§ 4280.115 RES and EEI grant funding.

(a) The amount of grant funds that will be made available to an eligible RES or EEI project under this subpart will not exceed 25 percent of total eligible project costs. Eligible project costs are specified in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) The applicant is responsible for securing the remainder of the total eligible project costs not covered by grant funds. The amount secured by the applicant must be the remainder of total eligible project costs.

(1) Without specific statutory authority, other Federal grant funds cannot be used to meet the matching fund requirement.

(2) Passive third-party equity contributions are acceptable for renewable energy system projects, including those that are eligible for Federal production tax credits, provided the applicant meets the requirements of § 4280.112.

(c) Eligible project costs are only those costs associated with the items identified in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(10) of this section, as long as the items are an integral and necessary part of the renewable energy system or energy efficiency improvement.

(1) Post-application purchase and installation of equipment (new, refurbished, or remanufactured), except agricultural tillage equipment, used equipment, and vehicles.

(2) Energy audits or assessments.
(d) The maximum amount of grant assistance to one individual or entity will not exceed $750,000 per Federal fiscal year. For those applicants that have not received a grant award during the previous 2 Federal fiscal years, additional points will be added to their priority score.

(e) Applications for renewable energy system grants will be accepted for a minimum grant request of $2,500 up to a maximum of $500,000.

(f) Applications for energy efficiency improvement grants will be accepted for a minimum grant request of $1,500 up to a maximum of $250,000.

(g) In determining the amount of a RES or EEI grant awarded, the Agency will take into consideration the following six criteria:

1. The type of renewable energy system to be purchased;
2. The estimated quantity of energy to be generated by the renewable energy system;
3. The expected environmental benefits of the renewable energy system;
4. The quantity of energy savings expected to be derived from the activity, as demonstrated by an energy audit;
5. The estimated period of time for the energy savings generated by the activity to equal the cost of the activity; and
6. The expected energy efficiency of the renewable energy system.

(h) Time limit. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Agency, any renewable energy system or energy efficiency improvement grant agreement under this subpart will terminate 2 years from the date the Agency signs the agreement.

§ 4280.116 Application and documentation.

The requirements in this section apply to RES and EEI grant applications under this subpart.

(a) General. To ensure that projects are accurately scored by the Agency, applicants are requested to number each evaluation criteria and include, in that section, its corresponding supporting documentation and calculations according to § 4280.117.

1. One funding type applications. Only one type of funding application (grant-only, guaranteed loan-only, or guaranteed loan/grant combination) for each project can be submitted under this subpart per Federal fiscal year.

2. Environmental information. Each application must include all environmental review documents with supporting documentation in accordance with 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G.

3. Foreign technology. As stated in §4280.113(b), projects must be for a pre-commercial or commercially available technology. The Agency’s position is that if the system is currently commercially available only outside the United States (U.S.), then applicants must provide authoritative evidence of the foreign operating history, performance, and reliability in order to address the proven operating history identified in the definition. “Commercial” applicants must provide evidence that professional service providers, trades, large construction equipment providers and labor are readily available domestically and familiar with installation procedures and practices, and spare parts and service are readily available in the U.S. to properly maintain and operate the system. All warranties must be valid in the U.S.

4. Commercial application demonstration of pre-commercial technologies. In accordance with the definition of “pre-commercial” technology found in §4280.103, technical and economic potential for commercial application must be demonstrated to the Agency. In order to demonstrate the system has emerged through research and development as well as the demonstration process, applicants must provide authoritative evidence of the operating history, performance, and reliability past completion of start-up, shake-down, and commissioning. Typically, and in line with financial and operating performance evaluation protocol, the documented operating history, which may be established domestically or outside the U.S., should provide performance data for a minimum of 12 months. The time period will address the economic and technical performance potential of the pre-commercial technology, as defined in §4280.103. Lastly, in accordance with demonstrating the potential for commercial application, applicants must provide evidence that professional service