

Commonwealth Wind Incentive Program: Community Scale
 Feasibility Study and Design & Construction Incentives
 (No. 2010-CWIPCS-01)
Questions and Answers
 Posted October 23, 2009
 Question #7 added November 12, 2009

Question	Answer
1. <i>Are there changes to the Solicitation since Block 1?</i>	<p>The Trust strongly recommends thoroughly reading the Commonwealth Wind Community-Scale Block Two Solicitation. The following is a summary of new and/or changed provisions in Block Two compared to Block One:</p> <p>A. Grants will be awarded on a per project, rather than a per turbine basis. See the definition of a Wind Project in Section 2.3.</p> <p>B. Design and construction grant levels have been lowered by 5%.</p> <p>C. To meet the Solicitation Minimum Technical Requirements, Feasibility Study applicants must fill out and submit a Site Assessment Deliverables Template including an MRET Commonwealth Wind Resource Report. For the proposed site to meet one of the eligibility requirements, the Wind Resource Report must indicate that the site has a wind speed of at least 6 m/s at a height of 70 meters above actual ground level.</p> <p>D. Eligible project proposals must demonstrate based on annual production and usage estimates that at least 50% of the renewable energy produced by the proposed project will be used onsite or that the proposed project will be net metered per the Green Communities Act.</p>

<p>2. <i>Under the heading "Net Metered/Behind the Meter Usage" in Section 3.1 the Solicitation states</i></p> <p><i>For feasibility and design & construction applications the Applicant must demonstrate that 50% or more of the renewable energy produced by the renewable system funded by MRET will be consumed or assigned behind the meter of record as allowed by the net metering provisions of the Green Communities Act and based on annual production and usage estimates.</i></p> <p><i>If the Applicant controls the site, but does not own or control the meter of record, is the project eligible?</i></p>	<p>The project is eligible if the Applicant demonstrates, based on annual production and usage estimates, that:</p> <p>A. at least 50% of the output will be consumed behind the meter of record, or</p> <p>B. the project will be net metered as allowed by the provisions of the Green Communities Act .</p> <p>In a case where the Applicant owns or controls the site, but does not own the meter of record (e.g. the Applicant is not the System Owner), the Applicant must submit a copy of a formal agreement with the owner of the meter of record demonstrating that the project meets either requirements A or B above.</p>
<p>3. <i>In reference to Section 3.1 in regard to Applicant and Project Requirements: Net Metered/Behind the Meter Usage - Does the solicitation really mean behind the meter of record in the singular, or does it mean to say behind the meter of records (plural)? That is, can a customer with multiple meters demonstrate that 50% or more of the renewable energy produced will be consumed behind the meters controlled by the applicant, not just the single meter the project will be physically connected behind? If the answer is that it is meters (plural), does the applicant need be the utility customer of record for all the meters considered (e.g., all the meters on a college campus, where the electric bills goes to the single college) or could the applicant be provided with a letter stating that meters would participate in the project where the additional meters are not those of the utility customer of record where these additional meters [would] be included in the 50% requirement calculation (e.g., municipal accounts, a regional school district, and an independent water district – where municipal government does not control the regional school district nor the independent water district and the electric bills go to the independent entities)?</i></p>	<p>We assume this question concerns net metering in Massachusetts and therefore eligibility for net metering falls under the jurisdiction of the Mass. Department of Public Utilities. Our understanding is that net metering eligibility relates only to the meter associated with the Generating Facility that qualifies the Generating Facility for net metering. In addition, we believe that information relating to where any net metering credits will be used/assigned is not required to comply with the net metering provisions of the Green Communities Act.</p>

