

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

FIRST NATIONS ELECTRICITY PROGRAM

2026 PROGRAM OVERVIEW



NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST
Empowering First Nations in British Columbia



BC Hydro
Power smart



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

cleanBC
our nature. our power. our future.



ABOUT THE FIRST NATIONS ELECTRICITY PROGRAM

The **First Nations Electricity Program (FNEP)** is a new stream of the [BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative \(BCICEI\)](#). The program was established through a \$140 million contribution provided by the Province of British Columbia to New Relationship Trust (NRT) in 2023 to expand the BCICEI and support more First Nation-led clean energy projects.

FNEP supports small-scale, First Nation-led clean energy projects connected to BC Hydro's integrated distribution system, offering grant funding alongside a procurement process to help projects advance to the construction stage.

The program is jointly administered by NRT and BC Hydro, in partnership with the Province of British Columbia. Successful applicants will enter into a Contribution Agreement with NRT and an Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPA) with BC Hydro.

FNEP supports First Nations participation in the clean energy sector by reducing the barriers that can often hinder the competitiveness of smaller projects.

The program objectives are to:

- support the development of small-scale First Nation-led on-grid clean energy projects
- advance First Nation economic development and Provincial reconciliation objectives
- address the growing demand for power in B.C. while limiting the impact on BC Hydro ratepayers
- offset costs to enable smaller clean energy projects to be competitive

This document provides a high-level overview of FNEP 2026 and is intended for information purposes only. Detailed funding requirements, eligible costs, funding caps, eligibility, and application requirements will be published in the NRT Grant Application Program Guide and in the BC Hydro Request for Proposals (RFP). In the event of any inconsistency, the Program Guide and RFP documentation will prevail.



HOW FNEP EXPANDS BCICEI SUPPORT

The BCICEI will continue to provide funding for early to mid-stage project development activities – such as community energy planning, feasibility, permitting, engineering, and pre-construction.

FNEP is designed to help First Nation-led clean energy projects move from development to implementation by supporting the final stages of project development and construction.



FNEP ELIGIBILITY

WHO CAN APPLY

B.C. First Nations and Tribal Councils are eligible to apply to FNEP.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for funding, projects must meet the following requirements:

Eligibility Requirements	
☐	Be able to connect to BC Hydro's integrated distribution system
☐	Be greater than 2 MW and less than or equal to 15 MW in size
☐	Have First Nations majority ownership of 51% or more
☐	Be a clean or renewable resource, as defined by the <i>Clean Energy Act</i>
☐	Have a commercial operation date before December 31, 2032

Note: Additional eligibility requirements will be shared in the NRT Grant Application Program Guide and in the BC Hydro RFP to be released in Fall 2026



FNEP STRUCTURE

- FNEP is administered using a competitive intake process.
- The program combines grant funding administered by NRT with an EPA from BC Hydro to support eligible First Nation-led clean energy projects.
- Applicants must apply to NRT and BC Hydro separately. Applicants can submit a maximum of **one project per Nation** to FNEP.
- The diagram below provides a summary overview of the two processes:

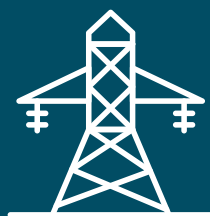


NRT GRANT FUNDING

NRT offers grant funding to cover Interconnection Study costs (up to 80%) and eligible capital costs for clean energy projects.

Steps:

- 1) NRT Enrolment (optional)
- 2) NRT Grant Application for Interconnection Study Cost Reimbursement
- 3) NRT Grant Application for Project Capital Costs
- 4) Project Evaluation
- 5) Contribution Agreement



BC HYDRO PROCUREMENT

BC Hydro runs a competitive procurement process to assess project technical viability and feasibility.

Steps:

- 1) Basic D Request
- 2) Interconnection Study
- 3) Request for Proposals (RFP)
- 4) Project Evaluation
- 5) Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPA)

BC HYDRO PROCUREMENT

The BC Hydro process involves interconnection studies to assess the proposed project's interconnection requirements, a Request for Proposals (RFP), and an EPA for successful projects that have been awarded a Contribution Agreement from NRT.

Applicants are required to complete a FNEP Basic Distribution System Information (Basic D) Request and Interconnection Study before their proposal under the BC Hydro RFP is evaluated. All successful projects will receive the same standardized BC Hydro benchmark price through the EPA. BC Hydro's benchmark price is based on the results of the 2025 Call for Power, which represents BC Hydro's expected costs for energy from new clean or renewable energy projects. BC Hydro also covers a portion of network upgrade costs up to a maximum threshold.

