



PROPOSAL TO CREATE THE PUERTO RICO SUSTAINABLE RECONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PR-SRTAC)

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and Island Sustainability
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The Puerto Rico Sustainable Reconstruction Technical Advisory Committee (PR-SRTAC)

Purpose

The National Institute for Energy and Island Sustainability (INESI) of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) system proposes the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee (PR-SRTAC) to guarantee the sustainability of the reconstruction efforts in Puerto Rico after the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Irma and María. The PR-SRTAC will become embedded in the COR3 and FEMA processes. It will be involved in any major decision associated with the reconstruction process to guarantee that the projects respond to an overall vision of a sustainable, democratic and just Puerto Rico. To achieve that goal, the PR-SRTAC will:

- a) promote the effective integration of local expertise and knowledge in the reconstruction process and to identify and fill knowledge gaps with external resources
- b) provide a platform from which to identify, engage and organize rapid response teams to deal with a variety of emergent reconstruction issues, and
- c) serve as an expert evaluator for the sustainability assessment of projects identified by COR3 and FEMA as part of the reconstruction process.

INESI is strategically well positioned to establish the PR-SRTAC. INESI is an interconnection interdisciplinary and intercampus platform of the UPR system that brings over ninety (90) resources with expertise in energy and sustainability issues distributed across eleven (11) campuses. INESI is also connected to hundreds of Puerto Rico's most vulnerable communities and other mayor local stakeholders through its Energy Stakeholder Forum. Furthermore, through the Resilience Through Sustainable Reconstruction (RISE) collaborative platform, INESI interconnects with a network of networks including over twenty universities in the United States and twenty more at a global scale through its membership in the Global Resilience Research Network (GRRN). The PR-SRTAC will be comprised of three INESI members, selected by INESI's Board of Directors and representing different areas of expertise to ensure an interdisciplinary approach to the committee's workings. The PR-SRTAC will have direct access and communication to both INESI's expertise and RISE platform collaborators.

Scope of Work

The PR-SRTAC will provide much needed advice in areas including but not limited to: social, cultural, political, economic, ecological and technical aspects as well as ethical and justice implications of PR sustainable reconstruction policies, processes and projects. The PR-SRTAC will also identify and suggest emblematic/pilot projects to the attention of FEMA and the COR3. Therefore, it will be involved in all policy related activities including FEMA-COR3 meetings, hearings, and presentations, among others. INESI will also develop a sustainability assessment for reconstruction projects that will guide project development processes.

The PR-SRTAC will create a “Research and Development Fund” for critical innovative research on: community resilience, local and regional energy planning, social acceptance to energy technologies, and the Food/Energy/Water Nexus, among others. It will also support INESI’s Energy Stakeholder Forum as a continuous public engagement and participation process. We suggest that the PR-SRTAC will be located at FEMA’s headquarters to ensure interaction and active participation in the agency’s activities.

Proposed Budget

The requested budget for the PR-SRTAC amounts to \$10,000,000.00 for five (5) years of work. This amount includes the basic budget lines related to time release for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members, the hiring of administrative and support personnel, travel costs, equipment, and a RISE coordinator. The budget also allows for supporting quick response teams and the continuation of INESI’s Energy Stakeholder Forum. The following table breaks down the proposed budget including a 26% for indirect costs to the UPR.

BUDGET LINE	PROJECTED AMOUNT PER YEAR	PROJECTED TOTAL AMOUNT
TAC Members	\$400,000	\$2,000,000
Administrative and support personnel	\$400,000	\$2,000,000
Energy Stakeholder Forum	\$100,000	\$500,000
Travel	\$50,000	\$250,000
Equipment	\$25,000	\$125,000
Quick response team support	\$100,000	\$500,000
Research and Development Fund	\$500,000	\$2,500,000
Demonstrative Projects	\$500,000	\$2,500,000
Sub-total	\$2,075,000	\$10,375,000
26% UPR Indirect Costs	\$539,500	\$2,697,500
		TOTAL \$13,072,500

Contact Information

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