

Ocean Energy Cluster Development in Maine



Lead Organization: The lead organization has yet to be determined.

However, organizations that have been involved in early discussions include Maine companies such as the Ocean Renewable Power Company (demonstrating tidal power in Eastport), the E2Tech Council (trade association of Maine's environmental technology companies), the Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine Marine Research Coalition, the Maine Technology Institute, the Department of Economic and Community Development, and others. A planning meeting will be held in October that will include a number of these parties.

Community Need: We need to transition Maine's energy economy to one based more on local renewable energy resources and simultaneously generate both jobs and wealth across the state.

Project Activities: The initiative aims to nurture a network of renewable energy development and manufacturing companies, research groups, training entities and others in Maine in order to move the State's energy research, development, production and manufacturing towards sources that tap Maine's ocean resources, such as off-shore wind, ocean and river tidal power. In particular, we want to take advantage of the fact that Maine will host a global ocean energy conference at the Samoset Resort in Rockland in June 2009 to feature Maine's ocean energy resources and opportunities.

Outcomes / Impact: The development of a vibrant ocean energy cluster in Maine, building on existing and new companies, research capacity, energy resources, etc. We anticipate that this project will be a multi-year activity that advances a cleaner energy future for Maine and generates jobs and wealth across the state.

Total Project Budget: Not yet determined, as this effort is in the early planning phase.

Funds Requested from the Philanthropic Sector: Still to be determined. The Maine Technology Institute has launched a new cluster initiative program that can fund up to \$500,000 for a multi-year grant for industry-led, collaborative cluster development projects in Maine's technology-intensive sectors. These grants require at least one-to-one matching funds from other sources. This program also funds smaller cluster planning or feasibility grants on a rolling basis, again requiring a one-to-one match.

Ability to Target Funds: Although a cluster development project likely would be statewide, there may be local demonstration projects that could be supported in a targeted way.

Accountability / Reporting: This is still to be determined. However, if MTI were to make an award for such an effort, there would be milestones and reporting associated with the award that could be shared with other funders, with the approval of the award recipient.

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