



Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)
Letter of Intent – FY 2020

1. Name of prospective RBDG APPLICANT: Northeastern Vermont Development Association

2. Applicant type: [] Nonprofit Corporation [x] Public body [] Other (explain) _____

3. Name of project: Investigate Feasibility of Utilizing Waste Heat for Business Support
(Use a brief descriptive title to allow for easy identification of the project).

[x] Enterprise "Like" Project [] Opportunity "Like" Project

4. Contact person for this project:

Name: David Snedeker Position: Executive Director
Organization: NVDA Telephone: (802) 748-8303
Mailing address: PO Box 630, St. Johnsbury, VT E-mail: dsnedeker@nvda.net
05819

5. Project type:

- [] Business counseling [] Market research/development [] Revolving loan fund
[] Business training [] Product improvement
[] Farmer/rancher training [] Workforce training
[] Professional or technical report [] Other (explain) _____
[x] Feasibility study [] Machinery & equipment

6. Describe the RBDG project briefly.

NVDA proposes to work with Engie – North America to investigate the feasibility of utilizing waste heat from the biomass operation at the Ryegate Power Station to support businesses in East Ryegate, VT. At present, the waste heat being generated from the combustion of wood biomass is not being captured. There may be an opportunity to use this heat to support business development on site or nearby, including a former paper plant nearby.

7. Source of funds for this RBDG project:

(The table below is an embedded spreadsheet. Double-click inside the table and it will open up in Excel for you to fill in. Once you're done, you can click anywhere on the Word document to exit Excel and return to the rest of the document. (The \$15,000 figure in the table is an example only and may be changed)

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Fund Type	Program or Identity of Funds	Amount	%total	Committed?	If No, status? when will it be committed?
Federal	Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)	\$ 35,000	95.9%	No	LOI Submitted
Federal			0.0%		
Federal		\$ -	0.0%		
Non-Federal	Business Match		0.0%	No	
Non-Federal	NVDA In-kind	\$ 1,500	4.1%	Yes	Staff in-kind contribution
Non-Federal		\$ -	0.0%		
Non-Federal		\$ -	0.0%		
Total Project		\$ 36,500	100.0%		

8. Explain exactly what the project funds (and especially the RBDG funds) will be used towards: NVDA will procure consultant services to conduct the feasibility study. Consultant will look at how waste heat is utilized at similar facilities and assess potential opportunities for business development. NVDA will provide staff in-kind services to manage the project.

9. Identify the specific “small” business (s) that will **benefit** from the RBDG project (if known – cannot be applicant)

(A “small” business is one with <\$1 million in gross annual profit and <50 employees).

Name of small business that will benefit	Location of small business	Will this business provide a letter affirming that this project will save and/or create jobs at their firm?	# Employees now	# Employees created after project completion
<u>To Be Determined</u>	<u>Northeast Kingdom</u>	Yes	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	Yes/No	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	Yes/No	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	Yes/No	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>

10. Is this project specifically cited in the community’s economic development plan? Yes No
What is this plan document’s title and date?

- Northern VT Economic Development District *CEDS 2016-2020*
- NVDA *Regional Plan for the Northeast Kingdom 2015-2023* (adopted 8/27/15 and amended 4/26/18)

11. Number of years of experience that the prospective **applicant** has in administering and/or delivering similar types of projects: NVDA was established as a regional development corporation in 1950 (69 years)

12. Explain why this project represents a particularly noteworthy opportunity.

Engie – North America is interested in exploring opportunities to capture and utilize waste heat from its biomass operations at the Ryegate Power Station. This would allow the plant to operate more efficiently and reduce the plant’s environmental impact. NVDA is interested in exploring opportunities to understand how the waste heat that could be captured could be used to support business development. There is available land at the power plant site, and a large former paper mill nearby in East Ryegate.

13. How many new jobs do you expect this project to create? 1-2 consultant jobs

Explanation: The proposed project is a feasibility study. NVDA would procure a research consultant who may utilize sub-consultants for their work.

Please e-mail this RBDG “Letter of Intent” to susan.poland@usda.gov, with a CC to elijah.massey@usda.gov. Include “RBDG Letter of Intent” in your subject line. You may also choose to submit a paper copy. If so, send to:
USDA Rural Development, Attn: Susan Poland, BPS - 87 State Street, Suite 324 – PO Box 249 – Montpelier, VT 05601

New Hampshire Applicants

Please e-mail this RBDG “Letter of Intent” to cindi.gelinas@usda.gov, with a CC to heather.gronlund@usda.gov. Include “RBDG Letter of Intent” in your subject line. You may also choose to submit a paper copy. If so, send to:
USDA Rural Development, Attn: Cindi Gelinas, BPT – 10 Ferry Street, Suite 218 – Concord, NH 03301