<p>4. <i>Is there a minimum amount of onsite load necessary in order for a project to qualify as a net metering facility? And will our project be evaluated based on the amount of load we have onsite?</i></p>	<p>Eligibility for net metering falls under the jurisdiction of the Mass. Department of Public Utilities (DPU). Our understanding is that the DPU does not have a minimum load requirement for net metering as allowed by the provisions of the Green Communities Act. One eligibility criterion is that the proposed project simply be eligible for net metering as allowed by the provisions of the Green Communities Act. The Trust will not evaluate projects that claim eligibility for net metering based on the amount of onsite load.</p>
<p>5. <i>Does the Solicitation "Net Metering/Behind the Meter Usage" language in Section 3.1 preclude Massachusetts Municipal Light Plants from applying for project funding if they do not have a project in which 50% or more of the output is used behind the meter?</i></p>	<p>Under this current Block 2 Solicitation, Municipal Light Plant projects that do not use 50% or more of the output behind the meter are not eligible to apply for funding. The Trust is reviewing this policy for future funding blocks.</p>
<p>6. <i>Are Block 2 applicants eligible for funding per project or per turbine?</i></p>	<p>Block 2 applicants are eligible for funding per Wind Project. A Wind Project is defined in Section 2.3 as "A project that relates to the feasibility of developing a wind energy system or the actual installation of a wind energy system, including all of the unit(s) and the specific contiguous property at which the wind energy system will be located." Please note that the Trust has posted a corrected copy of Solicitation document B-2, the Feasibility and Design and Construction Application, clarifying that funding is per project.</p>
<p>7. Added November 6, 2009 <i>Section 6.1 of the Solicitation states that</i></p> <p><i>MRET requires that a complete feasibility study which meets the requirements outlined in Attachment D-2 be completed and submitted with the Design & Construction application.</i></p> <p><i>Attachment D-2 indicates that one of the tasks required under Component 3. Evaluate characteristics of the site vicinity is:</i></p> <p><i>File for and receive a Determination of No Hazard (DNH) from the Federal Aeronautics (sic - Aviation) Administration.</i></p> <p><i>Does the Trust require Design and Construction applicants to confirm that the proposed project has not only filed, but has also received, a Determination of No Hazard from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)?</i></p>	<p>The Trust recognizes that a feasibility study funded by the Trust's previous Large Onsite Renewables and Community Wind Collaborative Initiatives did not require the receipt of an FAA DNH in order for the feasibility study to be complete. Therefore, for Block 2 only, the Trust will allow a Design and Construction applicant to be eligible if it has filed a request for, but not yet received, an FAA DNH for its project. A Design and Construction applicant that has not yet received a Determination of No Hazard from the Federal Aviation Administration is required to provide the Trust with its proposed project's FAA Case Number. Please note that an applicant with a project that has received an FAA DNH will score better on this evaluation criterion. Finally, awards will be contingent upon the applicant receiving the FAA DNH.</p>

Block 1 Questions relevant to Block 2

	Question	Answer
1.	<i>How is the wind speed data accessed for Site Assessment applications?</i>	<p>We recommend the use of wind speed data available on the Massachusetts Wind Energy Screening Tool: http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/wind/.</p> <p>This website uses the New England Wind Energy Resource Map data at 70 meters above effective ground level. Access to wind speed data at 70 meters is also available on our website at:</p> <p>http://www.mtpc.org/renewableenergy/community_wind/atlas.htm and</p> <p>http://www.mtpc.org/renewableenergy/community_wind/wind_maps.htm.</p>
2.	<i>Does MRET have pre-approved consultants or developers?</i>	<p>MRET (and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, acting as the contracting entity for MRET), does not pre-approve consultants and/or developers for use by Grantees. MRET maintains a list of wind consultants that have either been involved in projects that have received funding through one of its programs or have asked to be added to the list. However, neither MTC nor MRET has investigated, and both MTC and MRET expressly disclaim any duty to investigate any company on that list. Applicants must perform their own due diligence before contracting with a consultant or a developer.</p>
3.	<i>Can the site assessment be prepared by the applicant's consultant?</i>	<p>The site assessment is an optional service that MRET provides specifically and exclusively to public entities. It can be prepared by an MRET provided consultant, or by the public entity's own consultant. . Non-public applicants are required to hire their own consultant to provide the site assessment services. MRET requires that all completed site assessments include, at minimum, the parameters described in Attachment D-1.</p>
4.	<i>When are grant monies paid out?</i>	<p>Payments are made upon completion of specific milestones. The payment timeline for feasibility studies is available in section 5.4 of the Solicitation and for design and construction projects in section 6.5. In addition, the deliverable & payment timeline (located in Step: 5 on the website) is a helpful resource.</p>
5.	<i>If an application does not receive funding during Block 2, will it automatically be entered into future funding blocks or does the applicant need to reapply?</i>	<p>The Community-Scale Wind application criteria, thresholds, and funding levels are all subject to change in the sole exercise of MRET's discretion between any and all funding blocks. As a result, submission of a new application is required for a project that does not receive funding under Block 2.</p>
6.	<i>If a project receives a design and</i>	<p>MRET will pay up to 20% of the total grant at the</p>

