

# Clean Energy to Communities Program

## PCFO IGAP Program Summary

April 4, 2023 (Updated)

Funded by the US Department of Energy and managed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Program provides communities with expertise and tools to achieve their clean energy goals. C2C connects local governments, tribes, electric utilities, and community-based organizations to technical experts and resources.

C2C offers three different technical assistance programs: 1) In-Depth Partnerships, 2) Peer-Learning Cohorts, and 3) Expert Match. For more information on the C2C Program, sign up for email updates and email [C2C@nrel.gov](mailto:C2C@nrel.gov) with questions.

### In-Depth Partnerships

<b>Description</b>	In-depth technical partnerships will pair communities with technical experts to develop a realistic, validated plan to put clean energy ambitions into action and address key energy challenges. This multiyear partnership will allow local decision-makers to evaluate and test potential scenarios and strategies in their energy transition before full technology deployment, lowering risks to implementation.
<b>Time Commitment</b>	Long (3-year partnership)
<b>Eligibility</b>	Community teams composed of local governments, community-based organizations, and utilities
<b>Who Is It For?</b>	Communities interested in sustained support through project design and deployment
<b>Interaction Type</b>	Tailored to individual community
<b>Project Type</b>	Any renewable energy, energy efficiency, or transportation electrification planning project
<b>Expected Number of Communities Selected</b>	4-5
<b>Next Milestones</b>	<p>NREL released three RFPs for the In-Depth Partnerships opportunity. Proposals are due May 17, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">C2C In-depth Technical Partnership</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">In-Depth Technical Partnership With an Energysched Focus: Rural Energysched Long-Term Integrated Planning</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">In-Depth Technical Partnership With an Energysched Focus: Metro-Area Energysched Design and Validation of Distributed Energy Resources</a></li> </ul>

## Resources

- [In-Depth Partnerships Program Page - NREL](#)
- [C2C Email Updates Sign Up Page](#)

## Request for Proposal (RFP) Summaries

### ***C2C In-Depth Technical Partnership RFP***

The C2C In-Depth Technical Partnership RFP is focused on:

- Developing robust technical assistance activities that address the communities' clean energy challenges, align with the communities' plans and priorities, and support the achievement of clean energy goals across multiple sectors; and
- Leading activities to solicit broader community input and incorporate it into technical activities to ensure results are aligned with the community's priorities and specific context.

C2C will provide technical assistance to address cross-sectoral issues, which will explore the intersection of individual topic areas including:

- Electricity Generation
- Mobility
- Buildings

NREL is also interested in exploring how additional topics, such as energy security, resilience, disaster preparedness, workforce and economic development, equity, and environmental justice, intersect with the three topic areas above.

NREL intends to make 2-3 awards for this RFP. Selected communities will receive a subcontract of up to \$500,000 and 36 months of technical assistance. Subcontracting funds may be used to support hiring staff or consultants, facilitation, and community engagement support. Subcontracting funding is only accessible to local government and community-based organizations. Applications should be submitted by community teams, consisting of a minimum of representatives from local governments, local utilities, and community-based organizations.

### ***In-Depth Technical Partnership with an Energyshed Focus: Rural Energyshed Long-Term Integrated Planning***

This RFP is focused on providing technical guidance to develop and implement a Work Plan, Clean Energy Implementation Plan, and Community Engagement Plan to create more resilient, affordable, equitable, and decarbonized rural Energysheds. An Energyshed considers energy loads, sources of generation, and transmission and distribution networks within a region.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. Integrated planning assessment (looking out 10-20 years) with a cross-sectoral approach that jointly considers grid, mobility, and buildings (including electrification of transportation and buildings) across the bulk and distribution systems, as well as hardware validation
2. Procedural and distributional justice related to energy siting in rural areas, or other elements related to energy equity and energy justice, that are embedded within a technical assessment of future Energyshed systems.

NREL intends to make 1 award for this RFP. Selected communities will receive a subcontract of up to \$3 million and 36 months of technical assistance. Applications must contain multiple connected closely-coupled geographic areas, communities, electric utilities, coordinating bodies, and/or jurisdictions. There must be representation from each of the three organization types on the team: 1) local governments, 2) community-based organizations, and 3) electric utilities.

