



Rural Clean Energy Business Assistance

TRDA offers state-of-the-art technical assistance and capital formation support at no cost to rural clean energy businesses in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

Funded by both the TRDA and the United States Department of Agriculture, this service will accept up to four (4) technical assistance requests and four (4) Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) forum requests in each of the four states identified.

The technical support service provides up to 40 hours of assistance from engineers and scientists, working in an alliance of U.S. based aerospace companies, technology corporations, and universities. These organizations provide their time and expertise to TRDA to help solve the technical challenges submitted by businesses. Upon submission, TRDA will evaluate each rural small business request to determine if it meets program guidelines. If the guidelines are met, TRDA will match each business request with a suitable engineer/scientist from the alliance of business and academic partners in order to provide a solution to the request. Requests are typically resolved within 90 days.

In addition to the technical assistance, TRDA provides rural clean energy companies with application assistance and presentation mentoring for the Department of Energy's NREL Industry Growth Forum. This annual NREL event is the premiere clean energy investment forum providing networking opportunities and placing entrepreneurs in front of the nation's top energy venture capitalist and corporate investors.

By providing FREE technology and capital assistance, small businesses are able to overcome their technical and capital challenges and increase their chances of success leading to new sustainable jobs, improved product development, and increased sales.

Success Stories of Clean Energy businesses assisted:



Fitzsimmons Systems, Inc. is developing a patent pending process technology for the production of biodiesel. They were concerned with the best method to recycle the methanol and separate it from any water produced. A chemical engineer with New Mexico State University was able to research the different technologies used in separation of methanol and provide his findings. The information provided helped Fitzsimmons Systems decide on an absorption process.



HydroGreen Energy, LLC developed different hydro-turbine designs and needed to know which turbine design was the most effective. An engineer with the University of Central Florida was able to perform a computational fluid dynamic (CFD) analysis to evaluate each turbine design. The analysis provided results that helped this company choose the best manufactured design.

How can you apply?

Inquiring rural clean energy businesses must contact Ryan Greenough at the TRDA Energy department at 321-872-1050 x 111 or email: ryan@trda.org to obtain application instructions. You may also visit our website at: <http://www.trda.org/programs/energy>

Important Growth Forum closing dates are as follows:

Deadline for requesting 2008 NREL Industry Growth Forum assistance– July 15, 2008

Deadline for requesting 2009 NREL Industry Growth Forum assistance– November 30, 2008



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