

Revised 06/02/2023

**Rural Energy for America Program
Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvements
Grant/Combo Evaluation Criteria Scoring Guide**

Post Review by:

Name of Applicant:		
Name of Reviewer:		
Type of Technology:		
Grant Request: \$		
Loan Request: \$		
Total Project Cost: \$		Eligible Project Cost: \$

	Base Priority Score	Administrative Points	Total Grant/ComboScore	
RES Generation				
RES Direct Use/Replacement				
Energy Efficiency Improvements (EEI)				

Complete using TAB key the yellow highlighted text boxes or insert the maximum points the applicant is eligible for under each of the following categories, the individual scores are automatically summed and placed in the "Total Score" columns above. Provide comments to justify score. Combination grant/loan applications are scored as grants using grant dollars requested in applicable calculations.

(1) Environmental benefits

A maximum of **10 points** can be awarded for criterion 1.

All projects which **do not produce greenhouse gases**, at the project level, will be awarded 5 points, and may be considered for up to a maximum of 10. Greenhouse gases are defined as: Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), and Fluorinated Gases. Projects can also be awarded one point for each environmental benefit (i) - (v) that is adequately addressed in the environmental benefits section of RD Form 4280-3A, B, or C.

If the proposed project **does not produce greenhouse gases at the project level**, Award 5 points.

(i) If the proposed project **does not convert farmland**, Award 1 point

(ii) If the project **does not contribute to deforestation** or addresses fire hazards on forest lands, Award 1 point

(iii) If the project **improves water conservation**, Award 1 point

(iv) If the project complies with EPA's **renewable fuel standards**, Award 1 point

(v) If at least 25% of project components are **biobased**, Award 1 point

Provide comment on specific measures applicable to project

	Points

(2) Quantity of Energy Generated, Replaced, Saved or Percent Efficiency

A maximum of 25 points will be awarded for Criterion 2. Complete sub-criteria i and ii below.

Sub-Criteria i: Quantity of Energy Generated or Saved per REAP RES/EEI Grant Dollar Requested (10 points max.)

For RES and EEI projects, points will be awarded for either the amount of energy generated per grant dollar requested, which includes those projects that are replacing energy usage with a renewable source, or the actual annual average energy savings over the most recent 12, 24, 36, 48, or 60 consecutive months of operation per grant dollar requested; Points will not be awarded for more than one category.

Residential energy use should NOT be included.

(A) Renewable Energy Systems

Projected Annual Energy Generated (EG) in BTU's:		EG/Grant Dollar: (Auto-Calculates)		
				Points
(1) Less than 50,000 BTU per Grant Dollar				Auto Calculates (EG/\$) / 50,000 x 10 points
(2) Greater than 50,000 BTU per Grant Dollar = 10 points				Auto Calculates: (EG/\$)>50,000 = 10 points
Provide additional documentation (if applicable) to substantiate the score for this category below.				

