



Frequently Asked Questions about ARRA Requirements

****Please note: the abbreviated guidance below is provided to assist the Solar and Wind Partners in fulfilling ARRA requirements. This guidance does not cover all aspects of Attachment A: ARRA Requirements. For a complete review of ARRA fund requirements, please refer to the document entitled Attachment A: ARRA Requirements. Please note these requirements are still under development by the Federal government and may change.****

What is intent of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?

The intent of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is:

- (1) To preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery.
- (2) To assist those most impacted by the recession.
- (3) To provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health.
- (4) To invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.
- (5) To stabilize State and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases.

Is there any employment reporting required by ARRA funds?

Yes, all projects now require the number of employees (including yourself, administrative staff and laborers/site workers), the number of hours worked per employee and their pay per hour to be included in the Project Documentation and Final Incentive Request Form

Is the ARRA employment reporting for ARRA distinct from the weekly Davis-Bacon Act reporting requirements?

Yes.

What is the intent of the Davis-Bacon Act?

The intent of the Davis-Bacon Act is to ensure that laborers working on a construction site are not paid less than the prevailing minimum wage.

How do I complete the employment reporting required by ARRA funds due to the Davis-Bacon Act:

Firstly, please be aware that residential projects are exempt. Incentives that are applied to a residential project (a single family home) will now be paid directly to the homeowner and therefore will *not* require weekly reporting by the Installer. This

reporting is not required for the owner of the company or for administrative staff. However, the incentive will *not* be paid until Final Project Documentation has been submitted to and approved by the Incentive Program (including any necessary site visits). The incentive will still need to be itemized on the invoice to the customer. Incentive forms will be updated to provide guidance as to this program change.

For non-residential projects (those **not** on a residential property defined as a single family home), the incentive will continue to be paid to the Installer and will require submittal of weekly reporting. For every week that you hire a worker to install a project that receives more than \$2,000 in incentives, you must submit a weekly payroll. Further clarification is as following:

- For non-residential projects, the term “worker” refers to *Asbestos worker/insulator; Carpenter; Cement mason; Electrician; Laborer, general; Painter; Plumber; Power equipment operators; Roofer; Soft floor layer; Truck driver; Drywall hanger; Welder*. At this time, there is no category of “renewable installer”, and therefore the most general match should be chosen, which would be “laborer”. However, you must select the “laborer” rate from the most appropriate category; i.e. a laborer under the “electrician” category or “mason” category, etc.
 - Workers must be paid weekly. The minimum pay required is based on which county the work was conducted. Therefore, the minimum wage may vary depending on where in Vermont your job is located. The link for the wage rates for Vermont Counties surveyed is available at:<http://www.gpo.gov/davisbacon/vt.html> Select “Building” in the County in which the work was conducted and select the appropriate worker wage. These wages are updated regularly so check the website to see if any wage changes have occurred. If you do all of the work yourself, and do not employ anyone else, you do not need to submit a weekly report. However, the Department of Energy suggests that, if you are working on a project yourself (as Owner) and employing others, you list yourself in the report and state “Owner” under the column for “Work Classification”.
 - The weekly payroll must be postmarked to RERC the Monday after the week in which the work was conducted. A separate report must be submitted for every week in which work is conducted.
 - The weekly reporting form is available at:<http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/wh347.pdf>
 - Directions to fill this form are available at:<http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/wh347instr.htm>
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Do I need to post Davis-Bacon Act information?

Yes, you must post the wage determination and a Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) at the work site in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen. This may be obtained at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/davis.htm> .

Are there any other requirements for the *employment* reporting required by ARRA funds due to the Davis-Bacon Act?

Yes, you must also provide to the Incentive Program a list of all workers that are paid by you for work completed with ARRA funds. This list must include home address information. You only need to provide this list once, unless the information changes such as a change of address, additional workers, etc.

Are there any *additional* requirements of ARRA funds?

Yes. Attachment A: ARRA Requirements provides detailed information regarding additional requirements for all ARRA funded projects. Please ensure that you have read and understand it prior to signing the Contract Signature Page. All requirements in the Attachment A: ARRA Requirements contract must be fulfilled. These include, but are not limited to:

Historical Requirements:

(Attachment A: ARRA Requirements, Section 10):

To maintain compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, any project that alters a building over 50 years old (or building aesthetics), must be in compliance with the Historic Preservation Act. The State Historic Preservation website is <http://www.historicvermont.org/>. A list of consultants who can assist in completing the appropriate review, including the Section 106 report, is available here: <http://www.historicvermont.org/programs/consult.pdf>. The Project Documentation and Final Incentive Request paperwork must include a letter of compliance from the Vermont State Historic Preservation Office.

Compliance with the "Buy America Provisions":

For all public buildings or public works, the project is required to follow the provisions in Attachment A: Item 11.I. All major components of a system, as well as any portion that exceeds \$5,000, must be produced in the United States.

Property Certification:

Any system component that exceeds \$5,000 must be listed with serial number in the Final Incentive Request and Project Documentation form.