

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) Program

Public Stakeholder Session #2 Agenda

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams – NO PHYSICAL, IN-PERSON MEETING

Any written comments should be sent in advance to Griffin Roberge at griffin.j.roberge@energy.nh.gov. Any written comments provided will be considered public documents.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. NHDOE staff overview of Municipal Solar Grant Program
3. Discussion of “Draft RFP” circulated prior to meeting.
4. Decisions made following Public Stakeholder Session #1
 - a. Remove requirement that municipalities demonstrate they undertook a competitive process.
 - b. Increase grant amounts for disadvantaged communities given burdensome federal requirements and incentivize full ownership of those projects by municipalities in grant distribution.
 - c. Use of Community Development Finance Authority’s [2023 Core Data Index](#) to identify disadvantaged communities.
 - d. Strictly limit the program to municipally-owned properties and buildings.
5. Discussion Topic Questions:
 - a. Grants and funding levels:
 - i. Is the total amount of funding available in the first program round reasonable? Should it be more? Less?
 - ii. What feedback do stakeholders have on the grant levels? Should the criteria to get a Tier 1 or Tier 2 grant be changed? If so, what specific changes would you make?
 - iii. Is the use of tiered grants too preferential to “disadvantaged” communities over other municipalities?
 - iv. Are there any specific changes stakeholders would like to see on the method of grant distribution? If so, what are they and how would you like them changed?
 - b. Program scope and proposal process:
 - i. What is a reasonable amount of time for the RFP to be open? Federal requirements require a minimum of 60 calendar days.
 - ii. Pending federal clarification, should the Municipal Solar Grant Program fund interconnection costs?
 - iii. Should applicants include any anticipated Build America, Buy America waiver in their proposal, or should that be something to discuss with awardees during the contracting phase?
 - iv. Are there any specific changes stakeholders would like to see on the program’s scope and the proposal process? If so, what are they and how would you like them changed?
 - c. Scoring criteria:
 - i. Is the CDFA’s Core Data Index a good tool to use to identify disadvantaged communities? Are there other metrics, tools, or methods that NHDOE should consider to identify disadvantaged communities?
 1. A municipality’s total tax rate based on [2022 DRA tax rate information](#)?
 2. Municipalities with higher energy burdens compared to the statewide energy burden based on USDOE’s [Low-Income Energy Affordability Data \(LEAD\) Tool](#)?
 3. Municipalities with a median household income (MHI) that is below the statewide MHI based on the [2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#)?
 4. The US Department of Energy’s [Energy Justice Dashboard](#)?
 - ii. Are there certain scoring criteria that should be weighed more or less heavily than others?
 - iii. Should there be a scoring element that awards points for projects that benefit a certain municipal building over another? If so, what buildings should NHDOE show preference to?
 - iv. Should there be some consideration of a project’s proximity to electrical infrastructure to prevent distribution upgrades?

- v. Is there a method to vet a project's energy and emissions savings objectively and fairly without penalizing smaller projects? For example, larger projects may be awarded more points, but a smaller municipality may not need a larger project if it does not have the load to accommodate the solar system.
 - vi. Pending federal clarification, should there be points awarded for municipalities who undertake energy efficiency efforts before the project's installation? NHDOE wants to know if those efforts, alongside a solar project, would be subject to Build America, Buy America.
 - vii. Are there any other scoring criteria that NHDOE should consider when reviewing municipal solar projects? Are there any changes that stakeholders would like to see to the scoring criteria? If so, what specific changes and what, if any, replacements would you make?
6. Any other relevant discussion topics brought forward by stakeholders.
 7. Next steps.

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