

Technical Assistance Project

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program



Take the Next Step Toward Your Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Goals

What is the Technical Assistance Project?

The Technical Assistance Project (TAP) provides state and local officials quick access to experts at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratories for assistance with crosscutting renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and programs. The laboratories include: the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL).

TAP helps states with individualized, short-term assistance in areas that are not covered by other DOE programs, such as:

- System benefit charges or other rate-payer funded utility efficiency and renewable programs
- Renewable or efficiency portfolio standards
- Use of clean energy technologies to help states and localities address air emissions
- Use of renewable energy on state and local public lands
- Use of renewable and energy efficiency technologies for state and local disaster relief, mitigation, and planning
- Other renewable energy and energy efficiency activities supported through DOE's State Energy Program.

TAP considers requests that go beyond these areas on a case-by-case basis.

Projects are limited to \$5,000 or between 30–60 hours of staff time. Funding is used to cover staff time and travel for laboratory experts and is not distributed directly to the applicant.

As of March 2007, TAP has responded to 125 requests and has provided more than \$670,000 worth of assistance to state and local officials.

Project Examples

TAP projects have varied by need and type of assistance, including:

- Analysis of renewable portfolio standard options
- Quantification of emissions reductions from an energy efficiency project
- Options for developing wind power on state lands to meet state energy purchases
- Analysis of residential energy efficiency program options under a public benefits fund
- Analysis of emissions impacts from increased use of biodiesel and ethanol
- Analysis of options for state efficiency portfolio standard policies
- Soil analysis to convert state-owned mines to bioenergy farms
- Consultation on the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies for disaster mitigation and relief.

TAP Assistance in Hawaii

In her January 2004 State of the State address, Governor Linda Lingle called for the adoption of a renewable portfolio standard (RPS). The Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) began to work immediately with the Hawaii Legislature to craft an RPS. Through TAP, NREL experts provided data on how other states had crafted their standards and the cost of implementing the RPS in a series of meetings with key legislators and industry stakeholders in Hawaii.

“DOE's technical assistance was instrumental in helping Hawaii deal with some major policy questions. It was important for us to have access to national laboratory expertise and to learn from the experiences of other states,” said state officials.

How to Apply

The application process is quick and simple. Many projects begin to receive assistance within a week or two.

For more information or to apply for TAP assistance, here are the EERE Project Management Center points of contact:

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DOE Golden Field Office
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More information is also available on the TAP website:
http://www.eere.energy.gov/wip/technical_assistance.html



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U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

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For More Information:

EERE Information Center
1-877-EERE-INF or 1-877-337-3463
www.eere.energy.gov/

TAP Provides Energy Expertise across the Country



LBNL experts provided analysis for the Montana Governor's Office on renewable portfolio standard design and implementation. The standard was enacted in April 2005, as part of the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act.



NREL experts participated in a design charrette to assist the Denver Zoo with the development of a sustainable Asian Tropics Exhibit and campus-wide sustainable management strategies. The new exhibit will include a biomass gasification system expected to convert 90% of the zoo's trash into energy to operate the Asian Tropics facilities.



NREL experts provided analysis of state renewable energy reserves for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as they implemented EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule.



ORNL experts provided state-level analysis of biomass feedstocks and sustainability for the six-state Pacific Regional Biomass Energy Partnership.



The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs consulted with ORNL experts on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies appropriate for the Camden Micro-Load Pilot, an affordable near-zero energy public housing development.



ORNL experts provided training to the Texas Transportation Institute on the use of Max flow meters to be used in a Texas Capital Area Council of Governments-sponsored research project that would test the impact of different blends of biodiesel on school bus NO_x emissions.



LBNL experts provided assistance to the Missouri Energy Center in the revision of the state's integrated resource planning rule to ensure that energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are included and evaluated on an equal basis with other supply-side resource options.



LBNL experts reviewed a study examining how a proposed renewable electricity standard would affect electricity rates in the state for the Indiana General Assembly.



NREL experts provided analysis of offshore wind resources to present to the state legislature for the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a DOE national laboratory, produces *Technical Assistance Project* fact sheets for:

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