OR				
(B) Energy Efficiency Improvement (EEI)				
Projected Average Annual Energy Saved (ES) in BTU's		ES/Grant Dollar: (Auto-Calculates)		
(1) Less than 50,000 BTU per Grant Dollar			Auto Calculates: (ES/\$) / 50,000 x 10 points	Points
(2) Greater than 50,000 BTU per Grant Dollar = 10 points			Auto Calculates: (ES/\$)>50,000 = 10 points	
Provide additional documentation (if applicable) to substantiate the score for this category below.				
Sub-Criteria ii: Quantity of Energy Replaced, Generated, or Saved. (15 points max)				
Points may only be awarded for energy replacement, energy generation, or energy savings. <i>Points will not be awarded for more than one category.</i>				
(A) Energy replacement				
For a project to qualify as an energy replacement it must provide at least 12 months of historical utility bills in the name of the applicant entity or documentation must be provided regarding historical energy expense incurred by the applicant entity. If not provided, score as generation. For new construction the project may classify as energy replacement only if the applicant can document previous energy use from a facility of approximately the same size (+/- 10%).				
Determine energy replacement by dividing the estimated quantity of renewable energy to be generated over a 12-month period by the estimated quantity of energy consumed <u>over the same 12-month period</u> during the previous year by the applicable energy application:				
Projected Annual Energy Generated (EG) in BTU's:		Percent Energy Replacement (Auto-Calculates)	0	
Historical Annual Energy Consumption (EC) in BTU's:				
If the proposed renewable energy system is intended primarily for self use by the agricultural producer or rural small business, and will provide energy replacement of:				
(1) Greater than 0 but equal to or less than 25%, award 5 points.			Points	0
(2) Greater than 25%, but equal to or less than 50%, award 10 points.				
(3) Greater than 50%, award 15 points.				
(4) Greater than 150% , Score as Energy Generation				
Provide additional documentation (if applicable) to substantiate the score for this category below.				
OR				
(B) Energy Savings				
Energy savings will be determined by the projections in an energy assessment or audit, supported by at least 12 months of historical utility bills. Proposed additional energy consumption should not be considered.				
Historical Annual Energy Consumption (HEC) in BTU's:		Energy Savings (Auto-Calculates)	0.00%	
Projected Annual Energy Consumption (PEC) in BTU's:				
If the estimated energy expected to be saved by the installation of the energy efficiency improvements will be from:				
(1) 20% up to but not including 35%, award 5 points.			Points	0
(2) 35% up to but not including 50%, award 10 points.				
(3) 50% or greater, award 15 points.				
Provide additional documentation (if applicable) to substantiate the score for this category below.				

OR				
(C) Energy generation				
(1) If the proposed renewable energy system is intended primarily for production of energy, Award 10 points. <i>This includes RES retrofits that <u>increase</u> the amount of energy generated by the existing RES system, off-grid RES applications, and direct use energy in new buildings without historical energy consumption.</i>				Points
				0
Provide additional documentation (if applicable) to substantiate the score for this category below.				
(3) Commitment of Funds				
A maximum of 10 points will be awarded for criterion 3. Points awarded if the applicant has confirmed written commitments, received by the Agency as part of the complete application, of more than 50% of commitment needed. Commitment needed equals eligible project costs minus grant and loan requests.				
Commitment Needed	\$0	Commitment Provided		
(i) 50% or less, award 0 points.				Points
(ii) Over 50% but not including 100% of the commitment needed, calculate the points as:				0
Percentage of Committed Funds Provided (Auto-Calculates)	0.00	(PM-50% / 50% x 10 points) <i>Auto-Calculates Points</i>	-15.00	
(iii) 100%, award 10 points.				
Provide documentation to substantiate the score for this category below.				
(4) Previous Grantees and Borrowers				
A maximum of 15 points will be awarded for criterion 4. <i>Receiving a grant or loan means funds were disbursed or a loan note guarantee was issued by the Agency to the same applicant entity, based upon the tax identification number. Base the calculation on the fiscal year in which the obligation was made.</i>				
(i) If the Applicant has never received a grant and/or guaranteed loan under this subpart, Award 15 points				Points
(ii) If the Applicant has not received a grant and/or guaranteed loan under this subpart within the 2 previous Federal Fiscal Years, Award 5 points				
(iii) If the Applicant has received a grant and/or guaranteed loan under this subpart within the 2 previous Federal Fiscal Years, Award 0 points.				
Provide documentation to substantiate the score for this category below.				
(5) Disadvantaged or Distressed Community				
15 points will be awarded for a project that meets criterion 5. Points will be awarded if the project site is located in a Disadvantaged Community or a Distressed Community				
A Disadvantaged Community will be determined by the Agency using the Council of Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tools which identifies communities burdened by climate change and environmental injustice. Additionally, all communities within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Villages will also be determined to be Disadvantaged Communities by the Agency. Distressed Communities will be determined by the Agency by using the Economic Innovation Group's Distressed Communities Index. These criteria are incorporated into the USDA look-up map. https://ruraldevelopment.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4acf083be4c44bb7864d90f97de0c788				Points
Provide documentation to substantiate the score for this category below.				