NRT FUNDING

Applicants are encouraged to enter the optional NRT Enrolment process at the start of the FNEP 2026 intake where they can discuss their projects and learn more about the program before applying.

Successful applicants are eligible to receive the following:

- ✓ Contribution Agreement for capital grant funding covering eligible project costs and eligible network upgrade costs not covered by BC Hydro
- ✓ Reimbursement for up to 80% of Interconnection Study costs

NRT CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING

Capital grant funding for successful projects is based on a \$1,200/kW calculation. Projects are subject to a maximum funding cap that will be provided in the NRT Grant Application Program Guide to be released in Fall 2026.

Capital grant funding may be used to support eligible project costs, including:

- ✓ Network upgrade costs not funded by BC Hydro
- ✓ Professional, scientific, and technical services
- ✓ Project management, administration, and salaries
- ✓ Contract labour and equipment for construction, including site preparation
- ✓ Technology procurement
- ✓ Other approved implementation costs

A detailed list of eligible and ineligible costs will be provided in the NRT Grant Application Program Guide.

NRT INTERCONNECTION STUDY REIMBURSEMENT

Applicants must complete a BC Hydro Interconnection Study as part of the FNEP process.

To help offset this upfront cost, NRT provides reimbursement for up to 80% of eligible Interconnection Study costs.

The Interconnection Study reimbursement is separate from project grant funding and does not count toward a project's maximum grant allocation. It is intended to reduce the financial burden of completing the technical assessment required before projects can proceed to grant funding consideration.

Eligible applicants may receive reimbursement in accordance with the following requirements:

- Up to 80% of eligible Interconnection Study costs may be reimbursed.
- Reimbursement is available following completion of the Interconnection Study and submission of the required documentation to NRT.
- Applicants must provide evidence of payment and a completed Interconnection Study.



APPLICATION PROCESS



PROJECT EVALUATION

Eligible applications are evaluated through a competitive assessment process designed to identify projects that best support program objectives while maximizing the impact of available funding. At a high level, applications are assessed across the following areas:



Project Risk & Deliverability	Demonstrates a strong likelihood of successful project delivery.
Funding Requested	Demonstrates that eligible costs and activities meet program limits and requirements.
First Nations Ownership	Demonstrates 51% or higher of First Nations ownership.
Community Benefits	Demonstrates clear and meaningful benefits for the community.

IMPORTANT: This table provides a high-level overview of the FNEP 2026 evaluation approach. Additional evaluation criteria will be provided in the BC Hydro RFP and NRT Grant Application Program Guide.



NEXT STEPS

What are the Next Steps for FNEP 2026?

1. Sign up for the [NRT mailing list](#) to receive ongoing updates via e-mail.
2. FNEP 2026 Basic D Request results will be released on September 25, 2026. If your results indicate that it is feasible to connect your project to the BC Hydro grid, you may consider proceeding to the Interconnection Study and application stages.
3. Sign up for optional NRT Enrolment starting on September 28, 2026. NRT Enrolment provides First Nations with the opportunity to discuss their projects and learn more about the program before applying.
4. The FNEP 2026 Interconnection Study opens on November 2, 2026. More information and next steps will be provided to applicants when they receive their FNEP 2026 Basic D Request results. Note: to participate in the RFP and NRT Grant Application, applicants need to have completed a FNEP 2026 Basic D Request and Interconnection Study.
5. Stay tuned for information on future intakes.

IMPORTANT PROGRAM DATES

Please note that all events and dates are subject to change.

Event	Date(s)
BC Hydro FNEP 2026 Basic D Information Request <i>Failure to meet this deadline results in ineligibility to participate in the RFP</i>	Opened August 17, 2026 Closed September 11, 2026 Results Delivered September 25, 2026
BC Hydro draft RFP and draft specimen EPA published for comment	September 21 to October 5, 2026
NRT Optional Enrolment	Opens September 28, 2026 Closes October 30, 2026
BC Hydro RFP and NRT Grant Application	Opens Fall 2026 (date to be announced) Closes Spring 2027 (date to be announced)
BC Hydro FNEP 2026 Interconnection Study <i>Failure to meet this deadline results in ineligibility to participate in the RFP</i>	Opens November 2, 2026 Closes November 16, 2026 at 4 p.m. Pacific Time Results Delivered Spring 2027
Project Evaluation	Summer 2027
BC Hydro EPA awarded and NRT Contribution Agreement	Fall 2027

LEARN MORE

Interested in learning more about FNEP?
Visit the **NRT** and **BC Hydro** websites for program information, next steps, and the latest updates.



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