

Feasibility, consulting and education funding opportunity for renewable energy projects in Nova Scotia

Hello everyone,

We would like to introduce ourselves on behalf of the provincial Community Solar Program. As many are aware, the upcoming provincial Community Solar Program is an initiative led by the provincial Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. The Community Solar Program team is led by Julia Lindsay, Community Solar Project Manager, and Haruka Aoyama, Community Solar Program Coordinator.

What is the Community Solar Program?

Community Solar is an innovative program that seeks to extend additional opportunities to Nova Scotians to participate in the transition to renewable energy. See the attached resource *“What is Nova Scotia’s Community Solar Program?”*.

How can I support the roll out of the Community Solar Program?

Throughout the past year, we recognized a need to create a centralized contact list for organizations with a mandate to research, educate, and provide outreach across our province to assist the public with understanding the transition to renewable energy, what it means to us as Nova Scotians, and how each of us might be able to participate.

We will be using this list to share information and resources with you about the program to help you provide support to individuals and organizations to understand how they can participate as a project owner or subscriber.

Today, we are sharing information about a new federal funding program that can provide essential support to the development of community solar projects in Nova Scotia.

What is the SREP Capacity Building stream and Indigenous Engagement Grants program?

The federal government recently announced a request for proposals for the [Capacity Building Stream and Indigenous Engagement Grants](#) of the [Sustainable Renewable Energy Program \(SREP\)](#).

The program aims to increase the uptake of renewable energy in Canada while generating and supporting economic and social benefits of renewable energy generation.

Capacity Building Stream

SREPs is currently seeking proposals for the following eligible types of **community and/or project specific** capacity building activities related to grid-connected renewable energy and energy storage, and/or grid modernization projects:

- Pre-development activities (including but not limited to feasibility studies, engineering studies, or environmental studies) supporting the advancement of Indigenous-led projects, with a preference for 100% Indigenous-owned projects;
- Guidance (such as technical and financial expertise) for Indigenous communities evaluating and negotiating economic development partnerships with a developer and/or utility;
- Workforce training and integration activities that will increase inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility for future renewable energy, energy storage, and/or grid modernization projects, including training and attraction and retention strategies.

The following entities are eligible under the SREPs Capacity Building stream:

- Indigenous applicants (including Indigenous communities or governments, tribal councils, national or regional Indigenous councils, tribal organizations, and Indigenous majority-owned and controlled for-profit and not-for-profit organizations);
- Canadian legal entities (for-profit and not-for-profit) validly incorporated or registered; and,
- Provincial, territorial, regional, or municipal governments and their departments and agencies.

SREPs Indigenous Engagement Grants

The SREPs Indigenous Engagement Grants stream supports Indigenous communities and/or Indigenous organizations seeking to access resources and expertise to inform decision-making on their involvement in and/or support of a proposed renewable energy, and/or energy storage projects. Indigenous Engagement Grants support:

- Assessing options for involvement in renewable energy projects, including assistance with hiring external legal or commercial support to review project development partnership agreements and engaging support to connect a community interested in project development with a suitable partner;
- Activities which enable Indigenous communities potentially affected by a proposed grid-connected renewable energy and/or energy storage project to investigate opportunities, impacts, and/or mitigations;
- Conducting an environmental or traditional land use study and/or survey related to a proposed grid-connected renewable energy and/or energy storage project.

The following entities are eligible under the SREPs Indigenous Engagement Grant stream:

- Indigenous applicants (including Indigenous communities or governments, tribal councils, national or regional Indigenous councils, tribal organizations, and Indigenous majority-owned and controlled for-profit and not-for-profit organizations).

How can I learn more about the SREP Program?

More information can be found:

- In the attached “Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Capacity Building Stream” PowerPoint
- **Online:** [Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program \(canada.ca\)](https://www.canada.ca)
- **E-mail:** sreps-erite@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

The request for proposals opens on November 27, 2023 and application closes on January 31, 2024.

Please note that applications are open to other renewable energy projects and are not limited to projects focused on community solar.

When will Nova Scotia’s Community Solar Program open?

We anticipate the provincial Community Solar Program to open for applications in winter/spring 2024, which will include a website and printable resources to assist you with providing program related support that may fit with your mandate.

We will continue to send program updates to contacts on our each of our outreach lists. If you wish to be removed from this list, or if there is an individual or organization you think should be added, please e-mail us at sharesolar@novascotia.ca

Thank you for your continued support and interest in community solar.

Sincerely

Community Solar Program Team

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