

**PROPOSAL OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKING GROUP
FOR AN ARPA FUNDS GRANT**

**Town of Monterey
Proposal for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds**

Consultant to the Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group

- Completed forms are due no later than Thursday October 13th, 2022.
- Please use as many words and images as you feel necessary to describe accurately your proposal. Do not be limited to this document and feel free to attach supporting documents as appropriate.
- Please reach out with any questions to the Select Board at selectboard@montereyma.gov or mail to Town of Monterey Select Board / Post Office Box 308 / Monterey, MA 01245.

Requestor information

Name of requesting entity (public body, Town department, individual citizen, etc.):
Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group

Contact information for submitter:

Name: Peter Murkett

Phone number: 413-717-2530

Email: petermurkett@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 324, Monterey, MA 01245

Date request is submitted: October 12, 2022

Funding information

Amount of request: \$15,000

Will additional funds be required to complete the project? *Yes*

If yes, where will those funds be obtained? The requested grant will fund a study. No further funds will be required unless the Town proceeds with any proposed project(s) based on the study. A third party (an energy producer) is expected to finance any solar installation. It is possible, however, that additional Town funds or grants may be required for consultation and planning services.

Will additional expenses be incurred regularly for maintenance or replacement after the initial project? No.

If so, how will maintenance be funded? (Operating expenses within the Line item budget in annual Town Meeting, regular replacement or maintenance to be added to the capital plan, or other – please specify) N/A

Proposed project

What is the proposed use of these funds? Please see statement on pages 3-4.
Please be as complete and thorough as possible, include drawings, plans, estimates, and anything else you believe will be helpful in our evaluation of the project. Please also include an expected timeline for the project, once potential funds are secured.

Statement of benefits

How will this project benefit the residents of Monterey? The Renewable Energy Working Group believes that every community should do its part to be powered by clean, renewable energy. With this proposal, Monterey can take a significant step forward in choosing its own path toward clean energy, and away from burning fossil fuels to make electricity.

Who in the community will be most directly served? When we provide clean energy through solar projects developed following the study, all members of the community will benefit.

Relevance to the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act

How will this project fulfill the purpose of ARPA? Please see attached supplement
*(Information from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and KP Law about the ARPA program can be found on the Select Board website
<https://www.montereyma.gov/select-board/pages/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa>
or upon request at Town Hall)*

Additional comments

Is there anything else that the Select Board should know while considering this proposal for use of ARPA funds? Click here to enter text.

Please email completed forms to selectboard@montereyma.gov or mail to Town of Monterey Select Board / Post Office Box 308 / Monterey, MA 01245.

STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT TO ARPA FUNDS GRANT APPLICATION OF THE MONTEREY RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKING GROUP

Proposed Project

The Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG) seeks funds to hire a professional renewable energy consulting firm to advise the REWG on options for bringing solar power to Monterey.

Our research to date indicates that the town can facilitate the development of solar power in two ways:

- (1) Install solar power generating facilities (i.e., solar panels and related electronics) on town buildings.
- (2) Sponsor, own, or buy renewably generated electricity from one or more appropriate public or private sites in Monterey developed on the initiative of town government.

The goal in both cases is to reduce fossil fuel consumption in the generation of electricity to meet the needs of the town and its residents.

Under the authority of the Select Board, the REWG is working with the UMass Clean Energy Extension, at no cost, to study solar development opportunities specific to Monterey; to survey town residents' priorities regarding solar development; and to produce a Monterey solar development action plan by May of 2023. The UMass study will be conducted by one or more students under the guidance of Extension staff, using the UMass [Community Planning for Solar Toolkit](#).

The UMass study will be conducted in tandem with the work of a professional energy firm paid by the ARPA grant sought in this application. Combining professional experience and expertise with student idealism and legwork offers Monterey the best of both worlds funded initially by a modest allocation (\$15,000) from a relatively large pool of federal grant funds (\$276,196). The resulting action plan will include appropriate site location and the third-party financing structure common in community development of solar power installations.

The consultant hired to perform the study with these funds will be selected in accordance with applicable procurement requirements.

On completion of the joint study, Monterey will have a detailed solar development roadmap. Subsequent implementation will require additional funding to prepare the required requests for proposals (RFPs) or for other matters yet to be determined. Those funds might come from grants, volunteer fundraising, appropriation by voters at Town Meeting, or some combination of these sources.

Relevance to the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act

This proposed project fulfills the purposes of ARPA under the first eligible use under the Final Treasury Regulations: “*Responding to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts*” (US Treasury Regulations 31 CFR Part 35.6(b)). This section permits an ARPA grant that responds to public health emergency or its negative economic effects.

Under Part 35.6(b)(1) a grant, to be eligible, must:

(i) identify the harm or impact “caused or exacerbated by the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts and the program, service, or capital expenditure responds to such harm” and

(ii) the program “is reasonably designed to benefit the beneficiary or class of beneficiaries that experienced the harm or impact.”

Our application is based on the urgency of addressing climate change—an urgency delayed by the pandemic. Climate change is, among other things, a public health crisis that is slowly but surely descending on us. Public health is harmed by continuing to burn the fossil fuels that increase global warming by adding to atmospheric carbon.

Residents of Monterey—the beneficiaries under ARPA for these purposes—will be relieved of this harm by reducing or eliminating their use of fossil fuels to generate electricity. While the actions of our small town alone will not solve a global problem, it will provide proportionality that meets the test of Part 35.6(1)(ii).

The problem of climate change has long been understood, but individuals, businesses, and governments have been slow to act. It often seems that climate change is too big and pervasive and stubborn to compete with relentless, dramatic emergencies for attention and funds.

Perhaps that is beginning to change. Residential solar has taken hold in Monterey, with the number of installations growing in recent years. The REWG is likewise working toward rooftop or ground mount solar panels for various town buildings and more, and this modest ARPA grant will support appropriate, comprehensive planning for cost-efficient installations.

Monterey’s efforts to address climate change—and those at many other levels of government—have been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the harms of climate change. It is necessary to act now. With this grant we will take an important first step forward.