

NSW Regional Community Energy Fund fact sheet

Overview

The Regional Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is a part of the NSW Government's \$30 million Regional Community Energy Program, an initiative under the NSW Climate Change Fund. The program is designed to improve the reliability and affordability of energy for regional NSW communities. The fund will support renewable energy and storage projects owned or led by communities in regional NSW that are 'shovel ready' or in progressed stages of development.

Project funding

The RCEF funding will be awarded as a capital contribution towards eligible projects over two rounds. The maximum funding awarded for each project will be 50 per cent of total project costs or \$3.5 million, whichever is lower. Capital expenditure can include technology and equipment costs, grid connection and any civil or construction works.

Eligible projects

The RCEF will provide grant funding for regional community energy projects that are innovative and/or dispatchable renewable energy and which benefit the local community. These community energy projects can be either in front of the meter or behind the meter.

In front of the meter regional energy projects are projects that will connect directly to the electricity grid. These could include but are not limited to: solar and wind farms (that may or may not be connected to battery storage), bioenergy, pumped-hydro or concentrating solar thermal.

Behind the meter regional energy projects are projects where renewable energy, such as solar and/or battery storage is connected to the customer-side of an electricity meter on a host-site. These projects may include multiple rooftop solar and/or battery systems grouped together via an embedded network, virtual power plant, or a microgrid.

Application process

All applicants must register their interest through the Department's website where they will be asked for the primary organisation name, the project name, project type and a brief description of the technology. An application pack will then be provided with the guidelines, forms, project plan template, budget template and a risk register template.

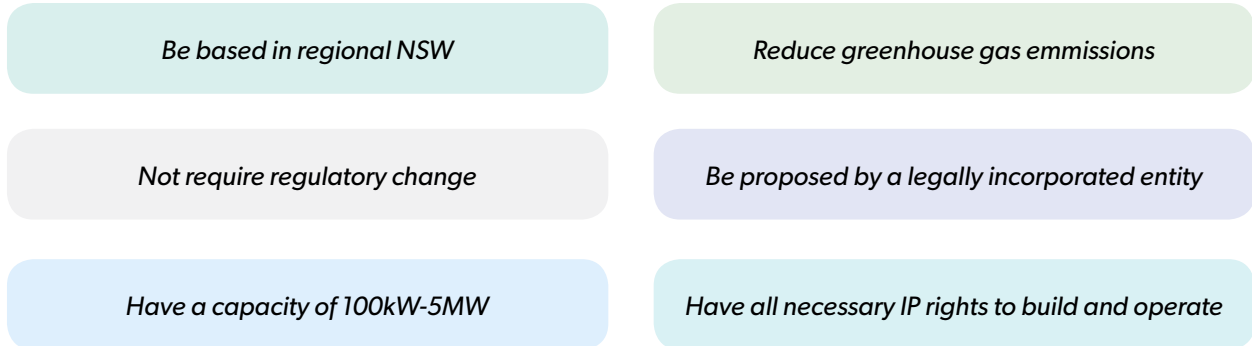
Once an application has satisfied the eligibility criteria, it will be assessed on its merits.



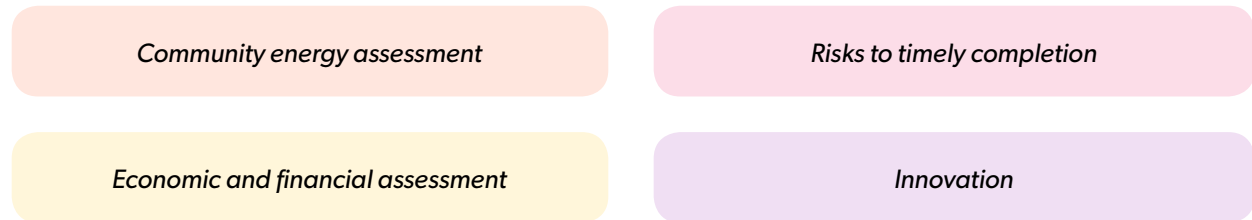
Eligibility and merit criteria

All applications must meet the eligibility criteria to progress to the next stage of assessment against the merit criteria.

Key eligibility criteria:

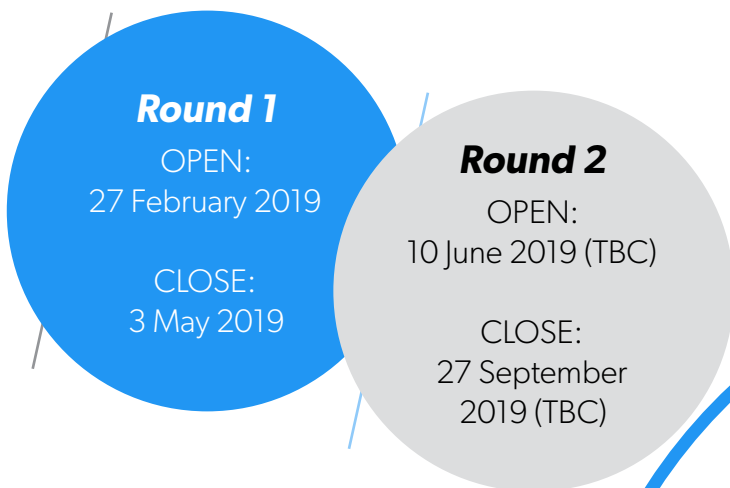


Merit criteria:



Application timing

The RCEF is expected to allocate funding in two separate rounds of approximately \$10 million per round. While unlikely, the Department may fully disburse the total grant funding of \$20 million in round 1, subject to the merit of the applications received. If all the funds are not allocated by the end of round 2, the Department may conduct additional rounds. All funding awarded under the RCEF must be disbursed by the end of June 2022.



The program website is:

energy.nsw.gov.au/regional-community-energy

Please email any questions to:

communityenergy.program@planning.nsw.gov.au