

State DG Information Request

Rhode Island Program and Policy Update

Shauna Beland
Chief, Program Development



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**OFFICE OF
ENERGY RESOURCES**

2016 Legislative Session Summary

1. **Renewable Energy Fund - Extended the program until December 31, 2022.**
2. **Renewable Energy Standard – Extended and expanded the program to 38.5% renewable procurement by 2035.**
3. **Local Property Tax Exemption for residential and manufacturing renewable energy systems.**
4. **Statewide Commercial Renewable Energy System-Tangible Tax Rate for municipal ordinances and resolutions starting on January 1, 2017.**
5. **Third-Party Financing now allowed with the Net-Metering program.**
6. **Change in the eligible megawatt (MW) system size per site from 5 to 10 MW.**
7. **30 MW Virtual Net-Metering program for affordable housing/community residential solar.**
8. **Adjustment on the term length of the net-metering credit for any new virtual net-metered public entity (state, quasi-state, municipality, public schools) project proposals starting on December 31, 2018.**
9. **Programmatic improvements (shared solar facilities, community residential) to the Renewable Energy Growth Program.**

Renewable Energy Growth Program

- 2017 REG program recommendations were approved by the Distributed Generation Board in October of 2016
- 2017 Program Plan is currently being reviewing by the PUC and a decision is expected by February 15th
- 40 MWs is available in the 2017 program year
- The 2017 small scale REG program is scheduled to launch on April 1, 2017.
- First 2017 open enrollment will be pushed back a few weeks to late May/early June due to lessons learned in 2016 plan regarding timing for completed impact studies
- The plan includes a ceiling price for the new Community Remote DG megawatt allocation.

2017 Proposed REG Megawatt Allocation Plan

| Technology/Classes | Megawatt/Kilowatt Allocation |
|--|------------------------------|
| Small Solar I – Host Owned (15 Year Tariff) | 6.55 MW DC |
| Small Solar I – Host Owned (20 Year Tariff) | |
| Small Solar I – Third Party Owned (15 Year Tariff) | |
| Small Solar I – Third Party Owned (20 Year Tariff) | |
| Small Solar II (11-25) | |
| Medium Solar (26-250) | 3.0 MW DC |
| Commercial Solar | 5.0 MW DC |
| Community Remote - Commercial Solar | 3.0 MW DC |
| Large Solar | 12.05 MW DC |
| Community Remote - Large Solar | 3.0 MW DC |
| Small Wind | 0.400 MW DC |
| Community Remote and Non-Community Remote Wind I, II and III | 6.0 MW DC |
| Anaerobic Digestion I | 1.0 MW DC |
| Anaerobic Digestion II | |
| Small Scale Hydropower I | |
| Small Scale Hydropower II | |
| Total | 40 MW DC |



Proposed 2017 Ceiling Prices

| Technology | Ceiling Prices (¢/kWh) |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Small Solar I – Host Owned (15 Year Tariff) | 34.75 |
| Small Solar I – Host Owned (20 Year Tariff) | 30.85 |
| Small Solar I – Third Party Owned (15 Year Tariff) | 27.05 |
| Small Solar I – Third Party Owned (20 Year Tariff) | 24.05 |
| Small Solar II (11-25) | 27.75 |
| Medium Solar (26-250) | 22.75 |
| Commercial Solar | 18.75 |
| Large Solar | 15.05 |
| Small Wind | 21.45 |
| Wind I | 19.45 |
| Wind II | 18.25 |
| Wind III | 17.35 |
| Anaerobic Digestion I | 20.15 |
| Anaerobic Digestion II | 20.15 |
| Small Scale Hydropower I | 22.45 |
| Small Scale Hydropower II | 22.45 |



Proposed 2017 Ceiling Prices - Continued

- Changes were made to the 2017 Program Plan to include the new Community Remote DG program for both PV and Wind

| Technology | Ceiling Prices (¢/kWh) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Community Remote – Commercial Solar | 20.65 |
| Community Remote – Large Solar | 16.85 |
| Community Remote – Wind I | 20.65 |
| Community Remote – Wind II | 19.35 |
| Community Remote – Wind III | 18.55 |

30 MW Virtual Net Metering Pilot

- 2016 Legislative session created a new 30 MW virtual net metering pilot that expands VNM to new sectors
- Residential, low and moderate income sectors, and Affordable Housing developments
- National Grid has filed the pilot with the PUC for approval
- Program to take effect Q1 2017
- Opens up community solar development in Rhode Island

Renewable Energy Fund - 2016

- All REF projects are net metered

Small Scale

- 224 Small Scale solar PV projects applications
- 104 interconnected, 100 in pipeline

Commercial Scale

36 Commercial Scale applications received, for over 33MW

- 7 interconnected for 113.469kW
- Several very large projects ~ 2-3 MW are in the pipeline
- Timeline for remainder of 2016 pipeline is 2017



Future of RI Solar Market

- OER is aware of a few installers in RI that do not offer residential customers options related to the two incentive programs.
- Over 1MW of small scale projects have not utilized REF or REG.
- REF reducing funding levels in 2017.
- OER and REF continue to see a great deal of interest in the RI solar market with more installers entering the market.
- Robust quality assurance programs currently exist for REF and REG small and large scale projects

Rhode Island Data

Specific RI Data related to DG and REG to come

Contact Info

Shauna Beland

Chief, Program Development

Shauna.beland@energy.ri.gov

Chris Kearns

Chief, Program Development

Christopher.kearns@energy.ri.gov



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**OFFICE OF
ENERGY RESOURCES**