

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

**“Straw Proposal” for Discussion Purposes Only
Stakeholder Session - October 4, 2022**

I. Project Selection Process

A. RFP Process and 6MW Queue Management

1. RFP managed by DOE with annual stakeholder input
 - a) 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).
 - b) RFP issued once per year with multiple-month (4-5 month?) open period (schedule TBD)
 - c) Designations made once per year as a result of review and scoring/ranking of all submitted eligible proposals
 - d) LMI adder credit begins after final EAP group registration in coordination with utility and approval by DOE

2. RFP scoring and LMI Community Solar Project designation managed by DOE
 - a) 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)
 - b) Selection and designation made once per year, following review and ranking of all proposals received during the RFP open bid period
 - (1) Selected projects would receive a formal designation entitling them to participate and receive LMI adder credit amount once the project is constructed and operational

3. 6 MW Annual Cap managed by DOE

- a) LMI EAP projects only are counted against the 6 MW annual cap
- b) Allocation made in year of designation
 - (1) 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
 - (2) Available Cap capacity does not “roll over” into future years
 - (3) 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
- c) Treatment of Cap capacity not allocated in annual RFP
 - 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

1. RFP eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria will be developed by DOE with input from stakeholders to include:

- a) New projects only; no existing projects
- b) Project maturity thresholds would apply:
 - For example, site control, financial viability, environmental permitting approvals, demonstrated bidder experience
- c) Group Net Metering and LMI Community Solar Project eligibility criteria:
 - Projects up to 1 MW, located in NH, minimum of [25%] of total on bill credit (OBC) goes to the EAP-eligible LMI participants to be selected later

2. RFP information requirements and scoring criteria

- a) Proposed total PV system capacity and estimated annual production
- b) Host estimated annual electricity usage, if any
- c) Proposed total % OBC to EAP-eligible LMI participants

II. Member Selection Process

A. Member Selection

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

1. 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:
 - a) Assumed rather than actual member usage figure (e.g., 600kWh/month)?
 - b) Calculation such that the total annual member usage will exceed total estimated PV system production, accounting for potential group changes throughout the calendar year (e.g., 105-110% of total facility excess generation net any host usage?)
 - c) Calculation related to number of total members and a minimum bill credit per participant (\$ credit? % credit?), to prevent minimal credits that would be insignificant for each participant
2. Priority #1: EAP-eligible customers within project location zip code
3. Priority #2: EAP-eligible customers in surrounding zip codes
4. A lottery would be used in the event there are more EAP-eligible customers than available group memberships in any relevant area
5. Only EAP-eligible customers would be selected as group members

B. Member and Group Registration

1. Utility would notify selected EAP-eligible members of their enrollment
 - a) Utility would send the enrollment and opt-out notification to each selected EAP-eligible customer
 - (1) 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)
 - (2) 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.
 - b) Upon member enrollment and notification, after expiration of waiting period, utility would submit final registration information to the DOE to include
 - (1) The list of group members
 - (2) 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
 - (3) 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
 - c) DOE would issue group registration (to host and utility) and LMI adder credit benefits would begin with the following host billing cycle.

- d) 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?)
- e) Notification in billing summary to members when credits begin(?)

III. **Group Management**

A. Utility to manage group changes (quarterly or more frequently?)

1. Group changes due to:
 - a) Opt-out election removals and replacements
 - b) Movement out of service territory removals and replacements
 - c) EAP eligibility status change removals and replacements
 - (1) what is the time-period from loss of eligibility to notification of utility?
2. Members replaced within a single billing period (if possible?)
3. In the event there is a period longer than [XX] days between when member is removed before new member is added, then the relevant credit goes to host during that time period. (Note this could impact annual % total OBC to LMI or require adjustment in future quarters to maintain annual % minimum)
4. Group changes do not need to be reported to the host or the DOE; utility would track and manage during the year

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

1. Reporting requirements for EAP-eligible groups may differ from current reporting requirements, to be defined in En 900 rules
2. 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)
3. Include documentation of OBC total credit % provided to EAP-eligible group members
4. 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

IV. 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
- C. Host would file timely updated information related to any host changes with the DOE and the utility

V. GNM LMI Adder EAP projects and REF LMI Grant Program-

Propose that EAP projects would not be eligible for the grant program; only non-EAP LMI community solar projects would be eligible for grants.

VI. Next Steps and schedule for program development and potential rules amendment process