

Gift Acceptance Policy

The Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute (REWI) is a national nonprofit organization, incorporated in 2008 as the American Wind Wildlife Institute and sustained by a unique collaboration of conservation and science organizations, wildlife management agencies, and renewable energy industry companies. In alignment with our mission –*to facilitate timely and responsible development of wind and solar energy, while protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat* – REWI works to advance scientific research and collaboration to better understand renewable energy’s risks to wildlife and develop solutions.

The purpose of the REWI Gift Acceptance Policy is to govern the acceptance of gifts to the organization and to provide guidance to donors and their professional advisors. REWI solicits and accepts gifts that are consistent with our mission and that support core programs and special projects. Donations will generally be accepted from individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, or other entities, subject to limitations described below. REWI urges all prospective donors to seek the assistance of legal and financial advisors in matters relating to their gifts.

REWI generally accepts the following types of gifts:

- **Cash:** REWI may accept outright cash gifts in any amount.
- **Publicly-traded Stocks:** REWI may accept gifts of publicly-traded stocks and bonds at fair market values as determined under Internal Revenue Service rules. Gifts of publicly-traded securities will generally be sold as soon as possible.
- **In-kind Services:** REWI may accept gifts of in-kind services.
- **Other Types of Gifts:** REWI will consider other types of gifts on a case-by-case basis, and is able to establish a relationship with a community foundation to consider more complex gift transactions, including potential gifts of tangible personal property, real estate, life insurance policies, closely-held stock or partnership interests, irrevocable charitable trusts, or charitable gift annuities. All potential gifts in these forms will be discussed and determined individually in consultation with the potential donor, their financial and legal advisors, and REWI counsel.

All gifts to REWI will be reviewed using the following guidelines:

- **Mission & Independence:** whether the acceptance of the gift compromises REWI’s ability to deliver on our mission or impact the credibility of our science and work products. Whether acceptance of the gift is consistent with carrying out our mission and strategic plan.
- **Compatibility:** whether there is compatibility between the intent of the donor and REWI’s use of the gift.
- **Relationships with Partners and Friends and the Public:** whether acceptance of the gift will damage the reputation of REWI.
- **Public Benefit:** whether the use of the gift serves the public interest, versus private interests, including those of the donor, more than incidentally. Use of the gift to provide economic benefits to REWI insiders (e.g. directors, officers, key employees, substantial contributors, and others who are in a position to exercise substantial influence over REWI) is prohibited, except payments for goods or services that are fair and reasonable under the circumstances.
- **Form of Gift:** whether the gift is offered in a form that REWI can use without incurring substantial expense or difficulty.
- **Effect on Future Giving:** whether the gift will encourage or discourage future gifts.

The Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute reserves the right to refuse any proposed gift if REWI determines that such refusal is in the best interest of REWI.

REWI requires its staff and Board to observe all established professional and ethical standards in gift discussions and transactions. REWI will not make any quid-pro-quo agreements with donor-vendors and will support the arm's length nature of the applicable contract and the fair value of the consideration paid by REWI under the contract.

REWI will provide a written acknowledgement to donors making a charitable contribution, including estimated value of goods or services, if any, that REWI provided in exchange for the gift. For in-kind or non-cash contributions, REWI will describe the donation but not estimate its value.

Any proposed gifts that are not covered within this policy or that present special circumstances will be reviewed by the REWI Executive Director in consultation with the Board of Directors Executive Committee.

REWI's Gift Acceptance Policy will be reviewed annually by senior staff, updated as necessary to reflect changes in REWI organizational needs, desired gift acceptance criteria, or relevant changes to federal or state laws pertaining to 501(c)(3) charitable contributions. Proposed amendments will be brought to the Board of Directors for approval.

Approval History

Originally Approved by Board April 15, 2010

Updated and Approved by Board October 16, 2014

Updated and Approved by Board October 3, 2018

Updated and Approved by Board July 29, 2020

Updated January 2022 to Reflect Name and Mission Change Approved by Board November 17, 2021