(6) Simple payback				
A maximum of 15 points will be awarded for criterion 6.				
Points will be awarded for renewable energy systems or energy efficiency improvements; points will not be awarded for more than one category.				
(i) Renewable energy systems				
Renewable Energy Systems Simple Payback = Total project costs / Dollar value of energy units replaced, credited, sold, or used and fair market value of byproducts as applicable in a typical year. <i>Historical use must be based on average actual energy consumed by the applicant entity over at least the most recent 12 month period. Only energy charges directly reduced by the unit of energy being replaced should be included in the actual average price of energy for replacement projects. Documentation should be provided to justify the quantity and price per unit of energy and byproducts (e.g. compost from a digester or distillers grain from ethanol plant). Documentation of price per unit of a conventional fuel source may be provided to calculate payback when renewable energy will be used in a new facility or off grid application. Residential energy consumption is excluded. Do not include proposed additional energy consumption. Does not include tax credits, carbon credits, RECs and construction or investment related benefits which are not received for the entire life of the system.</i> *For RES w/ prorated residential, TPC minus residential costs can be use in cell B123. Manually input the number and document in cell A133.				
Total Project Costs (Auto Calculates):	\$0	\$ Replaced	\$0	#DIV/0!
		\$ Sold or Credited	\$0	
Total Income:	\$0	\$ Used	\$0	
		\$ By Products	\$0	
If the simple payback of the proposed project is:				
(1) Less than 10 years, award 15 points.			Points	
(2) 10 years up to but not including 15 years, award 10 points.			#DIV/0!	
(3) 15 years up to and including 25 years, award 5 points.				
(4) Longer than 25 years, award 0 points.				
Provide documentation to substantiate the score for this category below.				
OR				
(ii) Energy efficiency improvements				
EEl projects Simple Payback = (Total Project Costs)/Dollar Value of Energy Saved. <i>Dollar value of energy saved incorporates the following: Energy Savings using a constant value or price of energy; historical energy use of building or equipment must be based on actual average annual BTU used over the most recent 12-60 consecutive month period, supported by utility bills. Does not include proposed additional energy consumption and savings. Value or price of energy must be actual average price paid over same period as above, using only energy charges directly reduced by the unit of energy being replaced or saved. EEl improvements cannot monetize benefits other than the dollar amount of energy savings realized as a result of the improvement.</i>				
Total Project Costs (Auto Calculates):	\$0.00	Dollar Value of Energy Saved:		
If the simple payback of the proposed project is:				
(A) Less than 4 years, award 15 points.			Points	
(B) 4 years up to but not including 8 years, award 10 points.			0	
(C) 8 years up to and including 12 years, award 5 points.				
(D) Longer than 12 years, award 0 points.				
Provide documentation to substantiate the score for this category below.				
(7) State Director and Administrator priorities and points				
A maximum of 10 points will be awarded for criterion 7.				
The State Director or Administrator, at their discretion, may award up to a maximum of 10 priority points for projects which meet any of the following criteria:			Points	
(i) Selecting the application helps achieve geographic diversity, which may include points based upon size of the funding request			0	
(ii) The applicant is a member of an unserved or underserved population described as follows:				
(a) Owned by a veteran, including but not limited to individuals as sole proprietors, member partners, stockholders etc, of not less than 20%				
(b) Owned by a member of a socially disadvantaged group, which are groups whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. **In order to receive points, the application must include a statement to indicate that the owners of the project are members of a socially disadvantaged group**				
(iii) The proposed project is in a Federally declared major disaster area. Declarations must be within the last 2 calendar years				
(iv) The proposed project is located in either an area where 20% or more of its population is living in poverty over the last 30 years, as defined by the US Census Bureau, or an area that has experienced long-term population decline, or loss of employment				
Provide documentation to substantiate the score for this category below.				

