

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**Senate Bill 270 An Act Establishing LMI Community Solar Program**

**Draft Proposal for EAP GNM Program Implementation**

**1. Project Selection Process**

**a. RFP process and 6MW queue management**

- i. RFP managed by DOE with annual stakeholder input
  1. RFP and associated statewide 6MW annual capacity limit (Cap) would be managed by DOE, with opportunity for input from stakeholders on an annual basis (schedule TBD).
  2. RFP issued once per year with four-month (4 month) open period (schedule TBD based on calendar year cycle)
  3. Designations made once per year as a result of review and scoring/ranking of all submitted eligible proposals
  4. LMI adder credit begins after final EAP group registration in coordination with utility and approval by DOE
- ii. RFP scoring and LMI Community Solar Project designation managed by DOE
  1. Eligible projects would be ranked by the DOE through scoring based on the total percentage of on-bill-credit to EAP-eligible participants (to be selected as detailed below), per statute: *“the department of energy shall select the projects that offer the largest on-bill credit”*.
  2. Selection and designation made once per year, following review and ranking of all proposals received during the RFP open bid period
    - a. Selected projects would receive a formal designation entitling them to participate and receive LMI adder credit amount once the project is constructed and operational
- iii. 6 MW Annual Cap managed by DOE
  1. LMI EAP projects only are counted against the 6 MW annual Cap
  2. The annual Cap is state-wide, with allocations going to designated RFP respondents regardless of service territory.
  3. Allocation made in year of designation
    - a. For example, a project designated in 2022 would have a capacity allocation designation for its share of the 2022 6 MW Cap regardless of the projected future year of initial commercial operation
    - b. Available Cap capacity does not “roll over” into future years, per statute: *“Annually, the number of projects designated as low-moderate income community solar shall not exceed a total nameplate capacity rating of 6 megawatts in the aggregate”*
    - c. Similarly, Cap capacity allocation held for a designated project that does not move forward in future years is not “released” for use in future years

4. Treatment of Cap capacity not allocated in annual RFP
  - a. In the event RFP responses do not fully reserve the 6 MW Cap for a particular year, that unused portion of the Cap would not be available in future years, and any additional projects would be required to apply in a later year's RFP

**b. RFP eligibility and scoring criteria**

- i. RFP eligibility criteria
  1. Eligibility criteria will be developed by DOE with input from stakeholders to include:
  2. New projects only; no existing projects
  3. Project maturity thresholds would apply:
    - a. For example, Bidders must demonstrate site control and submit a plan to obtain necessary permits and approvals, including any required environmental permits
  4. Group Net Metering and LMI Community Solar Project eligibility criteria:
    - a. Projects up to 1 MW, located in NH, total on bill credit (OBC) percentage to EAP-eligible LMI participants in a minimum of [25%], to be reviewed and potentially revised by DOE annually based on market conditions and stakeholders' input.
- ii. RFP information requirements and scoring criteria
  1. Proposed total PV system capacity and estimated annual production
  2. Host estimated annual electricity usage, if any
  3. Proposed total % OBC to EAP-eligible LMI participants

**2. Member Selection Process**

**a. Member selection**

Members selected by utility consistent with criteria, process, and timeframe specified in DOE rules (as summarized below)

- i. Only EAP-eligible customers would be selected as group members per statute RSA 362-A:9, XIV(d) and (e).
- ii. Total number of members for a group would be determined by utility and would follow requirements as outlined in new En 900 net metering rules section which could include:
  1. Estimated uniform rather than actual individual member usage figure (e.g., 650kWh-850kWh/month final estimate TBD) to be used.
  2. Calculation such that the total annual member usage will meet or exceed total estimated PV system production, accounting for potential group changes throughout the calendar year. Proposal for registration requirement that total estimated annual member load represent 100% of total facility excess generation (not including host usage).

