

Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative Question and Answer Forum

Q1. Are there any circumstances under which Hanscom Air Force Base, a federal installation, would be eligible to apply for assistance from the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative?

A1. Hanscom Air Force Base would not, itself, qualify as an eligible applicant under the Initiative, but as stated in the "Critical Facilities" section of both Application Information documents:

"Critical facilities may be publicly or privately owned and operated. The lead eligible applicant, however, must demonstrate to DOER that any private facilities (e.g. hospitals, fueling stations, grocery stores, or housing) have entered into or are pursuing entry into a Memorandum of Understanding to provide the applicant critical functions for public benefit in the case of an emergency event. Such a Memorandum of Understanding must be completed prior to any award being made by DOER."

That means that while Hanscom AFB would not be the applicant, it could partner with a local municipality such that a facility on the base would serve that community during an emergency event. For example, if you were to make an agreement with the town of Bedford that a building on the base would serve as an emergency shelter for its residents during a long-term outage, the town of Bedford would be able to apply for the Initiative with the base serving as its partner/project host.

Q2. Will support for technical assistance reduce the amount of funds available for project implementation? If so, please describe how.

A2. DOER has currently allocated \$200,000 of the \$40 million for the consulting contract for technical assistance so that such assistance can be provided at no cost to awarded applicants. DOER has the discretion to increase this amount if deemed necessary through higher than anticipated demand for services.

Q3. Since project implementation funds can be used for system design and engineering costs, what level of engineering will the technical analysis provide? In other words, how 'shovel ready' do you need to be to apply for project implementation funds? Please clarify.

A3. The technical assistance offered by DOER through solicitation PON-ENE-2014-035 will include a technical analysis resulting in a summary report containing critical conceptual design information and indicative economic information on a potential resiliency project, including:

- Description of system technology and design, grid-configuration, capabilities, and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) requirements
- System schematic (1-line diagram) showing relative locations of primary generation equipment, switchgear, controls and point(s) of common coupling
- Installed equipment, labor, services and O&M costs

- System energy and financial performance, including cost benefit analysis considering all major potential revenue sources and energy cost savings

The report will also include a detailed project plan including:

- Major siting and implementation barriers identified during project evaluation
- Assessment of the system against a variety of metrics, including ability to reduce severity and/or duration of service interruptions, and support for critical infrastructure
- Resiliency to gradual pressures (e.g., temperature change, rainfall decrease/increase, and rising energy costs)
- Resiliency to acute pressures (e.g., natural disaster or major equipment failure)

To apply for project implementation funds, a project should have reached, at least, this level of pre-engineering design. Item #5 of the “Specific Project Information” section of the Project Implementation Application Form outlines the minimum requirements for the design study and financial analysis for a project implementation application.

Also, please note that as described in the “Evaluation Criteria” section of the Project Implementation Application Information document, one component of the application score will be its “clear plan to expeditiously execute the proposed project.” As further outlined, “all projects should demonstrate a strong plan for completion by the end of calendar year 2015 at the latest.”

Q4. Are combined heat and power systems run on natural gas considered eligible? Or do CHP systems need to be powered by a renewable energy source?

A4. Natural gas combined heat and power systems are considered eligible under the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative. These systems should be able to island from the grid during an outage and have black start capability. Such systems may also have ride through capability, but this is not required. Such systems should also make full use of any available financial support through both the Mass Save utility program and the DOER APS program, and document those resources in the application budget.

Q5. The sample state median per capita income provided on page 5 of the project implementation application information is \$29,927, however, the state median per capita income provided on the website link is \$35,206. Please advise which value should we use?

A5. The calculated state median per capita based on the averaging of all town per capita incomes is \$29,927. The cited \$35,206 is the ratio between the total statewide per capita income and the total population. For our purposes, we will use the calculated median figure: \$29,927.

Q6. Under the requirement that all applicants must demonstrate that they have fully utilized and accounted for available federal, state and utility incentives, does this include other state funding for technical assistance? We have a situation where we can use other state funds for a technical analysis

to determine the viability of installing an islandable PV system on an emergency facility. Do we have to use this opportunity and if we do, how can we get in line to apply for project implementation funds during the second phase of funding seeing as we would not be using the resiliency-funded technical assistance? The results of the technical analysis that we could receive via other state funds will not be available in time to apply for the first round of the resiliency project implementation funds.

A6. Round 2 Project Implementation funding is only available to those applicants who were awarded technical assistance under the Initiative or who submitted a Round 1 Project Implementation Application that scored well but went un-funded due to lack of funds.

In this particular instance, DOER recognizes that the timing of the external technical analysis would not allow for submission of a Round 1 Project Implementation Application and therefore, the applicant would not be penalized for not taking advantage of this funding for use under the Initiative.

Q7. As stated in the two PONs, this “opportunity allows eligible applicants to pursue either technical assistance OR project implementation.” Should this be interpreted as AND/OR given that communities that apply for technical assistance will obviously be able to apply for both technical assistance and project implementation (albeit not until phase II). In other words, can communities apply for both project implementation in phase I and technical assistance so that they can be eligible to apply for project implementation funds in phase II? For instance, if a community was ready to start on a project for which they did not need technical assistance but knew they would need some technical assistance for a second project do they have to choose one or the other or can they apply for technical assistance AND phase I project implementation funds during this round of applications?

