

**TECHNICAL REPORTS FOR PROJECTS WITH
TOTAL ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS OF \$200,000 OR LESS**

The Technical Report for projects with total eligible project costs of \$200,000 or less must demonstrate that the project design, procurement, installation, startup, operation, and maintenance of the renewable energy system or energy efficiency improvement will operate or perform as specified over its design life in a reliable and a cost-effective manner. The Technical Report must also identify all necessary project agreements, demonstrate that those agreements will be in place, and that necessary project equipment and services are available over the design life.

All technical information provided must follow the format specified in Sections 1 through 10 of this appendix. Supporting information may be submitted in other formats. Design drawings and process flowcharts are encouraged as exhibits. A discussion of each topic is not necessary if the topic is not applicable to the specific project. Questions identified in the Agency's technical review of the project must be answered to the Agency's satisfaction before the application will be approved. The applicant must submit the original technical report plus one copy to the Rural Development State Office. Depending on the level of engineering required for the specific project or if necessary to ensure public safety, the services of a licensed professional engineer or a team of licensed professional engineers may be required.

SECTION 1 - BIOENERGY PROJECTS

Section 1. Bioenergy

The technical requirements specified in this section apply to bioenergy projects, which are, as defined in § 4280.103, renewable energy systems that produce fuel, thermal energy, or electric power from a biomass source, other than an anaerobic digester project.

- (a) Qualifications of key project service providers. List all key project service providers. If one or more licensed professionals are involved in the project, provide the credentials for each professional.
- (b) Agreements, permits, and certifications.
 - (1) Identify all necessary agreements and permits required for the project and the status and schedule for securing those agreements and permits.
 - (2) For systems planning to interconnect with a utility, describe the utility's system interconnection requirements, power purchase arrangements, or licenses where required and the anticipated schedule for meeting those requirements and obtaining those agreements. This is required even if the system is installed on the customer side of the utility meter. For systems planning to utilize a local net metering program as their interconnection agreement, describe the applicable local net metering program.
 - (3) Identify all environmental issues, including any compliance issues associated with or expected as a result of the project on Form RD 1940-20, "Request for Environmental Information," and in compliance with 7CFR part 1940, subpart G, of this title.
- (c) Resource assessment. Provide adequate and appropriate evidence of the availability of the renewable resource required for the system to operate as designed. Indicate the type, quantity, quality, and seasonality of the biomass resource, including harvest and storage, where applicable. Where applicable, indicate shipping or receiving method and required infrastructure for shipping. For proposed projects with an established resource, provide a summary of the resource.
- (d) Design and engineering. Applicants must submit a statement certifying that their project will be designed and engineered so as to meet the intended purpose, will ensure public safety, and will comply with

applicable laws, regulations, agreements, permits, codes, and standards. In addition, applicants must:

- (1) Provide authoritative evidence that the system will be designed and engineered so as to meet its intended purpose;
 - (2) List possible suppliers and models of major pieces of equipment;
 - (3) Provide a description of the components, materials, or systems to be installed. Include the location of the project;
 - (4) Provide a one-line diagram for the electrical interconnection. Provide diagrams or schematics as required showing all major installed structural, mechanical, and electrical components of the system;
 - (5) Describe the expected electric power, fuel production, or thermal energy production of the proposed system as rated and as expected in actual field conditions. For systems with a capacity of more than 20 tons per day of biomass, address performance on a monthly and annual basis. For small projects such as a commercial biomass furnace or pelletizer of up to 5 tons daily capacity, proven, commercially available devices need not be addressed in detail. Describe the uses of or the market for electricity, heat, or fuel produced by the system;
 - (6) Discuss the impact of reduced or interrupted biomass availability on the system process; and
 - (7) Describe the project site and address issues such as proximity to the load or the electrical grid, unique safety concerns, and whether special circumstances exist.
- (e) Project development schedule. Provide a project schedule in an appropriate level of detail that will demonstrate that the project can be adequately managed and be able to identify impacts of any delays on the project completion. The applicant must submit a statement certifying that the project will be completed within 2 years from the date of approval.
- (f) Project economic assessment. Provide an analysis of the proposed project to demonstrate its financial performance, including the calculation of simple payback. The analysis should include applicable investment incentives, productivity incentives, loans and grants, and expected energy offsets or sales on a monthly and annual basis. In addition, provide other information necessary to assess the project's cost effectiveness.
- (g) Equipment procurement. Include a statement from the applicant certifying that "open and free" competition will be used for the procurement of project components in a manner consistent with the requirements of 7 CFR part 3015 of this title.
- (h) Equipment installation. The project must be installed in accordance with applicable local, State, and national building and electrical codes and regulations. Include a statement from the applicant certifying that equipment installation will be made in accordance with all applicable safety and work rules. Upon successful system installation and following established operation, the successful applicant must deliver invoices and evidence of payment.
- (i) Operations and maintenance. Identify any unique operations and maintenance requirements of the project necessary for the system to operate as designed over the design life. State the design life of the system.
- (1) Provide information on all system warranties. A minimum 3-year warranty for equipment and a 10-year warranty on design are expected.
 - (2) If the project has any unique operation and maintenance issues, describe them.
 - (j) Dismantling and disposal of project components. Describe a plan for dismantling and disposing of project components and associated wastes at the end of their useful lives.