



PGE Renewable Development Fund

2024 Guidelines

Green Future Choice and Block Development Funds

Thank you for your interest in PGE's Renewable Development Fund (RDF) program, which provides financial support for local renewable energy projects. The RDF is made possible by a community of more than 225,000 Green Future participants, the largest renewable program in the country. The RDF is funded through a portion of the payments that Green Future Choice and Green Future Block customers voluntarily add to their standard PGE electricity bill. For the 2024 round, there is at least \$1.5 million available for funding. The funding limit for an individual applicant is \$500,000.

Please review the eligibility guidelines, project requirements, and evaluation criteria below. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of PGE representatives and recommended to the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) based on these considerations and subject to availability of funds.

Eligible for funding

Selected projects will advance renewable energy adoption and fall into one (or more) of these categories:

1. Provide all or part of the costs of new "steel in the ground" renewable energy projects, as well as connected energy storage, that are either directly interconnected to PGE's grid or delivered to PGE pursuant to a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
2. New energy storage components connected to an existing renewable energy project.
3. Research and development projects that facilitate renewable energy market transformation or the emergence of new renewable technologies.
4. Educational components directly associated with an RDF funded renewable project. Additional funding up to \$7,500 is available for these efforts. Eligible options include RDF signage, events, training, curriculum development, tours, and

educational materials.

Eligible renewable project types include:

- Wind
- Geothermal
- Solar PV
- Energy storage
- Low-Impact hydro certified by the Low Impact Hydro Institute (LIHI)
- Pipeline or irrigation canal hydropower
- Wave energy
- Tidal energy
- Low-emission biomass or biogas based on digester methane gas from landfills, sewage treatment plants or animal waste and biomass energy based on solid organic fuels from wood, forest or field residues or dedicated crops that do not include wood pieces that have been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol, or copper chrome arsenic.

Ineligible for funding

Funding for other products or programs such as Community Solar

Ineligible renewable project types include:

- Passive solar or thermal solar systems
- Geothermal heat-pump systems
- Geothermal or biomass heat generation systems
- Single-family residential projects
- Off-grid projects with no additional educational benefits

Structural or site improvements required prior to project construction are not eligible for funding. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Canopies
- Roofing
- Tree removal
- Lighting
- Flooring
- Structural reinforcement
- New or additional service

Activities not directly associated with the capital costs of new renewable energy systems:

- Fees incurred for project estimates or bids
- Site evaluation expenses
- Landscaping costs
- Construction Bond Costs
- Facility maintenance or repair costs
- Interest or warranty charges
- Donated, in-kind, or volunteer materials or labor
- Administrative or other non-technical costs

Evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated in the following areas:

1. Project Feasibility & Readiness
2. Community Impact
3. Costs and Financing

Project requirements

Projects must meet the following criteria, where applicable:

1. Directly interconnected to PGE's grid or delivered to PGE pursuant to a power purchase agreement (PPA).
2. Include a new installation or an expansion of an existing project, such as additional capacity or adding energy storage. All equipment and materials must be new.
3. Completed (defined as delivering power) within 18 months of funding approval. Extensions may be considered on a case-by-case basis, such as for new builds.
4. Commercial or utility scale, with capacity less than 10 MW, but greater than 10kW.
5. Equipped with production monitoring equipment to collect and report facility output, with data made available to PGE via both a production history electronic database and a public web link for a period no less than ten years.
6. Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from projects cannot be sold to a third party or be used to fund other programs.
7. Follow interconnection guidelines as required by PGE, the OPUC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) or any other relevant regulatory agencies.
8. Agree to PGE's nondiscrimination policy "the agency that I represent does not discriminate in programs and hiring practices based on a person's race, sex, religion,

national or ethnic origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”

9. Solar PV project must have an Energy Trust-certified Trade Ally as their solar contractor and receive a cover letter through the Solar Development Assistance incentive pathway prior to applying to the RDF. The reservation information is required as an appendix in the RDF application.
10. Solar PV projects hosted by an organization that operates as a community center or multifamily housing development must include batteries.
11. For-profit and government organizations:
 - Must include a battery storage component with the installation of a solar system.
 - Be enrolled in Green Future program prior to signing the award agreement.
12. Nonprofits that serve multifamily housing or community centers:
 - Must include a battery storage component with the installation of a solar system.
13. Be approved by the OPUC
 - Applications for projects hosted by for-profit companies and governmental agencies of any award amount, as well as projects hosted by nonprofit organizations receiving more than \$400,000 in grant funds must be reviewed and approved or denied by the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) at the next available Regular Agenda before any funds are assigned to a proposed project.
 - Projects hosted by nonprofit organizations receiving less than \$400,000 require the OPUC Staff to receive a list of funded projects with summaries for review. Following a one-week waiting period, PGE will notify the selected applicants of the funding decision.

Project preferences

Projects meeting the following criteria may be given priority:

1. The site is in PGE service area.
2. The site and/or system is owned by a PGE customer.
3. If customer-sited, the host customer is either a public or non-profit entity or is proposing a project in a meaningful partnership with a public or non-profit entity.
4. If the project is hosted by a for-profit company, they have credentials that demonstrate a commitment to community and climate, such as a B Corporation or LEED certified facility.
5. The project is constructed with local materials and labor (preference for materials and labor from PGE’s service area, Oregon or the Pacific Northwest).
6. The renewable energy project includes energy storage (where not specifically

required by guidelines).

7. The project is located at a multifamily and low-income housing development.
8. The project provides a substantial benefit to the community and PGE customers in educational engagement, public visibility, and environmental benefits.
9. The project provides a direct impact or service benefiting environmental justice communities as defined in House Bill 2475. Of specific interest are projects with a direct impact on Black, Indigenous, and people of Color (BIPOC) communities and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.
10. The project shows commitment to an organization's own funds, secured in-kind donations, or a willingness to engage in creative fund-raising efforts which contribute to the project's overall appeal.
11. The entirety of overhead, administrative, or project management costs are borne by the project owner. In rare instances, PGE may consider requests for funding of administrative costs, depending on the circumstances and qualifications of the applicant.
12. The project provides additional benefits in energy efficiency, other renewable energy initiatives, or environmental conservation. These additional efforts are ineligible for RDF funding, but projects including these measures may be given priority.
13. The project promotes additional renewable energy resources that would not be possible without RDF funding.

Funding parameters

No single applicant or project will be eligible to receive more than 33% of total development fund balance at the outset of each funding cycle. Available funding will be made known at the outset of each year/application round.

1. All applicants are expected to secure all other forms of available funding, including grants, incentives, and state/federal tax credits.
2. PGE may elect to fund up to 100% of the remaining capital costs of a project hosted by a nonprofit organization that has explored all other funding options.
3. For-profit and government entities are required to self-fund at least 15% of the total eligible project budget. Federal funding, grants, and other incentives do not count towards the self-fund requirement. Nonprofits are not required to self-fund a portion of the project.
4. Public entities where the 1.4% for Green Energy Technology requirement applies, the RDF will only fund a project beyond the amount required by the 1.5% multiplier.
5. PGE's primary interest is to provide enough funding such that a project is economically feasible.
6. The RDF is intended to pay down the above market costs of renewable energy projects.
7. Applicants are encouraged to submit their best cost estimates needed to make the

project happen and not include extraneous costs.

8. The RDF award amount may differ from the amount requested.
9. PGE will allocate funding based upon qualified applications, with no guaranteed total amount to be released in any given round.
10. PGE will not provide development assistance, or assistance in obtaining co-funding.
11. The RDF payment is made upon project completion and approval of final report, including invoices demonstrating final project costs.