

**Frequently Asked Questions
Renewable Energy Fund
Fiscal Year 2021
*Updated December 9, 2020***

Renewable Energy Fund Budget Questions

What is the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21)?

The REF budget FY21 grant and rebate programs is \$4,241,977.

What are the REF individual program allocations for FY21?

On December 4, 2020, the Commission issued a secretarial letter approving the following program allocations:

	Applications received prior to 7/01/2020, and contracts signed but not encumbered in FY20	New Applications Received in FY21 (as of 11/24/2020)	Total Applications received prior to 7/01/2020, and contracts signed but not encumbered in FY20 plus applications received in FY21	Program Allocations for FY21
Residential				
Solar PV Rebates	\$360,873	\$394,000	\$754,873	\$847,803
Solar Hot Water Rebates	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Bulk-Fed Pellet Central Heating Rebates	\$89,914	\$117,248	\$207,162	\$280,000
LMI Grant (min 15%)	\$253,827	\$0	\$253,827	\$653,827
Commercial & Industrial				
Solar Rebates	\$859,724	\$44,158	\$903,882	\$960,347
Bulk-Fed Pellet Central Heating Rebates	\$343,712	\$18,316	\$362,028	\$400,000
Competitive Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,100,000
Total Residential and C&I	\$1,908,050	\$573,722	\$2,481,772	\$4,241,977

Why was the adoption of an REF budget and associated program funding allocations for the FY21 delayed?

House Bill 517 (2017) (2017 Laws Chapter 156 §156:105) amended RSA 362-F:10, I to replace “continually appropriated to the commission to be expended in accordance with this section” with “nonlapsing.” In mid- to late-2020, the Department of Administrative Services undertook a complete review of the REF account to determine whether any funds that were continually appropriated prior to that statutory amendment remained available for use in FY21. The state Comptroller determined that funds remained at the time the “continually appropriated” language was removed, and that those funds are available for use up to the REF’s state budget appropriation. The Department of Justice has also reviewed that approach.

Renewable Energy Fund Rebate Program Questions

What is the status of submitted Step 1 and Step 2 rebate applications?

Staff are in the process of reviewing and approving rebate applications. In its secretarial letter issued on December 4, 2020, the Commission established a sequence in which Staff should allocate funds to submitted program applications and Staff will proceed according to that sequence:

- Fund all program applications received prior to July 1, 2020, provided that the applications meet current program terms and conditions.
- After funding the aforementioned applications, provide funding to program applications received in FY21 (i.e., applications received on or after July 1, 2020) on a first-come, first-served basis, provided that the applications meet current program terms and conditions.
- Continue to accept new applications for all rebate programs, except the Residential Solar Thermal Rebate program, until individual program funding allocations are fully utilized.

What happens when a rebate program’s funding is fully allocated to submitted applications?

Funding levels remain limited for new renewable energy projects requesting a rebate. New rebate applications will be accepted until all funds are committed. Staff anticipates that funds will be fully committed in the solar PV programs prior to the end of the fiscal year. The Commission has authorized Staff to establish a waitlist up to \$20,000 for the Residential Solar PV Rebate program, and a waitlist up to \$50,000 for the C&I Solar program. Once an individual program waitlist reaches the recommended threshold, that program will suspend the acceptance of new rebate applications.

How long is FY21 funding available to support rebate payments?

As noted, the REF is no longer continually appropriated to the Commission; accordingly, all program funding allocations must be expended or encumbered during FY21, or no later than June 30, 2021.

Rebate applicants should submit Step 2 (payment) applications as soon as projects are operational. Payment will be facilitated if an applicant's project is operational and a completed Step 2 payment application is received at the Commission no later than June 7, 2021. Applicants are encouraged to work closely with their installers to enable an efficient and timely installation as funding may not be available for approved projects after June 30, 2021.

Will applications be accepted for the Residential Solar Thermal Rebate program?

No, the Residential Solar Thermal Rebate program remains suspended.

Renewable Energy Fund Grant Program Questions

What is the status of RFP 2020-002 seeking proposals for Renewable Energy Fund Low and Moderate Income Community Solar Grants?

The Commission has cancelled RFP 2020-002 in accordance with RFP General Condition IV.G. The Commission determined that a cancellation of that RFP was necessary due to a reduction in funding allocated to the LMI Community Solar Grant program in FY21. The Commission anticipates issuing a new RFP in the amount of \$400,000 in the near future.

What is the status of LMI and non-residential grant contracts?

Grant contracts approved by the Governor and Executive Council are encumbered and will be honored.

When will Staff issue the RFPs for the LMI and non-residential grant programs?

Staff will issue two new RFPs: one for Renewable Energy Generation Projects in the Non-Residential Sector (C&I Competitive Grant program) and one for the Low and Moderate Income Community Solar Grant (LMI Grant program). Please watch the Commission's website for the solicitation to be issued: <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Home/requestforproposal.htm>

RFPs are also noticed in the *Union Leader*.

Renewable Energy Fund Miscellaneous Questions

What is the amount of Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) received from electricity suppliers for the 2019 compliance year?

ACP payments are almost fully reconciled with RPS compliance year 2019 reports. ACP revenues for the 2019 compliance year totaled approximately \$2.5 million.

How will updated information be distributed to stakeholders, applicants, etc.?

The Commission will keep these FAQs updated and will continue to keep parties informed of any relevant decisions through Docket No. DE 10-024.