



Staff Report Item 17

TO: East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors
FROM: JP Ross
SUBJECT: Community Innovation Grant Awards (Action Item)
DATE: June 19, 2019

Recommendation

Approve the recommendation to award six \$40,000 grants for a total of \$240,000 in Community Innovation Grants

Background and Discussion

The Local Development Business Plan identified the opportunity for EBCE to create a Community Investment Fund as a multi-faceted grant program to accelerate innovative products, services or programs.

The 2019 Community Innovation Grants are for non-profit and community-based organizations to develop projects designed to deliver energy-related social and environmental benefits to residents of Alameda County. 501(c)(3) non-profit and community-based organizations could apply for awards up to \$40,000 each. While applicants were not required to have offices located within EBCE's service territory, applications were evaluated based on local contributions and benefits. Projects were evaluated on alignment with EBCE's goals and mission.

The grant solicitation was issued on April 15. EBCE hosted a webinar on April 23 and applications were due by May 10. EBCE received twenty-six applications.

Applications were evaluated by a three-person review team comprised of one Board member, one Community Advisory Committee member and one staff member. Applications were evaluated in a three-part process:

- 1) 3 applications were selected at random for review and discussion by the review team to normalize our scoring criteria and build a consistent view of each individual's scoring rationale
- 2) The remaining applications were evenly split among the team for individual review
- 3) The top 10 applications were then reviewed by the whole review team and the winning projects were selected

The scoring criteria used is shown in the Table below.

Objectives and Scoring

Criteria	Definition(s)	Weight
Primary Project Objectives (meets all two)		70%
Community Benefits	Delivers local energy-related benefits to targeted communities (e.g. low-income, disadvantaged, EJ, and/or hard-to-reach groups) in areas such as job creation, workforce development, economic empowerment, and climate and social resilience.	50%
Innovation and Collaboration	New, community collaborative approaches to eliminating or reducing energy-related environmental or economic community impacts.	20%
Secondary Project Objectives (meets two of the following four)		30%
Local, Clean Energy Projects	Proposes plans to identify or develop local renewable energy, energy efficiency or fuel switching in Alameda County that increases community access to or ownership of clean energy.	15%
Community Health	Reduces GHG, local criteria pollutants or energy bills in communities demonstrating an impact on local community health and quality of life.	15%
Scalability	Is able to be expanded across other EBCE communities and beyond.	15%
Increase Energy Literacy	Proposes plans to increase participation and public understanding of energy concepts and programs.	15%
Project Requirements (must meet both)		
Project Feasibility	Project includes staffing capability. Organization showcases applicable skills to carry project. Budget is less than or equal to \$40,000 and reasonable for project scope.	
Local Impact	Project includes key performance indicators (KPIs) that are identifiable, measurable, enduring, and local to EBCE's communities.	

The original budget for the 2019 Community Innovation Grants was \$160k with the intent of funding 4 projects. However, the Community Advisory Committee recommended funding additional projects at the June 3 CAC meeting. EBCE staff agreed with the proposal. The review committee then agreed to award 2 additional grants in this cycle and is proposing 6 projects for the Board to Approve.

Proposed Awardees

The following organizations and grants were selected by the team for awards:

West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project - *West Oakland Renewable Power*

- Project will demonstrate a model for developing large scale community solar deployments. With the Port of Oakland as a test site it will demonstrate a model for partnership between local communities and commercial property owners/developers to deliver profits from energy sales to income qualified residents.

Ecology Action - *Innovation in Electric Vehicle Charging for Affordable, DAC and Market Rate Multi-Unit Dwellings.*

- Design a scalable multi-unit dwelling (MUD) EV charging program delivery model for low- and moderate-income residents within EBCE. This is a proof of concept initiative that will result in a fully-tested and vetted program design that will be ready to be implemented by EBCE within one year.

Rising Sun Center for Opportunity - *Climate Careers: Launching Green Jobs and Delivering Community Energy Savings*

- Workforce training program to hire 26 Alameda County youth from low-income households or other disadvantaging circumstances to conduct no-cost Green House Calls (GHCs) in up to 950 hard-to-reach Alameda County households.

People Power Solar Cooperative - *Community-Owned Solar Project*

- People Power Solar Cooperative will organize its second community-owned solar project to provide a critical model for community investment and ownership of renewable energy in California and other states that lack shared solar laws.

Community Impact LAB - *Community Energy Conservation Initiative (CECI)*

- The 10-month initiative will empower and educate Alameda County families and businesses to tackle climate change through energy conservation and literacy. The project includes two conservation challenges which utilize technology to audit and reduce usage, a Clean Energy Mini-Conference and Business/Career Fair, a three-part workshop series and an online educational campaign.

Re-Volv - *Empowering East Bay Communities through Solar*

- Using a unique community-empowerment model, RE-volv will bring solar installations to at least four East Bay nonprofits that serve underserved communities while raising awareness about the benefits of clean energy, and creating dramatic electricity bill savings to benefit the community.

Fiscal Impact

The awards will require \$240k in funding from the FY'19 LDBP Budget.

Attachments