A7. A municipality can apply for technical assistance and project implementation at two different facilities in the first round of the Initiative. That is, if an applicant has a project at a critical facility that is ready for implementation, a Project Implementation Application can be submitted for that facility, while also submitting a Technical Assistance Application for a project at another critical facility.

Q8. At what point does a microgrid project become ‘complex’? This is in reference to projects that will be considered for receiving more than the maximum grant amount as determined by the per capita income and population formula. For example, does ‘complex’ refer to the number of facilities involved? The number and variety of backup systems involved? Whether the microgrid provides backup services for only municipal facilities or municipal and private facilities? Other criteria?

A8. For an applicant to be considered for more than the maximum grant amount as determined by the per capita income and population formula laid out in the Project Implementation Application Information document, the applicant would need to provide DOER with clear and reasonable justification for the request.

DOER acknowledges that a microgrid system that includes energy distribution across public way would require a utility waiver to operate and would thereby be considered complex.

Q9. As stated in the PI application information, the DOER maintains the right to consider projects that go beyond the maximum grant amount as determined by the per capita income and population formula in cases where there are coordinated applications across more than one municipality. What about cases where PI funds would be supporting a regional emergency facility (e.g., a regional shelter) that serves multiple communities?

A9. In cases where PI funds would be supporting a regional emergency facility serving multiple communities, the maximum grant amount would be determined based on the municipalities supported by that facility. An applicant would sum maximum grant amounts of the municipalities served and use that as the maximum grant amount for the project.

A regional application requires one lead applicant but participating municipalities need to be identified in the application as Affiliated Entities.

In the case of a group of municipalities (under one lead applicant) applying for a project at a regional critical facility, any other project funds requested by the affiliated municipalities through the program must be subtracted from the maximum grant amount available. That is, should municipalities X, Y, and Z be partnering on a project at critical facility A, while municipalities X and Z are also applying for projects at critical facilities B and C, respectively, the amount available for project A would be the total of the maximum available to X, Y, and Z minus the amounts requested for projects B and C.

Q10. If we are pursuing solar photovoltaic panels as part of a project, first, what portion of the cost would be covered through the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative, and second, can we size the array beyond the capacity of the emergency shelter, so that it will serve other buildings on our campus?

A10. The Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative will not fund project costs that are otherwise incentivized by state or other entities. In the case of solar photovoltaic panels, there are federal tax credits, state tax credits, a state rebate, and performance incentives through the SREC II program available. The Initiative, therefore, would not contribute to the conventional costs of solar photovoltaic systems. Solar systems serving municipal facilities can typically be owned and financed by third-parties, and community shared solar ownership structures may be feasible.

In the case of solar photovoltaic panels, an applicant may size the solar array to suit your needs as long as the resiliency equipment linked to this generation (switch gear, controls, storage, etc) serves the critical facility sufficiently. In this case, the Initiative would be providing funding for this resiliency equipment, not the generation equipment.

Q11. CVEC, an energy cooperative here on the Cape serving the Cape & Martha's Vineyard, would very much like to participate in the Resiliency Initiative. We are a non-profit governmental entity contracts with our member municipalities through intergovernmental agreements. Would CVEC be able to participate in the Resiliency Initiative on behalf of our member municipalities?

A11. In a similar vein as the Regional Planning Agencies, CVEC would be eligible to submit an application for the Initiative on behalf of its member municipalities.

Q12. Would it be better for the COA, representing a department of the Town of Sterling to apply for a grant or should the Friends (501c3 entity) apply?

A12. The Friends of Sterling Seniors, as a non-municipal entity, would not, itself, qualify as an eligible applicant under the Initiative, but the Town of Sterling would. The Council on Aging may be leading the application in this case but would need a legal authorized representative from the Town of Sterling to support this application as the municipality itself is required to be the applicant.

Q13. In the program implementation PON you state that "...funding will NOT cover ... the portion of the cost of clean energy equipment that is already financially incentivized by other state, federal, utility, non-profit or private programs..." Since municipalities cannot access the incentives provided through federal and state tax credits - which typically reduces the cost of a PV system by about 30% - can they apply for funds to cover this portion of the cost (the value of the unavailable tax incentives) of a renewable or alternative energy system even though the system may qualify for SRECs, net metering, AECs or utility rebates? I suspect that municipalities will be unable to afford municipally-owned PV systems without such support and will have to attempt to contract for 3rd-party owned systems through a PPA, which could be problematic given the unique needs of an islandable PV system and relatively small system sizes.

A13. DOER cannot provide funding for PV panels themselves as they already receive incentives from DOER. DOER can, however, provide funding for the resiliency equipment that would allow islanding and extended operation, such as inverters, controls, and battery storage.

Q14. Page 6 of the "Project Implementation Application Information" document refers to a "cost share requirement". I do not see anywhere in this document or the Application Forms a clear definition of what the cost share requirement is. Can you clarify?

A14. As stated in the Funding Guidelines section (page 5) of the "Project Implementation Application Information" document:

The applicant submitting a PI Application must provide a minimum of 10% match of funding for the project, with no more than half of the match allowed as in-kind. Match provided by an RPA applying on behalf of multiple municipalities is acceptable.

