

# RE-AMP Network Membership Guidelines

Updated in 2023



The mission of the RE-AMP Network is to set collective strategy and enable collaboration on climate solutions in the Midwest. We do this by connecting diverse perspectives, harnessing everyone's unique expertise in spaces for intentional strategy-setting, and building the capacity for excellent implementation.

***Our goal is to equitably eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in the Midwest by 2050***

The RE-AMP Network is committed to equity. The Steering Committee, our governing body which sets the strategic direction of the Network, has adopted the Jemez Principles and the following statement on equity to inform their strategy setting.

*We must rapidly transition to an equitable clean energy economy for a healthy climate, people, and other living beings. Our work to combat climate change must ensure that the structures perpetuating and exacerbating inequity are transformed. We must use processes that are centered around sharing power, influence and resources to bring about equitable outcomes. In devising proposed solutions, the voices of those most affected by climate change should be prioritized and supported— ensuring a meaningful role in shaping policy. To achieve this, we must first recognize key injustices in current energy and land use systems such as the inequitable health impacts of fossil fuel usage and the economic drain of energy and transportation costs on individuals and communities. We must also acknowledge the root causes of climate change that include among others: colonialism, slavery, genocide of Indigenous people, private ownership of energy and the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of too few. When power shifts to people, we transform our future together for generations to come.*

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## **Descriptions of Membership Levels**

*These descriptions are meant to provide a high-level overview of each membership level and will always be provided in the context of RE-AMP's membership requirements, benefits, and dues.*

**FULL** membership offers all the benefits of the RE-AMP Network—from countless networking and collaborative opportunities to involvement in Network governance and more—while requiring member organizations to maintain a high level of participation for the benefit of the Network as a whole. Consistent engagement from Full members is essential for the Network to develop a region-wide perspective on our issue areas, to align strategies, and ultimately to make progress toward our Network goal. We recommend Full membership for organizations with the capacity for and commitment to tackling climate change through RE-AMP's groundbreaking approach to collaboration. This membership level is open to any organization working in the nine state RE-AMP region that meets our eligibility requirements.

**ALLY** membership offers nearly all of the benefits of the RE-AMP Network—with the exception of involvement in Network governance and serving as the lead grantee on grant proposals—while allowing member organizations to maintain a moderate level of participation in Network activities. This membership level opens the door to organizations that may not have the ability or desire to participate as a Full member, yet identify with our Network goal and want to engage in RE-AMP's strategic climate action. We recommend Ally membership for organizations that are interested in learning about the RE-AMP Network and share our strong interest in working together to build a broader and even more effective climate movement in the Midwest. This membership level is open to any organization that meets our eligibility requirements.

On a case-by-case basis, and on the recommendation of a current Network member, the RE-AMP Network will issue **INDIVIDUAL** memberships to people who are not associated with a member organization. It is always ideal, however, for an individual to join the Network with a member organization. Individual membership offers the same level of access to the Network as Ally membership, and we recommend Individual membership to, for example, consultants and students. Staff members of Full or Ally member organizations are not required to apply for Individual membership. Applicants seeking Individual membership are required to provide a reference from a current Network member and meet our eligibility requirements.

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## **Membership Requirements and Benefits**

<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	<b>ALLY</b>	<b>FULL</b>
Support our North Star Goal to equitably eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in the Midwest by 2050	x	x	x
Demonstrate interest or currently work in one of our strategic priorities or do work that contributes to our North Star Goal	x	x	x
Agree to work in an aligned and coordinated way with other Network members using shared analysis to inform action	x	x	x
Initiate the application process by contacting the Network's Director of Community Management	x	x	x
Be an incorporated nonprofit, foundation, or discreetly identified program with a fiscal sponsor		x	x
Work in at least one of the Network's nine states			x
Provide endorsement from one professional reference	x		

<b>Membership Requirements</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	<b>ALLY</b>	<b>FULL</b>
Complete the Network orientation process	x	x	x
Submit an annual membership renewal form	x	x	x
Designate a primary contact within the organization who facilitates communication and responds to inquiries from the Network		x	x
Abide by the Network's <a href="#">ground rules</a>	x	x	x
Take the Annual Network Survey and respond to inquiries from the Network	x	x	x
Participate in the Commons, the Network's private website where members collaborate and share resources	x	x	x
Share information	x	x	x
Commit to learning	x	x	x

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Use Network membership list only for collaboration and sharing, not for fundraising or other activities that benefit your organization alone.	x	x	x
Actively participate throughout the year in at least one form of collaboration like a state table, action team, hub or Network committee			x
Attend the Annual Meeting			x
Participate in goal setting and share results			x

