

**Rural Energy for America Program  
Evaluation Criteria Scoring Guideline**  
Per 4280-B Regulation -4280.112 (e)

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Technology: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Funding Request: \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Grant Score (sum of Categories 1-9 and 11):**

**Final Guaranteed Loan Score (sum of 1-4, 6-10):**

**(1) Quantity of Energy Replaced, Produced, or Saved.**

Points may only be awarded for one category (A, B, or C).

**(i) Energy replacement**

If the proposed renewable energy system is intended primarily for self use by the agricultural producer or rural small business, and will provide energy replacement of:

Greater than 0 but equal to or less than 25%, <b>award 5 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
Greater than 25%, but equal to or less than 50%, <b>award 10 points.</b>	
Greater than 50%, <b>award 15 points.</b>	
Determine energy replacement by dividing the estimated quantity of renewable energy to be generated over a 12 month period by the estimated quantity of energy consumed over the same 12 month period during the previous year by the applicable energy application. The estimated quantities of energy must be converted to British thermal units (BTU's), Watts, or similar energy equivalents to facilitate scoring. If the estimated energy produced equals more than 150% of the energy requirements of the applicable process(es), score the project as an energy generation project.	

*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

**or**

**(ii) Energy Savings (include additional 5 points if applicable)**

**(1)** If the estimated energy expected to be saved by the installation of the energy efficiency improvements will be from:

20% up to but not including 30%, <b>award 5 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
30% up to but not including 35%, <b>award 10 points.</b>	
35% or greater, <b>award 15 points.</b>	
Energy savings will be determined by the projections in an energy assessment or audit.	

**(2)** Additional points.

If the project has total eligible project costs of <u>\$50,000 or less</u> AND opts to obtain a professional energy audit, <b>award an additional 5 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
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*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

**or**

**(iii) Energy generation**

If the proposed renewable energy system is intended primarily for production of energy for sale, <b>award 10 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
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*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

**(2) Environmental benefits**

If the purpose of the proposed system contributes to the environmental goals and objectives of other Federal, State, or local programs, <b>award 10 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
Award points only if the applicant provides documentation from an appropriate authority supporting this claim.	

*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

**(3) Commercial availability**

If the proposed system or improvement is currently commercially available and replicable, <b>award 5 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
If the proposed system or improvement is commercially available and replicable and is also provided with a <u>5 year or longer warranty</u> providing the purchaser protection against system degradation or breakdown or component breakdown, <b>award 10 points.</b>	

*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

**(4) Technical Merit (To be completed by the Agency or NREL)**

Carry forward score from technical review sheet. Maximum score possible is 35 points.	<b>Points</b>
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**(5) Readiness (Grants only)**

If the applicant has written commitments, prior to the Agency receiving the complete application, from the source(s) confirming commitment of:

50% up to but not including 75% of the matching funds, <b>award 5 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
75% up to but not including 100% of the matching funds, <b>award 10 points.</b>	
100% of the matching funds, <b>award 15 points.</b>	

*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

**(6) Small Agricultural Producer/Very Small Rural Business**

If the applicant is an agricultural producer producing agricultural products with a gross market value of:

less than \$600,000 in the preceding year, <b>award 5 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
less than \$200,000 in the preceding year, <b>OR</b>	
is a Very Small Rural Business as defined in 4280.103 (a business with less than 15 employees and less than \$1 million in annual receipts), <b>award 10 points.</b>	

*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

**(7) Simplified application**

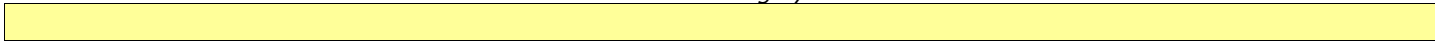
If an applicant is eligible for and uses the simplified application process <b>or</b> if the project has total eligible project costs of \$200,000 or less, <b>award 5 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
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*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

**(8) Previous grantees and borrowers**

If the applicant has not been awarded a grant or loan under this program within the 2 previous Federal fiscal years, <b>award 5 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
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*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

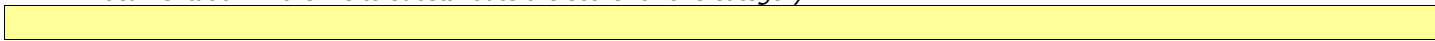


**(9) Return on investment**

If the proposed project will return the cost of investment in

Less than 4 years, <b>award 10 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
4 years up to but not including 8 years, <b>award 4 points.</b>	
8 years up to 11 years, <b>award 2 points.</b>	

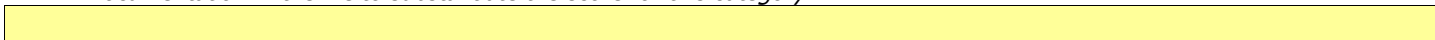
*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*



**(10) Loan Rate (Guaranteed Loans only; 4280.129 (e)):**

If the rate of the loan is below the Prime Rate (as published in the Wall Street Journal) plus 1.5 percent, <b>award 5 points.</b> <b>OR</b>	<b>Points</b>
If the rate of the loan below the Prime Rate (as published in the Wall Street Journal) plus 1 percent, <b>award 10 points.</b>	

*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*



**(10) Grants of \$20,000 or less**

If the grant requested is \$20,000 or less, <b>award 10 points.</b>	<b>Points</b>
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*Documentation in the file to substantiate the score for this category.*