Q15. There appears to be \$40 million to divide between the two PI PONs. DOER is also anticipating providing technical assistance at no charge to between 40 and 80 TA applicants. What is the budget for the TA offering, and is there a per-project cap? Am I right in thinking the TA budget is in addition to the \$40 million PI budget, or am I reading this incorrectly?

A15. See answer A2.

Q16. Many of our municipal buildings have PV through a PPA, so City does not own the electrical generation capacity. If we are proposing energy storage and islanding technology, does that make these buildings ineligible or lower priority? Would TA help us think through these legal ownership issues?

A16. Proposing energy storage and islanding technology for existing PV systems, whether directly owned or through a PPA, would be eligible for funding. A PPA would NOT be pushed to lower priority. The technical assistance provided through the Initiative is focused on technical and financial aspects of a project so would not cover legal ownership issues.

Q17. I don't believe that National Grid regularly provides 15 minute electrical use data, while NSTAR does. If that is correct, does that make cities in National Grid electric communities a lower priority?

A17. An applicant would not be given more or less priority based its utility service area. So, no, National Grid electric communities would NOT be a lower priority.

Q18. If CHP projects are proposed, do you take into account age of existing heating system?

A18. For any project application, DOER will consider all building and energy information for the critical facility being addressed.

Q19. Which municipalities (if any) did you model some/all of this after, and were any in California?

A19. We did a fair amount of research on programs in other states and countries incorporating a broad array of lessons learned and best practices. Our approach, however, is based on our priorities of: a focus on municipalities and regional entities, reaching a broader swatch of the Commonwealth, and using clean energy technology solutions. These are in line with the Green Communities Act and the broader goals of the Patrick Administration. I wouldn't say that there were any specific communities in California that we modeled the program on. Although, I am aware of some interesting distributed generation, storage and microgrid projects in California.

Q20. Are PV panel costs allowable/reimbursable, minus the portion of the cost of clean energy equipment that is already financially incentivized by other programs?

A20. See Q13.

Q21. For Funding Guidelines portion, you have some constant values for Base, adder, and etc.

- a. Is the base always \$ 125K for any project or what are the set of criteria to determine the base?
(Is this value equal to Median per capita income + population)**

Yes, the base is a constant equal to \$125,000.

- b. Is the population referring to the population of the Municipality? For a Nursing Home or Adult Care Facility, would this be the population of the site?**

The population refers to the applicant. So, if a municipality is the lead applicant, then the total maximum available funds for all projects proposed by that municipality would come from this calculation.

- c. Is 10% a constant value that does not change?**

There are 10% adders for interconnection and administrative costs. These are based on the calculated multiplier for a given applicant.

Q22. Cogeneration projects are qualified to receive funding under Mass Save Incentive Program through the Utility company (National Grid). Our standard product which we will use for the purpose of Resiliency Program is 100 kW with an average installed cost of \$ 4,200/kW. As instance, for 3 units, that would be equivalent to \$ 1.26MM and we are able to receive \$ 750 or \$ 950/kW through the Utility Company which brings the average project cost down to 1.035MM to 975K range. Are we still able to receive extra funding through DOER Resiliency Program and what would be the typical cap for the funding we can receive?

A22. There is no typical cap, per se. But, funding beyond the utility rebate for a CHP unit would only be for the “resilient” features of a unit. That is, those allowing for islanding and black-start, and perhaps ride-through.

Q23. We have discussed about the program with John Ballam and also have touch based with Travis Sheehan from Boston Redevelopment Authority regarding projects in Boston area but would like to know your thoughts and find out the most feasible and reasonable way to ask for additional funds that are available for customer’s projects.

A23. As only eligible applicants can request funding, in this case, the city of Boston, please work with them on all project proposals.

Q24. If a regional utility was interested in applying, would they have to designate a municipality as the lead and then have that community apply on their behalf? So how would the max funding work?

Would the regional utility only be eligible for the maximum amount of whatever the municipality applying on their behalf is eligible for?

A24. Only municipalities or regional public entities are eligible applicants for the Initiative. If a utility were interested in the program, they would need to work with one of those eligible applicants. The maximum amount would be based on the applicant, yes. If it were one municipality, that max calculation would be based on them, if the project was for multiple municipalities, it would be the sum of those max calculations.

Q25. So, from DOER's point of view, Hanscom AFB could partner with Bedford (for example), and Bedford would apply for the grant. The resiliency project would take place on property owned by Hanscom AFB. Who would actually receive the grant money? The only way Hanscom could receive it if the \$ were funneled through a utility (probably Nstar). What is your take on this? Does DOER have any initial objections/creative solutions?

A25. The Initiative contract and monies would only be with a municipality or regional public entity like a regional water district or regional planning agency. In this case, the base would then work with the municipality on procurement, though I'm not sure what sort of contracting that would require. DOER would not be able to disperse money to a utility.

Q26. If MAPC, acting as a regional planning association, applies on behalf of a municipality, does this exclude the municipality from applying for funding on a separate project? For example, if Boston were to be included in our infrastructure plan, would Boston still be able to apply for their own, unaffiliated projects?

A26. As stated in the "Eligible Applicants" section of the solicitation documents:

"RPAs may apply for the Initiative funding on behalf of at least 2 municipalities intending to share an energy resilient critical facility project.

