

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND PROGRAMS  
FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS**

**Order Approving an Additional Request for Proposal for  
Low-Moderate Income Solar Project Funding in Fiscal Year 2023**

The Department of Energy (Department) hereby approves a second competitive solicitation through the issuance of a request for proposals (RFP) to select low-moderate income (LMI) community solar projects to be funded by the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) in state fiscal year (FY) 2023, pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, VIII and X. Under RSA 362-F:10, X, the Department is required to allocate not less than 15 percent of the REF annually to

benefit low-moderate income residential customers, including, but not limited to, the financing or leveraging of financing for low-moderate income community solar projects in manufactured housing communities or in multi-family rental housing.

The phrase “low-moderate income community solar project,” is defined as, “ground-mounted or rooftop solar arrays that directly benefit a group of at least [five] residential end-user customers, where at least a majority of the residential end-user customers are at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.” RSA 362-F:2, X-a.

Under RSA 362-F:10, VIII, the Department is authorized to, “after notice and hearing, by order or rule, establish additional incentive or rebate programs and competitive grant opportunities for renewable thermal and electric energy projects sited in New Hampshire.”

On November 8, 2022, the Department approved the issuance of an RFP 22-006 in the amount of \$1,000,000 to select LMI community solar projects for FY 2023. That RFP will result in unexpended REF funding.

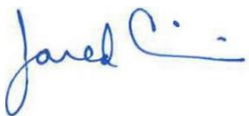
Based on the foregoing, I hereby find that it is reasonable and appropriate to issue a second RFP to select LMI community solar projects to be funded by the REF in FY 2023. The

Department has allocated \$141,213 for this RFP, and it shall be issued in that amount. Bidding shall remain open for a period of two weeks with a maximum grant contract period of 24 months. A higher maximum point score shall be applicable for projects providing significant direct benefits to moderate-income instead of or in addition to low-income residential customers. Projects shall be eligible for the grant if they also intend to submit a proposal in response to any future competitive solicitation that may be issued to implement the EAP solar project program under SB 270; however, no project shall be eligible for the FY 2023 LMI grant program if its proposal is expressly contingent on its selection in any such future separate solicitation. Projects currently under consideration for funding pursuant to RFP 22-006 shall not be eligible. The Department will endeavor to prepare an LMI grant program RFP for issuance on or about March 31, 2023.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that the Department shall issue a second request for proposals to select low-moderate income community solar photovoltaic projects to be funded by the Renewable Energy Fund in state fiscal year 2023, consistent with the parameters specified in this order.

So ordered this 16 day of March, 2022.



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Jared S. Chicoine  
Commissioner