



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, the BitterRoot Economic Development District, Inc. has received funding to provide sustainable manufacturing technical assistance, training and education to manufacturing businesses in Missoula, Mineral and Ravalli Counties.

Manufacturing businesses and technical assistance providers are invited to submit proposals for projects that will provide businesses with sustainable manufacturing tactics and strategies, enabling businesses to better compete in the global marketplace. Project goals are to (a) promote business and industry growth, diversification, innovation and/or job creation, and (b) reduce manufacturing business's negative environmental impact.

A total of \$40,000 is currently available to provide Sustainable Manufacturing Technical Assistance to manufacturers in Missoula, Mineral and Ravalli Counties.

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

1. Manufacturing businesses interested in receiving technical assistance, education or training may apply for consulting services, to provide the business with technical assistance related to sustainable manufacturing policies, processes, tactics and strategies, including:
 - Market analysis.
 - Skills training.
 - Feasibility assessments.
 - Engineering needs assessments.

Successful business applicants will work with BREDD to select a TA Provider (such as an engineer, sustainability expert, marketing expert, or other professional consultants) through a competitive bid process. BREDD will then contract directly with that provider, to assist the business with the TA Project.

2. Professionals interested in providing education, assistance or training on a specific sustainable manufacturing topic or subject matter, such as a regional workshop or hands-on training may submit a proposal to offer expert sustainable manufacturing consulting services to a specified audience.

Strong proposals will show evidence that the Sustainable Manufacturing technical assistance, education, and/or training project will result in tangible changes for participating businesses that will (a) lead to positive economic development – such as business or industry growth, diversification, innovation, and/or job creation, and (b) reduce manufacturing business's negative environmental impact.

Instructions: Please write a brief two to four 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

For Businesses in need of Technical Assistance:	For Potential Technical Assistance Providers:
<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? (BREDD may be able to help identify potential TA providers. Successful candidates must use a competitive bid process to select their TA Provider; BREDD will assist with this process.) • Provide a brief outline of the timeline and anticipated budget for your proposed TA request. 	<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 timeline and anticipated budget for your proposed TA project.

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 **Thursday, July 19, 2012**. The *anticipated* award notification date is July 31, 2012.

All projects must be completed by March, 2013.

Questions? Applicants are welcome and encouraged to call BREDD, to discuss proposal ideas in order to determine if projects 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>