- A single RPA may submit more than 1 application, but no more than 3 applications for multiple municipalities.
- If DOER awards funds for a RPA submitted application, DOER will contract with the RPA to manage the funding.
- To the extent that the facility(ies) addressed in an RPA application is in a municipality that has also applied for support through the Initiative, the RPA facility(ies) must demonstrate serving a regional need."

This means that if MAPC applies on behalf of multiple municipalities, this does not exclude the municipality from applying for funding on a separate project. Boston would still be able to apply for its own, unaffiliated projects. The MAPC project, however, must demonstrate serving a regional need.

Q27. Can a municipal public school system be recognized as a regional school system and therefore stand outside of the municipal funding cap?

A27. A municipal public school system would not be recognized as a regional school system. It therefore would be counted within the municipal funding cap. If a critical facility serves multiple municipalities through an emergency event, the project could be submitted as a joint application by multiple municipalities, with one designated lead, or by a regional entity like a Regional Planning Agency. In such a case, the application must demonstrate that the critical facility is serving a regional need.

Q28. If a project needs approximately \$12,000 to begin interconnection applications and lacks the funding – can the DOER assist?

A28. Interconnection costs related to resiliency equipment at a critical facility are eligible costs under the Initiative. Requests for these funds may be included in the Project Implementation Application.

Q29. We have a number of projects in mind and will be submitting at least 2 or 3 of them. Can we submit more than one project as long projects total is under \$5 million? Is there any limit to how many projects we can submit? And I assume each project should fill out a separate application form?

A29. An applicant may submit multiple applications as long as the total for all projects is under the maximum grant award calculated for that municipality. In the case of Boston, that would be \$5 million. There is no limit to how many projects that can be submitted under this maximum grant award amount. A municipality can apply for more than one project on the same application. For the Project Implementation Application, project details would need to be clearly delineated, however, and the two separate budget forms should be completed and submitted.

Q30. In Round 2, DOER will make awards for project implementations. Will those Round 2 awards be only for municipalities that were awarded Round 1 Technical Assessment awards?

A30. Round 2 Project Implementation awards will be for applicants that were awarded Technical Assistance as well as any Round 1 Project Implementation projects that scored well in their evaluation but went un-funded. This is described in the “Funding Guidelines” section of the Project Implementation Application Information document.

Q31. I may be wrong, but since microgrids aren’t cheap, and DOER has developed the formula for maximum grant amounts for each city, there are only 10 cities that, by the formula, could get grants large enough for a microgrid implementation.

A31. As stated in the “Funding Guidelines” section of the Project Implementation Application Information document:

“DOER does maintain the right to consider projects beyond this funding limit based on available budget particularly in the case of coordinated applications across more than one municipality, as well as complex microgrid projects. DOER reserves these maximum amounts for applicants who have demonstrated preparedness and capacity to implement significant projects or comprehensive efforts across multiple facilities.”

This means that while the maximum grant amount for an applicant may not on its own support a microgrid, DOER is open to reasonable and justified waivers of this maximum grant amount. See Question 8 for further discussion of this issue.

Q32. Can an applicant invoice for a project that is already underway at the time of an application or if an applicant is already signing and/or executing an ESCO agreement, for example?

A32: No, an applicant cannot invoice for a project that is already underway at the time of an application, or for costs included in a signed and/or executed ESCO agreement. The Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative funds are for new projects.

Q33. I am working on a committee to build a new senior center in Sterling and we would like to be able to use the facility as a shelter. In order to do that, a gas-fired generator would make us independent of the town electric system in major emergencies. Would a generator for such purposes be eligible for consideration under the Energy Resiliency Initiative?

A33. A natural gas fired generator would only be eligible under the Initiative if it is a combined heat and power (CHP) unit. That is, the unit must simultaneously generate electricity and useful heat.

Q34. I wanted to let you know that Tony Braz from Baystate submitted his CHP Interconnection Pre Application on line today. We are planning on submitting a "Project Implementation Application" by July 15th to Amy McGuire of DOER for funding to offset some of the cost of the Black Start Generator, Load Management System, and Islanding system that will be part of the gas turbine CHP system. If I interpreted the DOER Application properly, Baystate/City of Springfield will need to include in their application a correspondence back from Northeast Utilities identifying that you have reviewed the application and a statement that it is in order. Could you confirm what you will need from NU to be included in the Baystate application?

A34. As stated in item 6 of the Specific Project Information section of the Project Implementation Application Form, the utility interconnection strategy request applicants to:

“Provide a letter from the relevant utility stating that the application for generation interconnection was received reviewed and deemed complete. Applicant must submit pre-application report with application or within 12 business days of application deadline.”

In this case, the City of Springfield should include a statement from Northeast Utilities confirming that they are aware of the project and working with the city to ensure its interconnection, through the standard interconnection process in its application, an email would be acceptable. The City of

Springfield should also include submit the pre-application report from Northeast Utilities with its application, or within 12 days of the application deadline. The pre-application report is generated by Northeast Utilities as a preliminary check of any major faults with the project.

Q35: Solid oxide fuel cells (SOFCs) are not CHP capable. However, they are less complex and less costly than CHP units. Would high efficiency SOFCs be eligible for funding?

