

E.6

Determine if onsite renewable energy installations are feasible for the property

Onsite renewable energy installations can help a property reach a new level of energy efficiency, along with operational improvements and financially feasible equipment retrofits. Even before engaging a renewable energy contractor, you can perform a basic assessment to determine if the building could support an installation. Work with your facilities or engineering team to answer the questions below.

1. Inspect the site on which the property sits and consider local climate factors.
 - a. Does the property receive a steady stream of sunlight or wind?
 - b. Are there any buildings, foliage, or other objects blocking the sun or wind?
2. Inspect the roof.
 - a. Could the roof support the weight of a renewable energy installation, such as a wind turbine, a solar array, or a cogeneration system?
 - b. Is there room to install, maintain, and service the equipment?
3. Are there other areas of the property that could house a renewable energy installation? This could include a parking garage roof or currently landscaped area for solar panels, an equipment room with space for a cogeneration unit (essentially an engine), or another suitable area.
4. Are incentives available for renewable energy installations? Government and utility incentives are important to financing an installation and achieving an acceptable payback. Incentives can include special financing, tax credits and deductions, grants, and equipment rebates.

Check www.dsireusa.org. This website lists available incentives by zip code.

If available and applicable, list at least 3 incentives that might help with your renewable energy installation.

5. Are Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for the power your installation generates? The additional income generated from these RECs can increase the value of an investment in renewable energy.

Check www.dsireusa.org. This website shows the availability of RECs by zip code. Describe what you discovered in the space below.

6. Check state and local regulations on renewable energy installations. Issues to investigate include:

- Building and zoning codes
- Setback requirements
- Net metering requirements (standards for measuring power generated and used)
- Permitting, including preferential treatment

Check www.dsireusa.org. This website lists regulatory issues by zip code. Describe what you discovered in the space below.

Alternative Documentation

Instead of this form, you may submit at least one of the following to IREM®:

- Copy of renewables contractor proposal
- Paragraph summarizing the property's readiness for renewables

Optional Next Steps

- Engage a qualified renewable energy contractor to perform a full feasibility study, including a site assessment and financial analysis.
- Monitor changes in renewable energy technology, as well as the availability of incentives and RECs.