



Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) Round 2 Objective Strategy Session (OSS)

May 2, 2024



Agenda

1. Background and program vision
2. Guidance on applications being requested
3. Timeline
4. How to apply

Stakeholder Engagement Informed Program Scope

Key Engagement Takeaways

- Where and how **large-scale renewable energy facilities** are sited is a complex process that requires careful consideration of the **host community's interests**
- Opposition from host communities is challenging to address; trust dynamics play a key role
- State and local governments may lack the necessary staffing capacity (expertise & resources)

EERE Role

To improve large-scale renewable energy planning, siting processes, and outcomes for host communities, local governments, and renewable energy developers.

1. Provide **funding** for capacity expansion at state level
2. Provide **technical assistance** to institutionalize expertise
3. **Disseminate** achievements and **convene** interested stakeholders

Program Vision and Approach

Funding (Round 2 closes June 13)

- Establish or expand a state-level initiative that improves large-scale renewable energy planning, siting, and permitting
- Prioritize community engagement to identify needs
- Develop resources, trainings, and strategies to support local decision-making
- State-base collaboratives are cross-disciplinary with diversity in perspective and expertise

Technical Assistance to Awardees

- Awardees eligible to receive additional TA from leading experts (separate from the project budget)
- One-on-one meetings with experts, awardee workshops, in-depth support with developing resources and scoping the program
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities with other awardees

Disseminate and Convene

- As awardees execute projects, they will be highlighted on website and webinars
- Public webinars on various siting topics open to all stakeholders
- R-STEP website will grow as a go-to resource for siting

Requesting Applications for Round 2

Objective: To support **state-based collaboratives** (Collaboratives) aiming to expand state and local capacity for large-scale renewable energy planning and siting

- Can request up to \$2 million to execute proposed activities over the duration of up to 3 years (36 months)
 - Up to \$12M total available
- A single application should be submitted by a **lead applicant** for each Collaborative
- Interested applicants should **review Round 1 selections and assess existing renewable energy siting programs** in their state before applying
 - R-STEP will not support more than one application from a single state
 - Collaboratives that applied but were not selected in Round 1 are eligible to reapply

Application Considerations

- Focus on plans to **establish or expand a state-level initiative** that improves decision-making by state, local, and/or Tribal governments on large-scale renewable energy planning, siting, and permitting
- **Prioritize community engagement** both to identify local needs and disseminate technical resources
- Collaboratives should be **cross-disciplinary** with experience engaging local communities and technical expertise on siting issues
- Present a credible plan for the long-term maintenance of the initiative and resources developed with awarded funds (i.e., plans beyond the term of the R-STEP award)
- Focus on large-scale wind, solar, and battery energy storage infrastructure; may include activities related to other clean energy technologies, such as geothermal power, agrivoltaics, offshore wind, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Possible/Example Activities (not exhaustive)

Engaging communities, local and/or tribal governments, and other stakeholders to identify renewable energy planning and siting **priorities and resource needs, including through surveys or interviews.**

Developing state-specific **resources** to support community planning for renewable energy and implementation of siting best practices.

Establishing a state-specific **technical assistance hub** that responds to questions and requests from **local governments and/or tribes** regarding large-scale renewable energy siting and proactive planning for future deployment.

Conducting **trainings and workshops with local governments** and/or tribes to improve technical understanding of renewable energy planning and siting.

Hiring or subcontracting to expand technical **capacity** on siting processes, renewable energy technologies, community engagement planning and execution, community plan development, etc.

Conducting **state-specific research** and/or data collection to track trends in permitting timelines, community perceptions, zoning ordinances, etc., including use of machine learning models and software tools.

Applications Specifically **Not** of Interest

Applications that seek funding for a **single specific local community**.

Applications focused on a **single siting issue** (e.g., wildlife impacts)

Applications **led by developers of renewable energy facilities, for-profit organizations, or national laboratories**.

Applications that focus on the siting and permitting of **transmission** infrastructure.

Applications that focus exclusively on permitting of **distributed** energy sources or energy efficiency programs.

Applications that propose to **change siting or permitting policies** in the state.

Applications that focus solely on improving the **siting and permitting processes conducted by federal agencies**.

Applicant Teams

Teams should include organizations

1. Familiar with the **needs of local communities** across the state
2. With **experience providing** educational or technical **assistance** services to local communities (understand **trust** dynamics) and capable of reaching communities across the state
3. With **technical expertise** on renewable energy siting topics (e.g., environmental impacts, tax policies, zoning ordinance development)

To facilitate the formation of teams, R-STEP is establishing an online **Teaming Partner List** where interested parties can express interest in potentially partnering with others.

Same list as Round 1!

Expectations for Awardees

- Awardees will establish a business-to-business agreement with ENERGYWERX and define project activities (i.e., tasks, milestones, and deliverables) in a concise **Statement of Effort (SOE)** document
- Awardees will also be eligible to receive additional Technical Assistance (TA) from other leading experts, separate from the project budget
 - Workshops, one-on-one meetings, cohort working sessions
 - National labs, consultants, academics, and other experts
 - Applicants must highlight topic areas where additional TA will be necessary
- Peer-learning and knowledge sharing is critical to success
 - Cohort meetings and engagement with other awardees

Timeline

Milestone	Target Date
Round 2 Announcement/Applications Open	April 17
Objective Strategy Session (OSS)	May 2
Office Hours*	May 22
Applications Close	June 13 (5pm ET)
<i>Selections Made/Awardees Notified</i>	<i>Late Summer</i>
<i>Negotiations</i>	<i>Fall 2024</i>
<i>Projects Start</i>	<i>Fall/Winter 2024</i>

*[Sign up](#) for Office Hours through the R-STEP Round 2 Opportunity page.

How to Apply

- Applications will consist of an online questionnaire and a Project Narrative
 - [Click here to apply](#)
- The questionnaire will have an option to upload a Project Narrative as an attachment
- Applicants must use the template provided and follow the Submission Guidance (all available on the [EnergyWerx webpage](#))
 - Maximum of eight pages, including cover page
 - Note that this template was updated slightly from Round 1
 - Includes abstract in first page, new milestone table, and DEI Strategy section