A35: In the initial solicitation only natural gas combined heat and power (CHP) fuel cells were listed as eligible under the Initiative. DOER has since amended the solicitation documents such that the “Eligible Clean Energy Technologies” sections specify the following related to fuel cells:

- “• Combined heat and power (CHP) and district energy systems utilizing natural gas and renewable energy fuels
 - CHP or Fuel Cell systems with waste heat utilization must achieve annual system efficiency of at least 65%
- High efficiency (at least 50%) fuel cells”

Q36: Can 2 or more RPAs apply for either the TA or PI grant, or both, together? If so, how does this joint application affect the funding that can be received in total by that partnership? Does it affect the number of applications that each RPA separately can submit? Does it affect the type of project or project scope that can be applied for, i.e. could the consulting team as part of the TA grant look at more than 2 buildings for a large and/or multi-regional project?

A36: DOER will accept applications from two or more RPAs only if the RPAs can clearly justify the reason why such a geographically broad project is necessary and optimal. If so justified, two or more RPAs may apply for a TA and/or PI grant together. If the RPAs apply for both a TA and a PI grant, they may not apply for support for the same critical facility(ies) for both application. The funding that can be received in total by that partnership would be the sum of all member municipalities minus the amount requested under any other joint or individual RPA applications and the amount requested by all individual municipalities served by the critical facility(ies) in the application. A joint application would count as one application from each RPA, such that if two different RPAs applied for a joint project, they would each be eligible for two additional projects. DOER would consider supporting a well justified and reasonable TA award for more than 2 buildings for a large and/or multi-regional project. DOER would maintain the right to eliminate facilities from the TA award and the technical assistance consulting team may also eliminate facilities that are not deemed viable after an initial review.

Q37: The Initiative describes that multiple municipalities or an RPA can submit an application for 2 or more municipalities “intending to share an energy resilient critical facility project.” You also note that

a project can include one or more buildings. For a multi-municipality project, multiple buildings or pieces of infrastructure in two or more municipalities could then qualify as well?

A37: Multiple eligible facilities in multiple municipalities could be considered under a single project for the Initiative. Each facility would need to demonstrate that it provides critical services to the partnering municipalities, and a multi-municipality project would need to assign a lead municipality for the purpose of the application and contracting.

Q38: Could you please clarify what is meant by “anticipated event duration?”

A38. The “anticipated event duration” as requested in item 7 under the “General Project Information” section in both application form documents, for Technical Assistance and Project Implementation, refers to the amount of time that the planned system would be designed to operate independently and islanded from the grid.

Q39: On the TA application, when you ask for “Documentation of any participation in state energy, sustainability or emergency planning programs. This includes but is not limited to Green Communities, MEMA emergency planning, EOPS planning, MassSave and Solarize Mass,” does this pertain to the particular facility/ies (when applicable) or to the entire municipality? For instance, would you need to list any town participation in MassSave or just if that building had taken advantage of MassSave?

A39. Where programs are specific to a facility, like MassSave and Solarize Mass, DOER would be looking for the specifics of that building when requesting “documentation of participation in state energy, sustainability or emergency planning programs.” On the other hand, where programs are broader, like emergency planning programs, DOER will look for a plan incorporating the entire municipality, but with the role of the facility under consideration highlighted.

Q40. Can municipalities apply for more than one project (assuming both will be under the cap amount) and if so, can it be on the same application or is a separate application required?

A40. Municipalities can apply for more than one project as long as both stay under the cap amount. A municipality can apply for more than one project on the same application. For the Project Implementation Application, project details would need to be clearly delineated, however, and the two separate budget forms should be completed and submitted.

Q41. Are CNG, propane or LNG generators and / or CHPs covered by the PI grant? I assume they are considered “clean technology”.

A41. Only combined heat and power (CHP) systems are permitted under the Initiative. Electric generators, even if using CNG, propane or LNG, would not be eligible clean technologies. Please see the “Eligible Clean Technologies” section for the list of permitted clean energy generation equipment.

Q42. Regional School Districts being eligible applicants for DOER's Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative, please confirm that a High School facility would be considered a critical facility under the "Community Resources" category and therefore qualify for funding under that program, even if the High School facility is not used as a shelter during emergencies.

A42. A regional school district is an eligible applicant and a high school facility would be considered a critical facility IF it were used as a shelter during an emergency. The "Community Resources" category specifically states "...schools...capable of acting as alternative shelters," meaning that these facilities would be called upon to serve as a shelter during an emergency.

Q43. Would a project to implement a geothermal ground source heat pumps system to provide heating and cooling to the school qualify for funding? Or would that system need to be coupled with some sort of energy storage or backup generator to allow for black start in order to qualify? If it is necessary to couple the technology with additional energy storage / backup generator technology, what precisely would the DOER consider funding - the whole project (geothermal + additional black start technology) or just the energy storage component?

A43. Geothermal ground source heat pump systems would be eligible clean energy generation under the Initiative but that system would need to be able to island and black start in order to qualify. Through the Initiative, DOER would fund islanding and black start technology, as long as the black start in particular was also either clean energy generation or energy storage, as we have defined. Incentives are available for ground sourced heat pumps through Mass Save and the Mass Clean Energy Center so the applicant should demonstrate that it has or will seek funding under these MassCEC programs before seeking funds from this solicitation. In any case, this solicitation would be available to cover the additional costs of the equipment that would make such a system resilient.

