

Emerging Energy Technology

The Role of Data Collection and Analysis

A critical element of funding emerging energy technology projects is the inclusion of a robust data collection and analysis component. Project performance and verification, conducted by an independent third party, is needed to ensure the accuracy of project results and essential to provide meaningful reports for public dissemination.

Independent Analysis and Verification

In order to maintain the integrity of a grant aimed at demonstrating technologies and projects, it is critical that there is a layer of independent project data collection, analysis, and verification. Many emerging energy technologies, for instance, come from eager vendors wishing to showcase their technology on a public stage and in a positive light. It is important to provide a means of independent verification of results, especially for systems that include pre-installed vendor instrumentation and controls.

Accurate Project Assessment

Accurate and reliable data collection and analysis is a difficult task. By including a professional research entity, the full spectrum of research demands, from project instrumentation to detailed data analysis, can be met, ensuring that project results are accurate. Economic analysis, for example, is often a complicated task. It is difficult for a recipient to identify the critical economic and financial data from mountains of project information. A trained energy economist, however, working with the recipient, can produce an efficient and accurate analysis.

Dissemination of Results

A robust data collection and analysis component for the emerging energy technology fund allows for the dissemination of data and lessons learned, not only to the funder, but to the industry as a whole. The benefits from this type of dissemination include:

- ⇒ Enhanced growth curve for technology.
- ⇒ Critical information available for use when considering future project requests, energy initiatives, or energy planning efforts.
- ⇒ Produces a feedback and collaboration opportunity with global technology experts, governments, or projects.