Essential Questions for RE-AMP State Table Membership

*A discussion guide for creating membership guidelines*

RE-AMP State Tables have been asked to craft partner agreements to undergird the climate movement in each RE-AMP state. Partner agreements are negotiated agreements about how members of your state table will work together. They may include your operating norms, your governance structure and decision-making processes, as well as your membership guidelines. For more on partner agreements, see the Organizing Hub’s [partner agreements guide](http://www.reamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/REAMP-State-Climate-Table-Partner-Agreements.pdf) available on the RE-AMP Commons.

This discussion guide includes questions for consideration as your state table crafts its membership guidelines, covering topics such as membership makeup, eligibility, benefits, the process for adding or removing members, and more. For any questions related to this guide, contact Jessica Conrad, RE-AMP Community Manager, at jessica@reamp.org.

**1.) Who are the current members of your state table?**

If you haven’t already done so, take a moment to review the [state table participation tracker](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ngsu86mOh7Vm7plyiXTW7GGLJgoo9DOYRXT0VaXlHko/edit), which state tables are required to keep up to date. It includes a sheet with the current RE-AMP membership list. It also includes a unique list of member organizations that indicated their planned participation in your state table during the 2016 RE-AMP Membership Renewal. Note that the unique list may include national organizations without offices in your state.

* Are all current RE-AMP members that want to participate in your state table automatically considered members?
	+ *Staff recommendation: Yes, any member currently operating in your state, in the first year of your state table operation, should automatically be considered a member.*
* Are there any current RE-AMP members that did not indicate their planned participation in your state table but would add value to it? If there are, how and when will you recruit them?
* Are there any non-RE-AMP members on your current membership list?
	+ Note: This section of the discussion guide addresses your *current* membership list. You can address whether or not to allow non-RE-AMP members to

participate in your state table when you address the question of eligibility in the next section.)

* Who within the organizations that plan to participate in your state table will you communicate with?
	+ For RE-AMP member organizations, you can reach out to the primary contacts listed on the “Member Organizations Overview” sheet on the participation tracker to find this information.
* How many staff from each state table member organization are allowed to participate in your state table activities?

**2.) What are the eligibility requirements for membership?**

If you aren’t familiar with RE-AMP’s [eligibility requirements](http://www.reamp.org/resources/membership/membership-guidelines/) for membership, take a moment to review them. All current RE-AMP members meet these requirements.

* Will RE-AMP’s [eligibility requirements](http://www.reamp.org/join-re-amp/) suffice for your state table, or will you need to establish other eligibility requirements?
* If you elect to develop a supplemental set of eligibility requirements, consider whether your state table members need to:
	+ Agree to established partner agreements
	+ Work within your state
	+ Be a member of the RE-AMP Network
	+ Other?
* If you elect to develop an entirely new set of eligibility requirements, consider whether your state table members need to:
	+ Be a member of the RE-AMP Network
	+ Support a greenhouse gas reductions goal
	+ Work on a specific set of issues and/or with specific constituency groups
	+ Agree to the state table’s established partner agreements
	+ Have a certain incorporation status
	+ Work within your state

**3.) What is the process for adding new members?**

If you haven’t already done so, take a moment to review [the current process](http://www.reamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Prospective-RE-AMP-Member-Application-Process-.pdf) by which organizations become members of the RE-AMP Network. It describes when state tables are invited to weigh in on the candidacy of a new RE-AMP member organization.

* Will all future RE-AMP members that want to participate in your state table automatically become members of your state table, so long as they meet your eligibility requirements?
* If all current and/or future RE-AMP member organizations that want to participate in your state table *do not automatically become* members of your state table, will there be an application process? If so, what will it involve?
* Will you allow non-RE-AMP member organizations to participate in your state table?
	+ Pro: Helps build a broader and more inclusive movement
	+ Pro: Potentially boosts the capacity of your state table
	+ Pro: Could serve as an on-ramp to RE-AMP membership
	+ Con: Requires a process for adding non-RE-AMP members to your state table
	+ Con: Presents logistics challenges around communication through the RE-AMP Commons and around access to RE-AMP resources
	+ Con: As the state table grows, democratic decision-making may become more difficult
* If you allow non-RE-AMP members to participate, will there be an application process? If so, what will it involve?
* How do you plan to orient new state table members?

**4.) What are the requirements of membership?**

The RE-AMP Network has established three levels of membership—Full, Ally, and Individual—with their own [membership requirements](http://www.reamp.org/join-re-amp/). Take a moment to review them now if you haven’t already done so, and pay special attention to the lines about state table participation.

* As you develop specific membership requirements for your state table, you will want to consider whether your members need to:
	+ Complete a state table orientation process
	+ Agree to the state table’s established partner agreements
	+ Designate a liaison between the state table and the member organization
	+ Respond to inquiries from the state table
	+ Participate in the RE-AMP Commons for state table communication
	+ Share information
	+ Attend a specific number of state table meetings
	+ Serve on a committee
	+ Anything else?
* How will membership requirements differ for Ally and Full members of the RE-AMP Network? And for non-RE-AMP members?

**5.) What are the benefits of membership?**

The RE-AMP Network has established three levels of membership—Full, Ally, and Individual—with their own [membership benefits](http://www.reamp.org/join-re-amp/). Take a moment to review them now if you haven’t already done so.

* As you develop membership benefits for your state table, you will want to consider members’ ability to:
	+ Access shared resources your state table already has or plans to develop, such as a state landscape analysis, power analysis, etc.
	+ Access other RE-AMP resources, such as the RE-AMP Commons, the Organizing Hub, Learning & Progress resources, message framing recommendations, etc.
	+ Lead a grant proposal to RE-AMP’s Global Warming Strategic Action Fund
	+ Receive regranting from the state table
	+ Vote on priorities or strategic opportunities
	+ Participate in networking opportunities
	+ Serve in a leadership role (e.g., on a committee that makes decisions about re-granting)
* How will membership benefits differ for Ally and Full members of the RE-AMP Network? And for non-RE-AMP members?

**6.) How do members leave your state table?**

* As you design the process by which members leave your state table, consider:
	+ Who needs to be informed to keep membership records current
	+ Whether or not you will request an evaluation of state table activities

**7.) Is there a way to remove members?**

* Can you imagine a scenario in which it would be necessary to remove organizations from your state table membership list?
* If you can imagine such a scenario, what will the process be for removing members involve?