	<i>construction grant through the Community-Scale initiative, is there a specific allocation of funding that must go to either the design or construction phase?</i>	completion of the design stage. If design costs are lower than anticipated, any left over design funds can be rolled into the construction portion of the grant payments.
7.	<i>Are independent state authorities considered public entities in Commonwealth Wind?</i>	Yes.
8.	<i>Can an applicant apply for a design and construction grant prior to completing the feasibility study?</i>	No.
9.	<i>If an applicant is in negotiations for site control, can they still apply for a feasibility study grant?</i>	<p>Based on section 3.1 in the Community-Scale Wind solicitation, applications which indicate that the applicant is still in negotiations for site control will not meet the minimum project requirements and are not eligible for funding.</p> <p>For all projects, the Applicant must be the primary end-user for electricity produced by the proposed project and must demonstrate actual site control over the project location. Site control is defined as ownership or demonstration of a ground lease of at least 25 years from the date of application. For Public Entity Wind Projects, exceptions will be made for projects if the applicant shows it has, at a minimum:</p> <p>a) A Memorandum of Understanding with the site owner before applying for support at either the site survey or feasibility/business planning stages, or</p> <p>b) A two-year lease option or a 25-year lease from the site owner before applying for a design and construction grant.</p>
10.	<i>If a feasibility study was completed prior to the release of Commonwealth Wind, is it required to meet the feasibility study thresholds in Block 2 necessary to apply for design and construction funding?</i>	During Block 1, previously completed feasibility studies were not required to meet all of the new requirements set forth in the Community-Scale solicitation. For Block 2 (this round) and beyond, MRET will require a complete feasibility study that meets all of the outlined requirements in the Community-Scale solicitation in order to apply for design and construction funding.
11.	<i>Does a Public Entity need to procure a developer in accordance with public procurement laws in order for the applicant to apply or receive a Design and Construction Grant?</i>	When applying for a design and construction grant, a Public Entity needs to demonstrate that it has a technical team in place for the design phase of the project, and that it has abided by public procurement laws.
12.	<i>Are federal projects ineligible for funding from the Commonwealth Wind program?</i>	Federal entities are allowed to apply to Commonwealth Wind for funding, but they are not eligible for the Public Entity grant levels.

13.	<i>If a fatal flaw is identified during the feasibility, design, or construction phase of a project, is the applicant required to reimburse MRET for any payments already received?</i>	No, so long as the fatal flaw is not the result of some action taken by the recipient to create the fatal flaw. MRET may work with the Awardee to reimburse for costs incurred since the most recent milestone payment, subject to the applicable cost share.
14.	<i>If a project does not meet its required milestone dates, is the applicant required to reimburse MRET for any payments already received?</i>	The Awarded Applicant will not be required to reimburse MRET for payments made since the previous milestone. However, MRET will not reimburse the Awarded Applicant for any costs incurred since the last payment and MRET retains the right in the sole exercise of its discretion to terminate the award.
15.	<i>Does a project need to receive MRET funding for a feasibility study in order to apply for design and construction funding?</i>	No. A feasibility study can be self-funded, and the applicant can apply directly for design and construction funding afterwards. The feasibility study submitted with the design and construction grant application should conform to the requirements in Attachment D-2.
16.	<i>If feasibility, design, or construction work has already been done for a project, can a project receive funding through Community-Scale Wind in order to cover the cost associated with the completed work, in addition to any future work?</i>	No.
17.	<i>When will Block 3 be released, along with subsequent funding blocks?</i>	MRET currently estimates that Block 3 will be released in early 2010, with an application deadline in the spring of 2010.
18.	<i>What will the funding levels be for future blocks of Community-Scale Wind?</i>	MRET reserves the right to adjust grant funding levels at any time.
19.	<i>How can a public project meet the November deadline for Block 2 and still comply with State public procurement requirements?</i>	MRET recognizes that public entities may not be able to complete the public procurement process in time to meet the Block 2 application deadline. Although the Block 2 application deadline remains fixed, MRET's goal is to increase the length of time between Solicitation release and the Round 3 application deadline to allow time for completion of public procurement process.
20.	<i>The Feasibility and Design and Construction application requests an indication of the applicant's "Payback Requirement." Since municipal projects are generally funded by bonds, does this question apply to municipalities?</i>	Yes, municipally-financed projects should indicate what year the town expects that the project's cumulative cash flow will exceed the amount borrowed by the town.