

Alberta Indigenous Green Energy Development Program Guidelines

The Alberta Indigenous Green Energy Development Program (AIGEDP) assists Alberta Indigenous communities and organizations acquire an ownership stake in Alberta's rapidly-expanding renewable energy sector. The AIGEDP focuses on supporting the development of community-owned, commercial or community scale, renewable energy generation projects that will lead to significant reductions in Alberta's overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These projects will support the increase use of renewable energy, which aligns with the government's Climate Leadership Plan.

Who is Eligible?

- First Nations, Aseniwuche Winewak Nation, Metis Settlements.
- Indigenous community-owned businesses and development corporations.
- Tribal Councils, Treaty Organizations, Metis Settlements General Council.
- Métis Nation of Alberta (including Regions and Locals).
- Indigenous not-for-profit organizations, including Friendship Centres with projects related to AIGEDP objectives.
- Applicants must be in compliance with the terms and conditions of any previous Indigenous Relations funding.
- Applicant communities or organizations must be located in the province of Alberta.

Note: If an organization that serves your community applies to AIGEDP, your community is still eligible to apply. As an example, both a Tribal Council and a community served by said Tribal Council are eligible to receive AIGEDP funding during the same funding year.

What Types of Projects are funded?

The intent of the AIGEDP is to support Indigenous community-owned energy generation produced from a renewable energy resource with a generation capacity above 1 MW.

A renewable energy resource is an energy resource that occurs naturally and that can be replenished or renewed within a human lifespan, including, but not limited to: moving water, wind, heat from the earth, sunlight, and sustainable biomass. All forms of renewable energy generation that support a measurable reduction in Alberta's GHG emissions may be considered for funding.

The AIGEDP supports two separate funding streams directly related to community or commercial-scale, renewable energy generation projects that are directly related to Climate Leadership outcomes.

1. Project Development:

- **Pre-feasibility:** To support the pre-development stage to identify an opportunity and develop the concept of a potential project through preliminary technical, financial, legal, and market assessments.
- **Technical Documentation:** Once a potential project has been clearly identified, to support the development stage of the project and perform activities such as technical and financial feasibility studies, interconnection studies, front end engineering, environmental assessments, permitting, regulatory work, contracts negotiation, and financing strategy among others to achieve a shovel-ready stage. This could also include the financial, legal or technical review of a joint venture partnership for the purpose of participation in the Renewable Energy Program.

2. Project Implementation:

To support Indigenous communities to fund capital costs of community-owned, commercial or community scale, renewable energy generation projects that are close to starting operations or the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) phases of the project within the funding year.

All projects need to comply with all applicable federal, provincial and/or municipal permits and regulations.

What are the Funding Levels?

There is no maximum funding cap for grant applications in the **Project Development** stream.

There is no maximum funding cap for grant applications in the **Project Implementation** stream.

Grant applications and proposed projects will be assessed by third-party subject matter experts to ensure alignment with industry standards in costs, scope of work, and expected outcomes of the project.

There is no requirement for the applicant to contribute financially to the project costs. However, the project will be assessed for financial viability and all sources of funding must be disclosed.

The grant stack funding level to a recipient from all government sources (including federal, provincial, and/or municipal) for any initiative can be up to 100 per cent of eligible costs.

What Project Expenses are Covered?

The following costs are eligible:

For **Pre-feasibility** applications

- Expenses related to pre-feasibility studies, preliminary technical, financial, legal, and market assessments, and development of business plans by a duly qualified professional.
- Justifiable administration costs of up to 15% for total requested amount of grant,

which could include costs related to financial reporting, travel, elder fees/elder honorarium etc.).

For **Technical Documentation** applications

- Expenses related to technical and financial feasibility studies, front end engineering, environmental assessments, interconnection studies, contract negotiations, permitting and regulatory requirements, and sourcing finance.
- Expenses related to due diligence, legal and financial assessments performed by a duly qualified independent third party when the community or organization is considering taking an equity position on a renewable energy project.
- Costs associated with the development of the renewable energy project for a project manager with a demonstrated track record.
- Justifiable administration costs of up to 15% for total requested amount of grant, which could include costs related to financial reporting, travel, elder fees/elder honorarium etc.

For **Project Implementation** applications

- Capital asset purchases.
- Costs associated with the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) phase for the implementation of the project.
- Costs associated with the implementation of the renewable energy project for a project manager with a demonstrated track record.
- Justifiable administration costs for applications up to 2% of total funding requested, which could include costs related to financial reporting, travel, elder fees/elder honorarium, etc.

