy Equipment Grant Program Pilot Project

COMM-WAP01-20160104

#	Question	Response
	Section I Purpose and Legislative Authority	
1.	The RFP says \$150,000 has been reserved for this pilot RFP through June 2017. We understand that approximately \$55,000 of the \$150,000 REEGP fund for FY 2016 has been spent so far, and that an additional \$150,000 is allocated for FY 17. Will there be funds available for non-RFP recipients to apply for single home installations? Somewhere in the range of \$95,000 through June 2017?	Yes. After a final determination is made and contract(s) are awarded, the final amount of remaining non-RFP REEGP funds will be calculated. Eligible REEGP applicants will be notified as to the final amount of non-RFP funds available for individual projects.
	Section II Eligible Responders:	
2.	It is suggested that “SP responders are encouraged to set up project teams for all aspects of the project and submit the application with all project partners identified.” Does this mean that SP’s should team up with an installer(s) during this RFP period and skip the usual procurement practices of getting bids from multiple installers when individual job specifics are known?	Procurement requirements are detailed in Exhibit G (1), the State of Minnesota Standard Grant Contract. As stated in Section VII, if the contractor bidding process must still take place, the response should include a description of the bid process that will be used to select contractors.
3.	If our organization understands the RFP correctly, both White Earth and Fond du Lac Tribes are eligible for REEGP since they are WAP Service Providers and have contracts with the State. However, if we understand the Contract correctly, any Fond du Lac project would have to be applied to through AEOA, because Fond du Lac subcontracts out their Weatherization to AEOA. Would an application for this RFP to serve Fond du Lac residents have to ultimately emanate from AEOA?	Fond du Lac meets the definition of an Eligible Responder found in Section II. If Fond du Lac responds to the RFP, the response must demonstrate that all requirements and responsibilities detailed in the RFP can be met, whether or not AEOA is identified as a project partner.
4.	Can all tribal entities, listed as having a contract with the MN Department of Commerce in the RFP, respond to the RFP and work directly with Commerce? While “Section II. Eligible Responders” clearly includes tribal entities as reflected in Section V.1 of the Minnesota WAP state plan; there have been challenges in working directly with Commerce for REEGP in the past, so clarification is sought?	Yes

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	Section IV Background:	
5.	Three Technologies, no.1: Should we assume this technology is intended to supplement the heating of (1) domestic hot water via a water heater, and (2) radiant hot water/liquid space heating (and not “solar air heating” which is already available elsewhere under REEGP)?	Solar air heating is not part of the pilot project. Two of the technologies can be used for domestic hot water or radiant heating purposes. The third technology, Photovoltaic, directly offsets electric load for electric space heating.
6.	Three Technologies, no. 2: – We understand this technology to consist of a typical solar PV panel, coupled with a solar thermal collector installed on the back of the PV panel to pre-heat water. The electricity generated is fed into the home’s electric panel and the heated water can either feed the domestic hot water heater or the radiant hot water space heating system. Is this what is intended?	No, this technology consists of a Solar PV module directly connected to a domestic hot water tank; it is not fed through the electrical service and is not grid connected. Each water heater has two heating sources. They can be gas/PV, propane/PV or electric/PV.
7.	Three Technologies - Seeking clarification on the PV-solar thermal system: Why take a technology that can generate a product which is so versatile (electricity) and dedicate it exclusively to heating water?	This technology does not require a grid connection, eliminating the need to go through the interconnection process.
8.	Three Technologies - Seeking further guidance on the PV-solar thermal system. What are the requirements for licensed professionals on the jobsite for an installation of this system?	In Minnesota, both a licensed plumber and licensed electrician would be needed for this technology.
9.	Three Technologies - What is the projected ROI in Minnesota, including the labor costs mentioned in #2?	ROI’s are difficult to determine, there are a number of site specific variables that go into the calculation. Number of occupants, frequency of usage, cost of fuel, the size of the system, type of install, and permitting all need to be considered when calculating ROI.
	Section V Project Objective/Work Product:	
10.	This section states that the project is to demonstrate the three “technologies as supplemental heat”. Is heating domestic hot water held in a water heater considered “supplemental heat” or does this hot water need to be converted into radiant heat in order to qualify as “heat”?	For the purposes of this pilot project, Commerce accepts heating domestic water held in a water heater. Radiant heat is also eligible but not necessary for the purposes of the pilot project.

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11.	In this section, is a restriction, that PV technology “may only be used in homes where electric heat is currently used”? Must this electric heat be the PRIMARY source of heat?	For projects using PV technology (Section V, Option 3), the primary heating source must be electric.
Section VII, item d. Budget		
12.	What expenses should be considered as “Admin costs? Is staff time for site assessment, travel, etc. considered Admin?	Site assessments, inspection expenses and other associated travel are considered project expenses. Admin expenses include financial and programmatic reporting to Commerce. Budgets will be reviewed and negotiated prior to contract execution.
13.	For REEPG does the 10% administration fee cover travel cost or are they above and beyond the 10%?	Site assessments, inspection expenses and other associated travel are considered project expenses. Admin expenses include financial and programmatic reporting to Commerce. Budgets will be reviewed and negotiated prior to contract execution.
OTHER		
14.	Rental units: Are qualified residents of non-owner occupied units eligible as part of the target group (assuming the residents pay for their primary heat)?	Yes. For the purpose of this pilot project, only single-family rental units are eligible.
15.	Multifamily: Is installation on qualified multifamily housing allowed? In section IV the words “low-income housing” are used to describe the target. Having a low income housing authority who manages the maintenance/service of the renewable energy equipment could have a very positive impact on the effectiveness of the energy system over the life of the equipment.	For the purposes of this pilot project, multifamily buildings are not eligible.