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Free Technical Assistance Available for Utilities and for Community Projects

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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is accepting applications for two of its technical assistance programs.

Utility and Grid Operator Technical Assistance Program

Rolling technical assistance provides utilities and grid operators with up to 100 hours of subject matter expertise from NREL and other DOE labs to tackle grid integration and interconnection challenges. Focus areas include:

- Load forecasting
- Distribution system planning
- Distributed energy resources
- Vehicle-grid integration
- Building electrification
- Transmission and distribution coordination
- Bulk-power planning
- Transmission planning

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Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The webpage for this program does not mention whether local match is required. Learn more at Utility and Grid Operator Technical Assistance.

NREL supported Stowe Electric (Vermont) in understanding grid upgrades and designing a tariff program, and NREL supported Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (New Mexico) in understanding hydrogen production, feasibility, and safety.

Energy to Communities (E2C) Expert Match Program

Expert Match offers free, short-term technical assistance to help communities tackle near-term energy challenges. It is ideal for communities facing time-sensitive energy decisions and seeking to identify and understand the range of options for achieving energy goals. Eligible stakeholders - including local governments, Tribes, planning organizations, nonprofits, utilities, and higher education institutions - can receive 40–60 hours of support over 3–4 months from national lab experts and partner organizations. Expert Match is for community stakeholders who have decision-making power or influence in their community but need access to additional energy expertise to inform key upcoming decisions.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Local match is not required. Learn more at Energy to Communities Program: Expert Match.

Past assistance included topics such as electricity generation, resilience and access, financing, buildings, transportation, and other infrastructure and crosscutting questions.

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