The following costs are ineligible:

- In-kind expenses are not part of eligible costs, but should be included in the budget.
- Payments for services normally provided without charge (e.g., honoraria for a community service).
- Liaison costs.
- Expenditures not related to the approved project.
- Costs already paid for on a project.

Grant Information

Applications received during the call for proposals period will be evaluated after the call for proposals period ends. Each project will be analyzed on its own merits and evaluated against the following program priorities and criteria:

- Project planning, readiness and due diligence.
- GHG emission reductions and financial performance.
- Socio-economic impact and benefit.

When to Apply?

Please refer to the AIGEDP website (indigenous.alberta.ca/AIGEDP) for more details on when to apply.

How do I Apply?

Please refer to the AIGEDP website (indigenous.alberta.ca/AIGEDP) for more details on how to apply.

Applications may be submitted online through the portal on the program webpage indigenous.alberta.ca/AIGEDP or through <http://grants.indigenous.alberta.ca/AIGEDP> or program staff can provide a fillable application form.

All applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- All applications must demonstrate support for the project to be considered for funding, which *at a minimum* will include a:
 - Band Council Resolution (BCR) for applications from a First Nation.
 - Council Resolution for applications from a Metis Settlement.
 - Board Resolution from a community-owned company, development corporation, etc.
 - Board Resolution from a not-for-profit Indigenous organizations.
 - Equivalent demonstration of support for applications as discussed with the program manager.
- Supporting technical details related to the project:
 - Use the AIGEDP Guidebook, and Supporting Documentation Guide to assist in preparing your proposal and completing the application package which will need to include details of the proposed project and the required supporting documentation consistent with the type and stream of application.
 - Information required could include copies of feasibility studies, project quotes, contracts or copies of leases, proof of land designation or zoning etc.
- A full project budget, including all expenses and revenue for the project.
- A minimum of two different service providers quotes is required with any application for funding to this program, if consultants are being utilized.

What are the Reporting and Deliverables Expected?

- Where projects are approved, Alberta Indigenous Relations will enter into a funding agreement with the recipient.
- Recipients are expected to report on the results on the **Project Development** or **Project Implementation** (as applicable) as detailed in the funding agreement.

- **Specific reporting requirements will vary based on the nature, complexity, and cost of the project.** This will include a Final Detailed Project Report, an assessment of anticipated GHG emissions reduction, and copies of all documentation developed as a result of grant funding.
- All funds must be accounted for through a financial statement. All grants in excess of **\$250,000** will require audited financial statements.
- The monitoring and reporting of performance indicators for the following five (5) years for all projects approved under the **Project Implementation** stream.
- An evaluation survey. This survey will be sent to successful applicants and will include questions that evaluate the program.

Follow-up:

- The Alberta government reserves the right to follow up with the applicants to evaluate project effectiveness, including discussions of best practices and progress.

How will the Application be Assessed?

Once an application is received, the following process is implemented:

- A preliminary assessment of the application will be conducted by program staff to ensure that each submission contains the required information.
 - Additional information may be requested if an application is incomplete. Applicants will be informed of any deficiencies.
- Only correctly and fully completed applications, with all required documentation will be reviewed for eligibility and considered for funding.
- In phase 1, applications will be evaluated by staff against the program's priorities and scoring criteria, which include:
 - Socio-economic benefits and impacts;
 - Number of people anticipated to be impacted;
 - Description of need for the project;
 - Project planning, readiness and due diligence;
 - Described outcomes related to GHG reduction, energy efficiency, economic impacts, jobs and electricity generation;
 - Priority will be given to applicants who have not received funding from the program in previous years;
 - Priority will be given to utility scale projects.
- In phase 2, applications are evaluated by a third party evaluator to assess for a variety of factors, including cost benefit analysis, industry standards, innovative practices and an assessment of the project controls and management.
- Please refer to the AIGEDP website (indigenous.alberta.ca/AIGEDP) for more information on the minimum expected supporting documentation for each type of application.

- Projects utilizing external consultants will require the submission of quotes from two different duly qualified goods and/or service providers, for any goods and/or services procured by the consultants.
- Each project will be analyzed on its own merit and funding will be allocated on a competitive basis.

How will I know if my Application has been Accepted?

A grant manager will communicate the status of the application by email, and a final decision will be sent by letter through email.

Questions?

Have questions about the program, services or the grant application process?

- Please email IR.Climate@gov.ab.ca.

NOTE: Funding approvals may take up to 12 weeks.

How Will I Know if my Application has been Accepted?

A grant manager will communicate the status of the application by email and a final decision will be sent by letter from the Minister of Indigenous Relations.