Membership Benefits	INDIVIDUAL	ALLY	FULL
Be inspired by networking with the hundreds of members by learning and sharing through Network wide events, webinars, newsletters, workshops, peer to peer trainings, and other networking opportunities throughout the region	x	x	x
Access to a shared understanding of the system we are trying to change and opportunities to develop region-wide perspectives on pathways to reach our North Star Goal.	x	x	x
Participation in forms of collaboration like State Tables, hubs, and Action Teams.	x	x	x
Attendance at the Network's Annual Meeting.	x	x	x
Access to professional staff.	x	x	x
Access to the Commons, the Network's private online collaborative platform where members collaborate and share resources. It includes access to collaborative groups and toolkits. Members can request to use any one of our Zoom or Zoom Webinar accounts for Network conversations.	x	x	x
Access to professional development opportunities including the Systems Thinking Academy, Peer Learning Circles, and additional opportunities.	x	x	x
Permission to cite the RE-AMP Network in grant reports or applications. Permission to list the RE-AMP logo on the organization's website	x	x	x
Access to regular Network updates and news from across the RE-AMP region	x	x	x

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Access to shared resources like case studies, conferencing tools, best practices, and other shared learning and analysis	x	x	x
Coordinated fundraising for Network-specific collaborative projects		x	x
Eligible to lead collaborative proposals funded through the Network			x
Participation in Network governance (e.g., voting in Steering Committee elections)			x
Eligibility to serve on the Steering Committee			x
Receive priority in registration and travel assistance requests for RE-AMP events			x

## **Membership Dues**

Beginning in 2023, RE-AMP will be implementing a sliding scale fee that considers budget and membership status. Membership dues help support numerous benefits our Network offers.

For new members, dues will be waived for the calendar year that they join. Members will have the opportunity to pay at the time of renewal or request an invoice. **No member will be turned away for inability to pay.**

Pay What You Can- This fee level is intended for our smallest organization with limited staff and budgets. The criteria for this level includes:

- Full or Ally Member with a budget less than \$100,000 or with no paid staff
- Individual members

\$250- The criteria for this level includes:

- Full or Ally Member with a budget between \$100,000 and \$999,999.

\$500- The criteria for this level includes:

- Full or Ally Members with a budget between \$1 million and \$1,999,999
- Ally members with a budget more than \$ 2 million

\$750- This fee is for our largest organizations with the greatest number of staff and ability to pay. The criteria for this level includes:

- Full Members with a budget over \$2 million

If a member organization's primary mission is not climate, then the budget is considered to be the amount of money directed toward climate and energy work. For example, a health organization

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should consider their budget for environmental work rather than their total operating budget to determine their membership dues. For organizations who do implementation work, they should consider their operating budget excluding the money allocated for implementation. For philanthropic organizational members who provide grant support to the Network, membership dues will be considered paid through their grant support.

The Network invests in the connections, collective strategy, and capacity of its members. This is a reflection of some of the direct benefits members receive at a free or reduced cost but does not encapsulate all the benefits or the full cost of operating the Network.

Member Benefit	Cost	Member Value
Attendance at the Annual Meeting which includes registration, meals, and eligibility to receive travel assistance. The Annual Meeting takes place over 3 days, usually in June. Full members receive priority for travel assistance requests.	Average cost = \$650 per person	<i>"This was my first Annual Meeting and I had a great experience. From meeting so many amazing and inspiring people, to the discussions sprouting from the smaller group sessions, to listening in awe the incredible and resilient speakers at the outdoor dinner, my time in Bismarck was unforgettable"</i>
Attendance at Issue Summits where members dig into complex problems. It includes registration, meals, and eligibility to receive travel assistance. Full members receive priority for registration and travel requests.	Average cost = \$975 per person	<i>"This is a really great summit to dive deep into issues of equity, decarbonization, and the root causes of climate change"</i>
Eligibility to participate in diversity, equity and inclusion training. Some examples include: Allyship Training (2022), Making Equity Work: Diversity Your Team (2021), Hear Something, Say Something (2020), or Race Forward Structural Racism training (2018). Full members receive priority for registration and travel assistance requests.	Average cost = \$125 per person	<i>"You will be open to seeing how you can deepen your personal relationship with yourself and become aware of how you can create open relationships with others who are different from you."</i>
Access to our online collaborative platform, the Commons, our monthly newsletter and our Zoom account	Average cost = \$50 per person	<i>"I put out a question, received some great feedback which I passed on to our national office and connected with one member and joined her coalition."</i>
Eligibility to participate in capacity building opportunities like the RE-AMP Systems Thinking Academy. These programs include registration, meals, and eligibility to receive travel assistance. The cost varies depending on the length of each opportunity. Full members receive priority for registration and travel assistance requests.	Average cost = \$650 per person	<i>"The Academy provided an amazing array of tools and methods that can be used to not only evaluate problems, but to keep our work in perspective and to develop logical strategies for furthering our work over time."</i>

