



Photo by Pat Corkery, NREL/PIX 16560

Does your emerging renewable energy or energy efficiency business have a technical challenge, but lack the necessary resources or expertise to find a clear path forward? Perhaps technical assistance from a knowledgeable and experienced scientist or engineer would help your small business. If so, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has a program that can assist you.

The NREL Commercialization Assistance Program (NCAP) helps emerging companies overcome technical barriers to commercializing clean energy technology. The program specifically helps renewable energy and energy efficiency companies by providing free assistance or information to help small businesses with specific technology questions or needs.

Examples of assistance include short term access to technical expertise and facilities such as:

- Test and measurement of systems or components
- Analytical testing of materials
- Insights on existing or emerging technologies
- Assistance in addressing technological performance and market analysis
- Addressing general technology problems.

Additionally, businesses that use NCAP can get a royalty-free, non-exclusive license for any inventions made during the course of technology assistance. Also, intellectual property associated with a pre-existing product or invention remains the property of the business.

NREL is prohibited from providing assistance that is readily available in the private sector. "Pooling" of technology assistance by more than one firm to develop a single product is also prohibited.

Eligibility Requirements

Renewable energy and energy efficiency businesses in the United States that have fewer than 500 employees are eligible for this program. The requested technology assistance must fit the scope of the program and NREL's competencies such as talent, facilities, expertise, and availability. If your request for assistance is accepted, a technical specialist will be assigned to work on your project for up to one staff-week, but not to exceed 40 hours. Firms are eligible once per fiscal year, October 1–September 30.

Application Process

If your renewable energy or energy efficiency technology-based business could benefit from the expertise and knowledge of NREL's scientists and engineers, follow these easy steps:

1. To ensure your company's eligibility, contact Niccolo Aieta at niccolo.aieta@nrel.gov or 303-275-4152.
2. If eligible, you will complete a one-page request form.
3. NREL will quickly review the request and may contact you for additional information.
4. If NREL has the resources, capabilities, and availability to help, an agreement will be signed by both parties before work begins.

Apply anytime, but requests are funded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact

For more information about NCAP, contact:

Niccolo Aieta
NREL Commercialization &
Technology Transfer Group
niccolo.aieta@nrel.gov
303-275-4152

Learn about NREL's commercialization and technology transfer opportunities at www.nrel.gov/technologytransfer.

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