



LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER INSTITUTE

The only national independent certifier of hydroelectric projects that avoid or significantly reduce their environmental impacts

Hydropower is part of the climate solution, yet its impact on river systems can be significant. LIHI's certification program is designed to recognize project operators who are minimizing river impacts through science-based criteria developed by LIHI's governing board of environmental scientists, conservation organizations, and subject matter experts.

Low Impact Certified hydropower can then be confidently integrated into regulatory programs and green power products as balancing ecosystem and climate outcomes.

How It Works:



Scientists & Conservationists

Have developed 8 science-based criteria which are used to determine a project's eligibility. Certified projects receive 5 to 10 year certificates in recognition of their stewardship.



Utilities & Operators

Review certification criteria and determine, in consultation with LIHI, whether their project(s) are eligible, could qualify, or can be modified to qualify.



Power Buyers & Regulators

Can add Low Impact Certified hydropower into their regulations and/or power products with full confidence that it meets independent environmental review and standards.

About LIHI

The Low Impact Hydropower Institute is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to reducing the impacts of hydropower generation through the certification of hydropower projects that have avoided or reduced their environmental impacts pursuant to defined criteria.

LIHI was established in 2000 by a coalition of environmental organizations led by American Rivers and Green Mountain Energy Company, with the assistance of the Center for Resource Solutions and representatives of the hydropower industry, environmental organizations, renewable power marketers, and other environmental stakeholders.

LIHI maintains a small staff and contracted reviewers which operate under the governance of a board comprised of representatives who provide a variety of environmental and resource agency perspectives. The LIHI structure also includes advisory input from the hydropower industry and renewable energy marketers.

Shannon Ames, Executive Director
1167 Massachusetts Avenue, Office 407
Arlington, MA 02476
sames@lowimpacthydro.org | 339 - 970 - 9337
www.lowimpacthydro.org

Statistics

- LIHI has issued 182 Certificates representing:
 - 160 fish passage structures
 - 1,100 recreation facilities & services
 - 4,000 megawatts of capacity
 - 16 terrawatt hours of annual generation
 - 11 million metric tons of avoided CO2 emissions
- 29% of hydropower owners seeking certification exceed certification standards and/or regulatory requirements
- Only 11% of all eligible FERC regulated facilities are LIHI Certified

LIHI Certified Facilities

