



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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DATE: September 20, 2024

FROM: Jared S. Chicoine, Commissioner
Joshua W. Elliott, Director, Division of Policy and Programs

SUBJECT: DE 10-024, DE 10-212, DE 13-298, DE 15-302, DE 16-614, and DE 17-172:
Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Renewable Energy Fund Program Budget Allocations

Summary

This memorandum confirms Department of Energy (Department) approval for program budget allocations from the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) for fiscal year 2025 (FY25) as set forth in the Funding Allocations by Program (Table 2) on page 2. Further, the Department informs stakeholders of the following actions:

- Pursuant to SB 303 (2024) the Residential Renewable Electrical Generation Rebate Program is permanently closed. The Department will engage in a stakeholder process to develop a replacement in the near future.
- Pursuant to SB 303 (2024) the General Court has directed the Department to develop an incentive, rebate, or competitive program for political subdivisions. The Department will engage in a stakeholder process to develop this program in the near future.
 - a. Until such a program is developed and launched, political subdivisions **will remain eligible** for the existing Commercial and Industrial competitive grant program and rebates.
- The Department will continue to accept new applications for currently open rebate programs until specific program funding allocations are fully utilized.
- The Department approves the use of a request for proposal (RFP) process for the Low-Moderate Income Community Solar program to select projects for funding
- Waitlists will be established for the Residential Bulk-Fed Pellet Central Heating rebate program up to an amount of \$25,000 when the program receives applications in excess of its funding allocation.
- Waitlists will be established for each Commercial and Industrial rebate program up to an amount of \$50,000 when the program receives applications in excess of its funding allocation.

Funding Analysis

Based on the REF FY25 Statement of Appropriation, \$2,000,000 was made available for allocation to FY25 grant and rebate programs. On September 5, 2024, the Department authorized the allocation of an additional \$4,000,000 to enable Department staff to open the rebate programs to new applications.

This memorandum authorizes the allocation of that \$6,000,000. Table 1 below presents the statutorily required funding breakdown between sectors. The breakdown between Residential and Commercial and Industrial was made to ensure the appropriate balance between the two sectors over the two year

period, as directed in statute. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:10 (b), the funding set aside for the political subdivision program is not subject to this apportionment.

Table 1: Program Funding Allocations by Sector

\$6,000,000	FY25 Preliminary Rebate and Grant Program Funds
\$1,744,000	Funds allocated to Residential Sector (43.6%)
\$2,256,000	Funds allocated to Commercial & Industrial (non-residential) Sector (56.4%)
\$4,000,000	<i>Apportionment sub-total</i>
\$2,000,000	Funds allocated to Political Subdivision programs (not subject to apportionment)

Table 2 summarizes the allocation of funding to specific Residential and Commercial and Industrial programs supported by the REF and meeting the program funding requirements of RSA 362-F, as well as the unspent funds carried forward from the prior program year.

Table 2: Funding Allocations by Program

	September 20, 2024 Program Allocations for FY25	Prior Fiscal Year Program Allocations Carry Forward	Total Funding Available
Residential			
Bulk-Fed Pellet Central Heating Rebates	\$244,000	\$35,116	\$279,116
LMI Grant (min 15%)	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
<i>sub-total</i>	\$1,744,000	\$35,116	\$1,779,116
Commercial & Industrial			
Solar Rebates	\$500,000	\$529,238	\$1,029,238
Bulk-Fed Pellet Central Heating Rebates	\$156,000	\$204,325	\$360,325
Competitive Grants	\$1,600,000	\$400,000	\$2,000,000
<i>sub-total</i>	\$2,256,000	\$1,133,563	\$3,389,563
Political Subdivision Program			
Political Subdivision earmark	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
<i>sub-total</i>	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Programs Total	\$6,000,000	\$1,168,679	\$7,168,679

Low Moderate Income Community Solar RFP process Approval

The Department of Energy (Department) hereby approves a competitive solicitation through the issuance of request(s) for proposals (RFP) to select low-moderate income (LMI) community solar projects to be funded by the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) for future state fiscal years, 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.