

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: June 18, 2020

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Karen Cramton, Director, Sustainable Energy Division

SUBJECT: DE 10-024, DE 15-302, DE 16-614: Request to Reallocate Fiscal Year 2020 Program Budgets

TO: Dianne Martin, Chairwoman
Kathryn M. Bailey, Commissioner
Michael S. Giaimo, Commissioner
Debra Howland, Executive Director

CC: Juli Pelletier, Business Administrator

The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) is a dedicated, non-lapsing fund whose purpose is to support electrical and thermal renewable energy initiatives. By secretarial letter dated November 6, 2019, the Commission approved the program budget for state fiscal year 2020 (FY20) (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). Budget and program details of the REF are available in the Commission's online docket book for DE 10-024 at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2010/10-024.html>.

This memorandum requests approval to amend certain residential program budgets based on current program demand and projected spending for the remainder of FY20, and to authorize the creation of individual program waiting lists to establish priority for the processing of applications if and when additional funding becomes available.

Program Status

Staff monitors REF programs and their respective budgets throughout the fiscal year. As of June 15, 2020, the Residential Solar PV and Wind Rebate program budget is nearly fully reserved. In contrast, the Residential Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate has experienced only moderate demand. Table 1 below summarizes approximate available funds for each of these residential programs.

Table 1: Approximate Available Residential Program Funds as of June 15, 2020

Program	Approximate Funds Available
Residential Solar PV and Wind Rebates	\$25,000
Residential Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$175,000

Program Budget Reallocation Request

Based on historical and anticipated demand, Staff recommends reallocating a total of \$100,000 from the Residential Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate program to the Residential PV and Wind Rebate Program. Program budget adjustments are defined in Table 2.

Table 2. Recommended FY20 REF Program Budget Reallocations

Program	FY20 Budget	Adjustment	Adjusted FY20 Budget
Residential PV and Wind Rebates	\$1,279,854	\$100,000	\$1,379,854
Residential Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$520,308	(\$100,000)	\$420,308

In addition, to help meet anticipated demand for all rebate programs, Staff will continue to monitor for expired step 1 program applications. All applicants with expired step 1 applications will be notified via email and be given 10 business days to submit a completed step 2 application or request an extension. If no action is taken by the applicant within 10 business days, the reserved funds will be “released” and made available to other applications in the queue.

If individual program funds are fully reserved, Staff recommends that the Commission suspend new rebate program reservations and authorize the creation of individual program waiting lists to establish priority for the processing of applications if and when additional funding becomes available. Staff indicated that additional funding for the REF is expected at or around the start of the next fiscal year; July 1, 2020.

The aforementioned recommended reallocation of funds would have no impact on the reasonable balancing of overall funds expended, allocated, or obligated between the residential and non-residential program sectors over the 2-year period. (see RSA 362-F:10, X) The recommended budget adjustments meet other statutory allocation requirements.

Staff recommends the Commission approve the residential program budget reallocations that are defined in Table 2, and authorize Staff to establish program waitlists if or when program FY20 budget funds become fully reserved.

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