3. Total portion of credit to members would be divided evenly among members
- iii. Priority #1: EAP-eligible customers within project location zip code
- iv. Priority #2: EAP-eligible customers in surrounding zip codes
- v. Randomized selection would be used in the event there are more EAP-eligible customers than available group memberships in any relevant priority area

**b. Member enrollment and group registration**

- i. Group registration can begin 2 months prior to estimated project operational date
- ii. Utility would notify selected EAP-eligible members of their enrollment
  1. Utility would send the enrollment and opt-out notification to each selected EAP-eligible customer
    - a. Notification would include language that participation indicates approval of any “member agreement” requirements to be identified in En 900 rules specifically for EAP-eligible group members. (Note these may not include all current member agreement requirements for current group registrations)
    - b. Enrolled members would have a specified time period to opt-out; this may then require a waiting period between enrollment notification and final group registration/commencement of LMI adder credit.
  2. Upon member enrollment and notification, after expiration of waiting period, utility would submit final registration information to the DOE to include
    - a. The list of group members
    - b. Certification that total historic annual load of the group members (actual or assumed?) together with the host exceeds the projected annual output of the host's PV system
    - c. Certification that all group selection requirements have been met and all members notified of enrollment, including member agreement terms and that none of listed group members elected to opt-out during pre-determined initial enrollment notification period (allow customer opt-out response period of two weeks? 30 days? May require multiple rounds for enrollment prior to registration)
  3. DOE would issue group registration (to host and utility) and LMI adder credit benefits would begin with the following host billing cycle.
  4. Utility would notify group host that group meets requirements to operate and is approved by the DOE as an LMI Community Solar Project group eligible to receive the LMI adder credit (include the specific date credits will begin?)
  5. Notification in billing summary to members when credits begin(?)

**3. Group Management**

- a. **Utility to manage group changes (quarterly)**
  - i. Group changes due to:

1. EAP eligibility status change removals and replacements
  2. Opt-out election removals and replacements
  3. Permanent account closure (movement out of service territory, death, etc.) removals and replacements
- ii. Members replaced at the close of each quarter (specific dates?)
  - iii. Proposed processes for group member change management

Change	Procedure	Member Load	Member Credit
Loss of EAP eligibility	Member is removed/replaced during member change period	Estimated load remains until member change period	Accrues to member until member change period
Opt-out	Member is removed/replaced during member change period following requested removal	Estimated load remains until member change period	Accrues to member until member change period
Account closure (move out of territory, death etc.)	Member credit automatically transfers to host when utility receives account closure. Member estimated load remains in place and member is replaced during member change period	Estimated load remains until member change period	Credit reverts to host from date of account closure to date of member change (maximum of 3 months) If the total credit % allocation to the host due to such changes exceeds 3.5% in a given month, that would trigger member changes to be required by the utility
<b>EAP Member Moving Within Territory</b>			
Member moves within territory	Credit is moved with member to new location within one -two billing cycles (required by statute)	Estimated load remains	Accrues to member without interruption (required by statute)

- iv. In the event there is a period between when an account closes before a new member is added, then the relevant credit goes to host during that time period, not to exceed three months. If the total credit % allocation to the host due to such changes exceeds 3.5% in a given month, that would trigger a member change period
- v. Group changes do not need to be reported to the host. The utility would track and manage during the year, reporting quarterly changes to DOE

**b. Utility to manage and submit annual Group Net Metering (909.10) Reports**

- i. Reporting requirements for EAP-eligible groups may differ from current reporting requirements, to be defined in En 900 rules
- ii. Include annual verification that group members are EAP-eligible (i.e., verify that all group members are “residents who have enrolled in or are on the waitlist for the state EAP” per SB 270)
- iii. Include documentation of OBC total credit % provided to EAP-eligible group members

- iv. Include documentation that annual member load was more than or equal to total host facility excess generation, potentially using assumed member loads rather than actual loads?
- c. **Utility would notify members regarding changes to the program**

#### **4. Host Roles**

- a. Rules would clarify that the utility is authorized to manage changes and annual reporting requirements for EAP-eligible group members
- b. Host would coordinate with the utility regarding requests for information and data related to reporting, as and when needed, to be specified in En 900 rules
  - i. Including indicating if host chooses to receive a check monthly equal to monetary credit for excess production allocated to host under 909.13(c)
- c. Host would file timely updated information related to any host changes with the DOE and the utility

#### **5. GNM LMI Adder EAP projects and REF LMI Grant Program**

- a. Propose that EAP projects may be eligible for the LMI grant program at this time and eligibility would be reviewed again for the 2024 fiscal year LMI program