Q44. Assuming the School District serves several municipalities, please confirm the following summation for maximum funding of such an initiative: if the region includes Municipalities A, B, C and D is it eligible to apply for

a - \$125,000 per municipality served PLUS each municipality's adjustment for per-capita income, for a total of \$500,000 plus adjustment number

b - \$125,000 basis for the whole region PLUS adjustment number based on averaging per-capita income for the region

A44. If the critical facility being considered for a project, in this case the school district, would serve as a shelter for multiple municipalities during an emergency, the maximum funding amount would be calculated as the sum of the total maximum funding amount available for each of those municipalities minus the amount requested under any other school district applications and the amount requested by all individual municipalities served by the critical facility in the application.

Q45. We've assembled a list of facilities that we believe would make great candidates for Technical Assistance – regional shelters, police departments, DPW building with fuel depot, etc. We're struggling to figure out if it makes most sense for the Cape Light Compact or CVEC to apply on the behalf of all of these facilities, or if it makes more sense for the individual municipalities to apply themselves. What would you be looking for to demonstrate that some of the facilities would be shared? While the regional shelter is certainly a facility that will be shared, it's a little less obvious how some of the other facilities, like town police buildings, would be shared w/ other municipalities. Also, while the application allows for multiple buildings to be listed, because of the diversity of the sites that we're considering, we're not sure if they'd be appropriately captured in one application or not.

A45. Non-shelter facilities might be shared across multiple municipalities if it made sense to designate one location as the “resilient” facility serving each of those municipalities in the case of an outage. For example, multiple municipalities might agree that one of those municipalities’ town police building would become resilient with a project under the Initiative and then be able to serve as the public safety headquarters through an emergency event for all of the municipalities in the agreement. Demonstrating such an agreement was in place would be sufficient reasoning and explanation behind a shared or regional application.

Q46. My thought is to see if grant funding from this initiative can be used for advanced battery systems (i.e. Stem batteries?) at some of our larger facilities, that can not only be used for emergency power (resiliency), but for load shaving during peak summer hours. It might be a stretch, but one purpose of the grant is to: “protect communities from interruptions in energy services due to severe climate events made worse by the effects of climate change.”

A46. The Initiative specifically calls out energy storage as an eligible technology, and advanced battery systems would fit that eligibility. The Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative encourages projects that function both during an emergency event and on a regular basis. The cost effectiveness and overall benefit of a project would be significantly improved if it can provide other services to an applicant, for example, peak load shaving.

Q47. For the technical assistance application, is it a separate application for each project idea?

A47. A municipality may submit one application for Technical Assistance. That application can include one or more facilities, but information for each facility must be individually specified as called for in the application form.

Q48. Who should sign the application as an Authorized Representative?

A48. Any application submitted for the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative should be signed by an authorized representative. This authorized representative would be the Chief Executive Officer of the municipality or public regional entity. For a municipality, this would be defined as the

manager in any city having a manager and in any town having a city form of government, the mayor in any other city and the board of selectman in any other town unless some other officer or body is designated to perform the functions of a chief executive officer under the provisions of a local charter or laws having the force of a charter.

Q49. If the Town of Framingham applies for grant funding how do we choose which private entities get funded? How do we move funds awarded to the Town to the private company? How do we proceed with the bid requirements as most projects if not all will be over \$25K? Does the town bid the project or the private company?

A49. If the Town of Framingham partners with a private entity for to develop a project under the Initiative, the town would need to follow its procurement rules to contract with that entity. Funds would go to that entity through the standard procurement and contracting process that the town uses. The town would need to meet all bid requirements set out by its procurement rules. The town would be the lead applicant for the Initiative and could coordinate on the application with the private entity as it sees fit.

Q50. The T.A. application Information document states:

"Critical facilities may be publicly or privately owned and operated. The lead eligible applicant, however, must demonstrate to DOER that any private facilities (e.g. hospitals, fueling stations, grocery stores, or housing) have entered into or are pursuing entry into a Memorandum of Understanding to provide the applicant critical functions for public benefit in the case of an emergency event. Such a Memorandum of Understanding must be completed prior to any award being made by DOER."

In the case of partnering with our local hospital, which by definition provides critical functions for public benefit in the case of an emergency event, what do we need to include in an MOU? The hospital is the only Tier 1 emergency facility on our critical facility list submitted to utilities. Doesn't that automatically make that facility eligible as a partner in this program? Alternatively, we already have an MOU with the hospital stating that the Smith vo-tech school be available as an overflow site for the hospital. Is that good enough?

A50. The applicant would need to submit an MOU stating that the hospital, in this case, is planning to work with the applicant on projects related to this Initiative. If the project extends to the school, including that MOU would also be required.

Q51. If we supply a year's worth of energy usage and demand data, is it okay to limit the number of copies of energy bills to one sample per account instead of a year's worth of energy bills?

A51. If the year's supply of energy usage and demand data includes all of the information provided in an energy bill, for example, rate class and all other applicable charges on the account, and those

charges do not vary my month, an applicant may submit just one sample energy bill per account instead of a year's worth of energy bills.

