

Frequently Asked Questions Commercial and Industrial Solar Rebate Program

1. When did this program begin and how does it get its funding?

New Hampshire's commercial and industrial (C&I) solar rebate program commenced on October 1, 2010 with Order No. 25-151. To read the original order, click [here](#) and for full program background, click [here](#). The program application forms were made available to the public in November for solar electric or solar thermal projects that become operational after November 1, 2010.

Program funding comes from the state's Renewable Energy Fund (REF). The REF receives Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) that are made by electric providers who participate in the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in lieu of purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to satisfy their annual RPS requirements.

2. What is the total program budget?

The C&I solar rebate program budget for fiscal year 2013 is \$1.79 million. This program is not guaranteed consistent funding; it operates on a year-by-year basis or until funding is exhausted, whichever comes first. Please refer to the pie chart posted on the program webpage for the current amount of available funding.

3. Are non-profit organizations and public entities eligible to participate in this program?

Yes. Any non-residential entity that is a customer of an electric provider that participates in the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard is eligible to participate. This also includes multi-family residences of 3 units or greater (that have common electric or other energy use that would be offset, at least in part, by the funded system and do not qualify for a rebate under the residential incentive program).

4. I am a developer of a project and will be the project owner but I am not the customer at the site benefitting from the solar project—Am I eligible to apply for a rebate under this program?

Yes, as long as the Puc rule 2507.04 (section c.1-c.3 below) has been fulfilled. For Commission-administered rebate programs, the rule, Puc 2507.04, *Customer-Sited Projects*, states:

- (a) The provisions of this part shall apply to customer-sited generation of up to 100 kW in gross nameplate capacity or equivalent thermal output.
- (b) Persons seeking funds for customer-sited projects from the renewable energy fund shall apply according to this section.
- (c) An applicant shall be:
 - 1) A residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, or public entity in New Hampshire;
 - 2) An end use customer of [a] provider of electricity located in New Hampshire; and
 - 3) The owner of the proposed project.

- 5. Are there any limits on how much rebate funding a single entity (applicant) can obtain under this program? For example, if I am a big box store owner and want to put ten 95 kilowatt photovoltaic systems at ten different store branches, is that allowed?**

A single entity (applicant) may apply for up to \$200,000 in rebates in a given program year, spread out over any number of eligible and stand-alone projects. The program year runs from July 1st through June 30th. Please refer to the secretarial letter on this topic for more details, found [here](#).

- 6. I operate a licensed business or non-profit out of my home—am I eligible for a C&I rebate?**

If you pay for electric service under a commercial tariff from your home business or non-profit then you are also eligible to participate in the C&I rebate program. Otherwise, please inquire about participating in our residential rebate program.

- 7. Are there other funding sources available?**

Other potential sources of funding include the federal USDA Rural Energy Assistance Program (REAP), which may pay up to 25% of the system cost if the project is located in a USDA rural area. Please visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Energy.html> for more information. There are also [federal tax incentives](#) of up to 30% of the system costs.

Once annually, the Commission issues a request for proposal (RFP) for renewable energy projects in the commercial sector. The 2013 release date for this RFP will be announced when the state budget has been finalized.

- 8. When determining the maximum PUC rebate allowed, what other rebates and incentives should be included/excluded?**

An applicant for a C&I rebate must take into consideration other rebates and incentives to determine the maximum rebate allowed from the PUC. The Step 1 application states that the maximum rebate and incentives allowed from the PUC and other sources cannot exceed 40% of the total project cost. The rebates and incentives to consider include grants provided by a utility, the federal government or other entity. The applicant should **not** include any federal tax incentives, federal tax depreciation, or loans. Also note that the rebate must be less than 25 percent of the total project cost and cannot exceed \$50,000.