

Energy Services Unit
Renewables Ready Communities Award (RRCA)
Application Walkthrough

RRCA Contacts:

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If you are interested in applying for the “Renewables Ready Communities Award,” please complete the following steps:

1. **Watch or attend the grant webinar and read the prior FAQs of other applicants, found on the RFP webpage.**
2. **Confirm that the renewable energy project you are involved with meets the definition of an *eligible project*, which means:**
 - a. The project is in the State of Michigan.
 - b. The project attained a *permitting document* on or after October 1, 2023.
 - i. A permitting document is a land use permit, approved site use plan, or reasonable alternative for unzoned communities.
 - c. The project is a grid-connected wind, solar, energy storage, or hybrid project.
 - d. All projects must be at least 50 MW, unless any wind energy is involved, in which case a project must be at least 100 MW. All capacity values refer to nameplate capacity in alternating current.
 - e. The portion of megawatts hosted or permitted by your municipality does not need to reach this threshold; the project *in total* must.
3. **Determine whether you are a *permitting host*, *non-hosting permitter*, or *non-permitting host* for the renewable energy project.**
 - a. Permitting is the procurement and approval of a land use permit or approved site use plan for the eligible project. Hosting is the containment of energy technology, now or in the future, within the smallest involved municipality's boundaries. This classification determines your award amount and relevant application materials.
 - i. *Permitting hosts* may receive \$5,000 per eligible MW.
 - ii. *Non-hosting permitters* and *non-permitting hosts* may receive \$2,500 per eligible MW.
 - b. I.E., A township which procured the permitting document for a project it will host would be a *permitting host*.
 - c. I.E., A township which defers to county zoning would be a *non-permitting host*, and the county would be a *non-hosting permitter*.
 - d. I.E., Several townships in a joint municipal planning and zoning arrangement would each qualify as a *permitting host*.

4. **Gather your permitting document.**
 - a. This is a land use permit, approved site use plan, or reasonable alternative for unzoned communities attained on or after October 1, 2023, which clearly demonstrates that the project went through a local permitting procedure.
 - b. If you are a *non-permitting host* requesting this document from another party, please encourage this other party to apply.

5. **Download a Developer Questionnaire and ask your partnering renewable energy developer to complete it.**
 - a. This document will ask the developer to provide each host's share of the total nameplate capacity, as well as other basic information.
 - b. A Developer Questionnaire is valid for a full project. As such, it is possible that your developer has already completed a relevant Questionnaire on behalf of another municipality's application. Request a copy of this document to attach in your own application.

6. **Complete an "Intended Use Plan," representing your hosted or permitted share of a single eligible project.**
 - a. The Developer Questionnaire is necessary to complete this document. It provides information such as the exact amount of capacity your jurisdiction was responsible for hosting and/or permitting.
 - b. Structure your Intended Use around the tentative construction and operation dates provided in the Developer Questionnaire, assuming that you will receive 50 percent of the total award at construction and 50 percent of the total award at operation.
 - i. Complete this plan knowing that it will be reviewed on project construction (first award disbursement) for solidification into a binding Award Use Plan.

7. **If a request to another party for a permitting document or a Developer Questionnaire is risking the timeliness of your application, please notify the grant team for assistance.**

8. **Submit these materials through the online application and await a response from EGLE.**