Q52. "Copies of invoices for any energy efficiency measures or distributed generation, in addition to backup infrastructure, installed at the critical facilities." Do you want copies of invoices for our backup generators? If we do not have invoices for some of the efficiency measures, distributed generation units, or backup generators (if needed) should we just state that? Or do you absolutely need invoices?

A52. Please include invoices as available for energy efficiency measures or distributed generation, including backup generators for each facility being considered. Where an invoice is not available, for some of the efficiency measures for example, please state that they are unavailable with a short explanation as to why.

Q53. Number 8 asks "Existing distribution generation" In the case of Saugus, I am assuming it means the source of our current electric/ gas which would be National grid. Right or wrong assumption?

A53. Under the "Identification of Prioritized Critical Facilities" question, question 8, the "Existing distributed generation" item in the matrix refers to any existing generation you may have on site, for example, PV panels, diesel generators, or a combined heat and power unit. That will help the technical assistant understand what is in place already and would need to be incorporated in a resilient energy system for the facility.

Q54. In the Project Implementation phase, we understand that 10% of the funding must be matched from the town (of which 5% can be in-kind). Does this mean that 90% of the funding for implementation will be provided by the state?

A54. As stated in the Project Implementation Application Information document, "the applicant submitting a PI Application must provide a minimum of 10% match of funding for the project, with no more than half of the match allowed as in-kind." This does mean that up to 90% of the implementation funding could be provided by DOER, if all of the project costs are eligible program costs. DOER does strongly encourage applicants to look at all other available financial resources when putting together its budget. As stated in the Project Implementation Application Information document: "For PI Application funding, all applicants must demonstrate that they have fully utilized and accounted for available federal, state, and utility incentives outside this grant opportunity in the determination of the grant need from this solicitation. A list of potentially available financial resources can be found on the DOER website." The evaluation criteria also include the following: "The extent of incorporation of all relevant financial resources, including but not limited to state and federal incentives (grants, tax credits, RPS/APS, net metering), loan opportunities, private partnerships, ancillary market participation (reserve capacity and/or voltage regulation), demand response market participation, etc. with more comprehensive incorporation evaluated more strongly."

Q56. What are the chances of this grant being available next year, so we can plan for it?

A56. There are currently no plans for this program to be run again in the future.

Q57. Would the replacement cost of equipment purchased through the grant be covered by the grant if it were set aside upfront? Could this fit under the budget heading “Reserve for long term maintenance, overhaul and decommissioning?” If not, how does one budget for this?

A57. If long term O&M costs, like replacement cost, were incorporated in a purchase or lease price and were expended up front, they could be funded through the program. DOER is not able to fund long-term contracts with incremental payments through the life of the contract, however.

Q58. Would the grant cover O&M not as a contract but as an incremental expense incurred by either the Town or the solar developer, i.e. the additional hours spent per week by the facilities or solar staff to maintain the battery?

A58. If long term O&M costs, like replacement cost, were incorporated in a purchase or lease price that were expended up front, it could be funded through the program. DOER is not able to fund long-term contracts with incremental payments through the life of the contract.

Q59. Would a grant cover the storage container/shed required to hold the batteries if stored outside, for example in the scenario that there is no storage space available in the facilities?

A59. Balance of system costs for clean energy implementation, like a necessary storage container or shed, can be included and eligible for under a funding request through the Initiative. DOER would want the applicant to demonstrate that the costs are necessary and no other lower cost options are available, and that they remain within the applicant’s budget cap.

Q60. The Cadmus report states “There is sufficient grant funding, considering funding available to both Communities, to cover the estimated capital cost, or a lease buy down, of either of the energy storage systems modeled.” Could you please clarify how the lease buy down could be budgeted? This option is very appealing to at least one of the communities, but there is no info provided in the report for what this option would look like. Does that need to be understood now, or is the impression that the total project funding, broken out in the Cadmus table above, would provide the funding needed for a lease and that most battery companies would allow that to be bought down? If so, could you walk me through this?

A60. DOER is not able to provide information on different leasing or procurement structures available for energy storage from different vendors. For the Project Implementation application, an applicant will need to provide a budget broken out into the categories outlined in the application document.

Q61. Based on the webinars, I was under the impression that the Technical Assistance Work Product would provide most of the information required to complete the Project Implementation Grant application. In reviewing the application, there is a lot of detailed cost information requested. This was not provided in the Technical Assistance Work Product nor will it be available until Chicopee goes out to bid for these projects. How can we provide a “complete” application without those costs?

A61. DOER has amended the Project Implementation solicitation slightly. It now states the following in the Funding Guidelines section:

For projects submitted under a Round 2 Project Implementation application where the complexity of the project requires additional design and engineering, an applicant may opt to be awarded based on a phased contract approach, by indicating as such on their application form. The phased contract would allow for an initial disbursement for design costs related to the pre-construction expenses (e.g., feasibility study, engineering, and utility impact study costs) and subsequent disbursement(s) for the construction expenses once the design phase is complete and cost estimates refined. A Round 2 Project Implementation application will be evaluated on the full project proposal and should provide a best estimate for construction expenses as the amount specified for construction expenses will be reserved for the second phase of disbursement. A budget, revised upon completion of the full design work, that is significantly in excess of these estimates may be approved on a competitive basis, given funds are available.