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Ability to participate in grant opportunities including Rapid Response Fund, Action Teams, State Level Collaborations. Full members are eligible to be the lead grantee.	\$5000 and up per grant	<i>"Our State Table meets regularly and serves as a valuable forum for sharing information, discussing strategy, and coordinating organization activities."</i>
Access to consultation and facilitation services with professional staff	Priceless	<i>"Amazing people. Amazing staff! Leaving inspired!"</i>
Ability to be connected and inspired by each other	Priceless	<i>"I'm feeling more connected and more hopeful".</i>

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## **Application Processes for Prospective Members**

*Applications for membership with the RE-AMP Network will be reviewed on an ongoing basis using the following two processes:*

### **Application Process for a Prospective Ally or Full Member Organization:**

1. Prospective member organizations contact the RE-AMP Director of Community Management to indicate interest in joining the RE-AMP Network by contacting [info@reamp.org](mailto:info@reamp.org).
2. Director of Community Management schedules a brief interview with the primary contact to learn more about the organization, answer questions about the Network, and recommend the appropriate membership level. Interview questions include:
  - Why does your organization want to become a member?
  - Do you support our North Star Goal to equitably eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in the Midwest by 2050?
  - How will your involvement in the RE-AMP Network help your organization accomplish its goals?
  - How might your organization participate in the Network?
  - Does your organization currently participate in any other networks?
  - Does your organization currently collaborate with other members of the RE-AMP Network?
3. Director of Community Management provides the appropriate application, which the primary contact completes and returns.
4. Director of Community Management reviews the application and if there is no endorsement from a Network member who has participated in an action team, state table or committee in the last three months, the Community Manager will ask for an endorsement from a RE-AMP Steering Committee member. The Community Manager will also seek the endorsement of state table leadership teams when the applicant indicates an interest in working within a RE-AMP state.
5. Director of Community Management shares interview notes and the organization's application with the full steering committee for review via the Commons in advance of their monthly meeting.



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6. With staff recommendation and endorsement from one Steering Committee member, the membership request will be included on the committee's meeting agenda for consent approval. Where there is not an endorsement, the membership request will be included on the agenda for discussion and action by the Steering Committee.
7. Director of Community Management follows up with the primary contact.

## **Application Process for a Prospective Individual Member:**

1. Prospective individual members contact the RE-AMP Director of Community Management to indicate interest in joining the RE-AMP Network.
2. On a case-by-case basis, the Director of Community Management schedules a brief interview to learn more about the applicant and answer questions about the Network. Interview questions include:
  - Why do you want to be a member of the Network?
  - Do you support our North Star Goal to equitably eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in the Midwest by 2050?
  - How will your involvement in the RE-AMP Network help you accomplish your goals?
  - Are there ways in which you can envision participating in the Network?
  - Do you currently participate in any other networks?
  - Do you currently collaborate with other members of the RE-AMP Network?
3. Director of Community Management provides the application, which the individual completes and returns with a letter of recommendation.
4. Director of Community Management makes a membership recommendation to the Network Chief Network Officer for approval.
5. Director of Community Management follows up with the individual.

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## **Annual Membership Renewal Process**

*The annual membership renewal process will take place in the first quarter of every year, ideally January. Any new member that joins the Network in the last quarter of the preceding year will be exempt from the renewal process during the organization or individual's first year of membership. Any member who wants to change their status between an ally or a full member can do so during the renewal process.*

1. RE-AMP Director of Community Management sends a Network-wide Commons announcement explaining the annual membership renewal process and timeline.
2. Director of Community Management sends renewal form and membership requirements to all primary contacts and individual members with a one-week deadline.
3. On the day of the deadline, the Director of Community Management sends a second email to all primary contacts and individual members who did not respond.
4. During the week following the deadline, RE-AMP staff makes phone calls to unresponsive individual members and to the office of all member organizations whose primary contacts did not respond.
5. Director of Community Management provides a list of individuals and organizations that completed the renewal form for consent approval by the RE-AMP Steering Committee at their upcoming meeting. Community manager also provides a list of unresponsive individuals and organizations for discussion. Steering committee provides guidance.

Director of Community Management follows up with primary contacts and individual members. Any individual or organization that the steering committee does not approve must reapply for membership.