



BREDD Sustainable Manufacturing Technical Assistance (TA) Project

Request for Proposals to Fund TA to Implement Sustainable Manufacturing Tactics and Strategies

Project Summary:

Through US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration grant funds, BREDD was awarded funding for several projects that will help to implement a regional trade adjustment strategy to better compete in the global marketplace, including a project providing education about, and technical assistance to implement sustainable manufacturing tactics and strategies.

The Sustainable Manufacturing Project has two phases:

- **In Phase 1**, BREDD hosted a workshop on 10/09/11, led by Kath Williams, on Sustainable Manufacturing.
- **In Phase 2**, workshop participants are invited to submit proposals to BREDD for Sustainable Manufacturing TA Projects. Proposals may be from manufacturing businesses with specific TA needs, and/or from experts with specific TA skills to provide to manufacturers.
- **A total of \$20,000 is currently available in TA funds.** It is possible that additional funds may be leveraged, if BREDD receives enough proposals with clear value and strong potential for success. BREDD will contract directly with TA providers, to provide assistance to manufacturers.

Eligible Projects and Activities for Sustainable Manufacturing TA Project Funding include:

- Provide technical assistance to building products manufacturers
- Provide consulting services via contract to assist companies in business or training needs including market analysis, skill training, feasibility assessment, and engineering needs assessments.
- Provide consulting services through contract work to assist companies in business or training needs.
 - Market analysis.
 - Skills training.
 - Feasibility assessments.
 - Engineering needs assessments.

Instructions: Please write a brief two to three page overview of your business and TA needs, including responses to the following. (Respond either as a Business in need of TA, or as a Potential TA Provider

<p>For Businesses in need of Technical Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a brief description of your manufacturing business – size, location, primary function, number of employees, etc. • Provide a description of your technical assistance needs: Specifically, what sort of technical assistance do you need in order to implement or improve Sustainable Manufacturing tactics and strategies within your business? • How will your business benefit from the TA (reduced negative environmental impacts, reduced operational costs, new markets, increased sales, jobs created?) • How might the region benefit? (How will others benefit from your business’s growth or improvement?) • Describe some of your collaborative efforts with related businesses or industry partners. Is it possible to share knowledge or resources you’ll gain through this TA with others, to support sustainable manufacturing and industry growth throughout the region? • What sort of professional TA provider do you anticipate will be able to meet your needs? (If unknown, BREDD may be able to help identify an appropriate TA provider.) • Provide a brief outline of the anticipated budget for your proposed TA request. 	<p>For Potential Technical Assistance Providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a brief description of the Sustainable Manufacturing Technical Assistance you will provide. • Who is your target audience? • What sort of format will be used to present your information (workshop, hands-on instruction, one-on-one assistance to individual business(s) etc?) • Describe your expertise, experience and credentials that qualify you to provide this technical assistance. • How will manufacturing businesses benefit from your TA (reduced negative environmental impacts, reduced operational costs, new markets, increased sales, jobs created?) • How might the region benefit? (If you are able to assist one business or cluster, through what sort of ripple effect will others benefit?) • Describe some of your collaborative efforts with related businesses or industry partners. • Provide a brief outline of the anticipated budget for your proposed TA project.
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Evaluation Criteria: Because of limited grant funding for this project, not all requests for technical assistance can be met. Proposals will be evaluated, and candidates will be selected by a team of reviewers, based on the following criteria:

- Does this have strong potential to result in improved sustainable manufacturing practices, resulting in reduced negative environmental impact, and/or business and industry growth, diversification, innovation, and/or job creation?
- Does this have strong potential to result in positive economic development for the region?
- Will this significantly impact BREDD’s service area, including Mineral, Missoula and/or Ravalli Counties?

Proposal Submission Instructions and Deadline: Please email your proposal, including contact information for the key staff who would be involved, in a PDF or Word Document to Melissa Fisher at mfisher@bredd.org by 5:00pm MST on Friday, December 30, 2011. The *anticipated* award notification date is January 13, 2012.

Questions?

Applicants are welcome and encouraged to call BREDD, to discuss proposal ideas, to determine if projects in mind will fit within the TA requirements / Scope of Work.

- Melissa Fisher, Grants Administrator, BREDD: mfisher@bredd.org or 406-258-3423
- Additional project information: <http://www.bredd.org/current-project/sustainable-manufacturing>