This will allow applicants to use the estimates provided in the Technical Assistance report provided by Cadmus as well as the applicant’s own judgment to provide cost information in the Project Implementation application as requested. The figures for build related costs may then be refined once design and engineering is complete.

Q62. Since we do not have any additional information apart from what is provided in the TA report regarding project costs and benefits, do you have any recommendations on how we can come up with estimates for budget items like feasibility studies, interconnection costs, switchgears, etc.?

A62. Cadmus has provided the attached information document, “Interconnection Costing Guidance” providing further information around cost estimates for the items you have listed. This is posted on the resiliency initiative website: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/renewable-energy/resiliency-initiative.html>, in the Applicant Resources section. DOER also encourages applicants to reach out to vendors and their utility to request information.

Q63. Not having detailed proposals in hand means that the costs of the project could change after the initial grant award. What are the community’s options if, hypothetically, they receive proposals that budget the work at an amount higher than the grant award?

A63. Please see question 61 above.

Q64. The Town of Wayland may not be ready to move ahead with the battery storage system that Cadmus recommended - for a number of reasons, including maintenance concerns, cost, political will, and a number of unknowns. They are however considering moving ahead with the MAPC project if they were eligible to receive funding for a scaled-down version of the project. They are thinking they might like to go forward with an inverter that would allow for islanding of the solar installation proposed for the middle school in addition to any additional interconnection costs for that inverter with a virtual net metered system and a storage container for a battery to be added to the site in the future. Could you confirm whether this type of scaled-down scope could still be fundable?

A64. An applicant for round 2 of Project Implementation under the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative may apply for any project meeting the criteria outlined in the solicitation information documents. The technical assistance provided by Cadmus, while hopefully a useful resource, need not explicitly direct a project. In the scenario described above, providing islanding capability to a solar installation would increase energy resiliency at a facility and would therefore be eligible under the initiative.

Q65. Is the 10% matching funds required by the Town? And if so, can it be in-kind? If it can be in-kind what kind of services would be appropriate on the Town's behalf for in-kind?

A65. The applicant submitting a PI Application must provide a minimum of 10% match of funding for the project, with no more than half of the match allowed as in-kind.

Q66. On page 9 of the application item #6 under Specific Project Information mentions a Utility Interconnection Strategy and says a pre-application must be submitted within 12 days of the deadline. I am confused by this. I barely received the report within 12 days of the deadline and can't see putting in an interconnection application for a project that is still on the drawing board so-to-speak. Any direction would be greatly appreciated.

A66. While a pre-application is only required by the utility for projects over 500kW (see your specific utility guidelines for more information), DOER recommends a pre-application report to determine what the current loads are on the nearby feeder, and where opportunities for interconnection are. This report will be generated by the utility within 12 days of a request and could then be submitted to DOER. If an applicant has not received the report prior to the Project Implementation deadline, DOER will accept a notice of when the pre-application request was submitted and the pre-application report once delivered by the utility.

Q67. If awarded the funds is there a deadline for spending the money? For example would we have to spend it by January 2015 or something?

A67. DOER has offered the following guidance in the Project Implementation Application Information document around project schedule and will look to award projects with implementation schedules meeting these criteria:

- Clear plan to expeditiously execute the proposed project.
 - For Single building projects, proposals with a plan to complete projects before the end of calendar year 2014 will be given priority.
 - More complex projects will be evaluated more strongly the sooner they can be completed.
 - All projects should demonstrate a strong plan for completion by the end of calendar year 2015 at the latest.

Q68. Is the grant a check to the Town or a reimbursement after funds have been sent?

A68. Disbursement of funds will be based on contracts signed with each awarded applicant. Milestones and reporting requirements will be established through the contracting phase.

Q69. Is there any consideration to extend the October 29th deadline? We are still waiting on 1 report from Cadmus and I know another town has not received their report yet either.

Q69. DOER has extended the round 2 Project Implementation application deadline to November 10, 2014.

Q70. If we decide to apply for Project Implementation funds, how do you recommend we handle the components of the application that we don't currently have enough information to complete?

A70. Cadmus has provided guidance in the form of cost estimates in their Technical Assistance Reports to the applicants. They have also provided a supplementary "Interconnection Costing Guidance" document that can be found [here](#). Finally, DOER is allowing applicants the opportunity to refine any cost estimates around the construction portion of a budget through the phased contracting option available to Round 2 Project Implementation applicants. Please see question 61 and the Project Implementation Application Information document for full information.

Q71. Looking over the implementation grant application quickly, it looks like most of the required info is part of the Cadmus report. The one thing I was concerned about is applying to NSTAR for the interconnection permit and getting a letter back indicating it's complete. Is that required to come in with the application to you?

A71. Please see Q66.

Q72. I see that the application seems to expect the delivery of an approved Interconnection Services Agreement from our utility. Although I have discussed our battery option and the islanding solution with our utility account representative, I cannot provide the one-line until receiving funding with which to hire an engineering firm to produce the one-line the utility has indicated it will require. How should we proceed?

A72. DOER is not requiring an approved Interconnection Services Agreement from the applicant's utility with the Project Implementation Application, but rather requesting a pre-application report. This would determine what the current loads are on the nearby feeder, and where opportunities for interconnection are.

Q73. Would it be possible to look into an option with no batteries?

A73. Please see Q64.