

Information Sheet for Māori Renewable Funding Applications The Māori Housing Renewable Energy Fund Evaluation

The Renewable Energy Fund is being used to pilot many different renewable energy schemes throughout New Zealand. There are two strands, the Māori housing strand and the public housing strand. In the public housing strand, Kāinga Ora selects and manages the renewable energy schemes, while in the Māori housing strand, iwi groups identify, install and manage the schemes. This creates a unique opportunity to compare a very wide variety of small, localised renewable energy schemes, and assess which schemes best promote wellbeing and alleviate energy hardship. Our aim is to compare as many schemes as possible to inform a potential wider roll-out of funding. This is an independent review, not linked to Kainga Ora.

What will we ask of you as the Funding Recipient Body?

We are asking you to participate in two rohe based hui with other Māori renewable energy projects.

The hui is about the process of applying for and implementing the Māori Housing Renewable Energy Initiative and the outcomes you seek to achieve (2023) and what have been the impacts for the homes (2025).

In the 2022 and 2023 hui we will work through the Key Evaluation Questions and co-design questions for wellbeing. The hui/wānanga will be facilitated by the Māori leads in-person and involve other expertise as required via video-conferencing technology as required (e.g., Motu, MBIE, survey question design). The hui will be divided into two parts.

Part One: Process and Outcome Evaluation Questions

The questions may look like:

1. How has the objectives of the pilot aligned to the Māori community, or iwi or hapū aspirations, goals and initiatives?
2. What were the benefits for Māori communities involved in this pilot? What have been some of the successes?
3. What had been some of the outcomes for whānau receiving these energy installations?
4. What have been some of the challenges in applying for funding?
5. What would you have done differently with the funding?
6. What were the challenges faced when implementing projects?
7. "Was the funding allocated effectively across the different aspects of the trial? "Were the scheme criteria appropriate?"
8. What were the successes when implementing the projects?
9. What would you do differently?

Part Two: Co-design – Survey Module – Based on Te Whare Tapa Wha – what does wellbeing look like for the homes in your renewable energy project?

This part of the wānanga ensures an opportunity to co-design what wellbeing looks like in your rohe.

In 2025 we will be hosting a rohe wide hui about the impact of the renewable energy project that your organization implemented.

What will we ask of whānau homes in your renewable energy scheme?

We would be asking whānau to participate in the evaluation at a household level. This has been sub-contracted to Motu (Phoebe Taptiklis and Guy Penny).

What will we ask of your organization as kaitiaki of this renewable energy scheme project?

Once the research team has had an introduction hui with your organization, we will leave Motu (who are subcontracted to undertake an Energy Audit), to be guided to the homes, by you.

What baseline data do we need from homes?

There is a baseline data collection we wish to collect from homes within your renewable energy project. This is so that all participants have similar information from which to draw comparisons. These will take the form of a household energy audit survey (conducted twice, before and after the renewable energy scheme is installed) and a household experience survey (also conducted twice). If necessary, these surveys can be conducted by telephone. The survey will cover a range of topics including appliance use, heating, cooking, washing, household insulation, and the health and wellbeing of the household.

We will also ask homes to share the inverter data and to allow us to access their electricity smart-meter records. We would also like some participants to allow monitoring of temperature and humidity in the living area of their home.

What can we offer homes who participate in return?

We can also assist your whānau with other tools for evaluating the project in ways that are useful to your project or the individual homes. For instance, we can assist with understanding the energy profile of your houses in more detail with additional housing assessments, we can help with equipment to monitor temperature and humidity in areas other than the main living area of each house (eg, the wharenui), and we can also monitor energy use of specific appliances including the refrigerator, the hot water cylinder etc.

If what was most important to your whānau was to better understand the electricity grid system or iwi rights in relation to energy use and access, we can discuss ways that we can use our time, energy and research tools to support you. What are your important research questions? What can we help you discover?

If your household participates in temperature and humidity monitoring in your living area, we would like to acknowledge our gratitude with a small koha (eg supermarket, petrol voucher etc.) in recognition of your time and input.

How will it work?

We start with whanaungatanga. We will visit with you as the Māori Funding Applicant. At this first meeting we will go through the various data collection tools in more detail. We will listen to your aims and aspirations. We will leave some time for decision-making, after which we will come back together to see which combination of data collection will best suit our mutual purposes and decide whether or not to move forward with data collection.

Guided by you, and if you agreed to a selection of homes being involved in the study, we would then meet whānau, whom we are undertaking the energy audit with. The purpose would be the same, i.e to introduce ourselves and to discuss data collection of who, what, when and how.

How long will we need to be involved?

The timing of involvement may vary for each group. Ideally, we will get as much “baseline data” (data collection of the situation *before* the system is installed) as possible – a year’s worth would be great, but a month’s worth is still useful. Part of this timing may well depend on the construction of the system itself.

[This research has been assessed and approved by the New Zealand Ethics Committee (NZEC22_14). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Manager of NZEC, Dr Keely Blanch, on manager@nzethics.com.]