## ***In-Depth Technical Partnership With an Energyshed Focus: Metro-Area Energyshed Design and Validation of Distributed Energy Resources***

This RFP is focused on providing technical guidance to develop and implement a Work Plan, Clean Energy Implementation Plan, and Community Engagement Plan to create more resilient, affordable, equitable, and decarbonized urban Energysheds. An Energyshed considers energy loads, sources of generation, and transmission and distribution networks within a region.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Development of visualization dashboards to demonstrate energy interactions across multiple energy sectors (grid, transportation, and buildings) in a metro area
- Emulation of community grid – including thousands of connected devices – to understand and demonstrate different communication and control strategies. This emulation could include real-time pricing and weather impacts to understand responsive demand.
- Analysis of rate design for grid benefits and energy equity, with consideration of the distribution of benefits across jurisdictional boundaries
- Distribution grid operational planning, including demand response and distributed energy resources
- Distribution system controls design and validation, including device-level controls of distributed energy resources
- Development of strategies to decarbonize the building sector through a combination of energy efficiency measures, electrification of end uses, demand-size management, and distributed energy resources such as solar power, battery storage, and building control systems.
- Development of strategies to ensure resilience and reliability of building systems to withstand events such as natural disasters so that communities may safely ride out periods of service interruptions.

NREL intends to make 1 award for this RFP. Selected communities will receive a subcontract of up to \$3 million and 36 months of technical assistance. Applications must contain multiple connected closely-coupled geographic areas, communities, electric utilities, coordinating bodies, and/or jurisdictions. There must be representation from each of the three organization types on the team: 1) local governments, 2) community-based organizations, and 3) electric utilities.

### **Peer-Learning Cohorts**

<b>Description</b>	In peer-learning cohorts, up to 15 communities will meet regularly for approximately 6 months to exchange strategies and best practices, learn in a collaborative environment, and workshop policy or program proposals, action plans, or strategies to overcome challenges around a common clean energy transition topic.
<b>Time Commitment</b>	Medium (Approximately 6 months)
<b>Eligibility</b>	Varies by cohort, but may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribal, city, town, and county governments</li> <li>• Metropolitan and regional planning organizations</li> <li>• Electric utilities</li> <li>• Community-based organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Who Is It For?</b>	Communities with interests in specific clean energy themes or topics
<b>Interaction Type</b>	Peer-learning groups and expert guidance

<b>Project Type</b>	Cohorts will meet once a month for a 4-hour session over a 6 month period.
<b>Expected Number of Communities Selected</b>	~100
<b>Next Milestones</b>	<p>Applications for the July 2023 cohorts are now open. Applications are due May 8, 2023. The three cohort topics are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Planning and Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure</b> <b>Deployment:</b> This cohort will help participants to plan equitable electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, prioritize strategies, and prepare to pursue available federal funding for implementation.</li> <li><b>2. Implementing a Municipal Clean Energy Procurement Strategy:</b> This cohort will help communities who have prioritized potential sites for clean energy development through the process of developing a request for proposal (RFP), incorporating equity criteria and community benefits into procurement, soliciting bids, negotiating contracts, and implementing the project.</li> <li><b>3. Incorporating Community Voices in Clean Energy Planning and</b> <b>Deployment:</b> This cohort will support community participants' adoption of stakeholder and community engagement best practices and strategies to authentically include community voices in planning processes.</li> </ol>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Peer-Learning Cohorts Program Page - NREL</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Peer-Learning Cohorts Application</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">C2C Email Updates Sign Up Page</a></li> </ul>

## Expert Match

<b>Description</b>	Expert Match is a program that provides free, short-term technical assistance to address near-term clean energy challenges and questions. Through this program, communities can get help to make time-sensitive decisions and understand the range of options to achieve clean energy goals.
<b>Time Commitment</b>	Short (40–60 total hours)
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City, town, county, and tribal governments</li> <li>• Metropolitan and regional planning organizations</li> <li>• Community-based organizations</li> <li>• Nongovernmental organizations</li> <li>• Utilities</li> <li>• Universities</li> </ul>
<b>Who Is It For?</b>	Communities exploring a local energy challenge but that may lack staff capacity to conduct analysis
<b>Interaction Type</b>	Tailored to individual community

<b>Project Type</b>	Any projects relating to renewable energy, energy efficiency, or transportation electrification
<b>Expected Number of Communities Selected</b>	~200
<b>Next Milestones</b>	<a href="#">Applications</a> are accepted on a rolling basis.
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Expert Match Program Page - NREL</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Expert Match Application</a></li><li>• <a href="#">C2C Email Updates Sign Up Page</a></li></ul>