

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Intra-Department Communication

**DATE:** May 5, 2021  
**AT (OFFICE):** NHPUC

**FROM:** Karen Cramton, Director, Sustainable Energy Division

**SUBJECT:** DE 10-024, DE 13-298, DE 16-614: Request to Reallocate Fiscal Year 2021 Program Budgets and Establishment of Program Waitlists

**TO:** Dianne Martin, Chairwoman  
Kathryn M. Bailey, Commissioner  
Debra Howland, Executive Director

**CC:** Juli Pelletier, Business Administrator

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The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) is a special, non-lapsing fund whose purpose is to support electrical and thermal renewable energy initiatives. By secretarial letter dated December 4, 2020, the Commission approved the program budget for state fiscal year 2021 (FY21) (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). 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 program budgets based on current program demand and projected spending for the remainder of FY21, 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 April 30, 2021, the Residential Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate program budget is nearly fully reserved. In contrast, the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate has experienced only moderate demand. Also, based on Commissioner approval of nonresidential grants, additional funding is needed in that program. Table 1 below summarizes currently available funds for each of these programs.

Table 1: Available Program Funds as of April 30, 2021

Program	Funds Available
Residential Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$ 9,781
C&I Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$ 132,541
Nonresidential Competitive Grants	\$1,100,000

### Program Budget Reallocation Request

Based on historical and anticipated demand, Staff recommends reallocating a total of \$132,541 from the C&I Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate program to the Residential Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate and Nonresidential Competitive Grant programs. Program budget adjustments are defined in Table 2.

Table 2. Recommended FY21 REF Program Budget Reallocations

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY21 Budget</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjusted FY21 Budget</b>
Residential Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$306,924	\$69,541	\$ 376,465
Nonresidential Grant Program	\$1,100,000	\$63,000	\$1,163,000
C&I Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$400,000	(\$132,541)	\$ 267,459

In addition, Staff has requested that the Business Office transfer \$3,000 from Statement of Appropriations (SOA) Class 046 (Consultants) to SOA Class 073 (Grants Non Federal). Staff further recommends those funds be allocated to the Residential Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate program as noted in Table 3.

Table 3. Recommended FY21 REF SOA to Program Budget Allocations

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY21 Budget as Adjusted in Table 2</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjusted FY21 Budget</b>
Residential Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$376,465	\$3,000	\$ 379,465

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 up to \$20,000 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, 2021.

The aforementioned recommended reallocation of funds would have minimal 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 program budget reallocations that are defined in Table 2 and Table 3, and authorize Staff to establish program waitlists if or when program FY21 budget funds become fully reserved.

# Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 10-024

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Email Addresses

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ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov  
shakerwoods@metrocast.net  
lghbailey@gmail.com  
clifton.below@gmail.com  
paul.bemis@coolsimsoftware.com  
jamiebemis@gmail.com  
billings@norwichsolar.com  
jack@seacoastenergy.com  
boudreau@norwichsolar.com  
brianna@cleanenergynh.org  
tomburack@comcast.net  
tony.buschur@trane.com  
cncasagrande@hughes.net  
rcecc@aol.com  
karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov  
pemihollowg@gmail.com  
connor.d@solarwolfenergy.com  
shawn.donovan@harmonyenergyworks.com  
ddriscoll@concordnh.gov  
nadesha@msn.com  
geo@usasolarstore.com  
ted.newdayenergy@gmail.com  
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov  
kim@fraseelectric.com  
mifriedman@greestreetssolarpower.com  
Elijah@garrisonpointconsulting.com  
tgauntt@granitestatesolar.com  
zach@603solar.com  
info@begreensolar.com  
thaviland@apexsolarpower.com  
ruthmheath@comcast.net  
wbh@essexhydro.com  
dhenry@hotzero.biz  
bhotz@forestsociety.org  
nick.isaak@gmail.com  
rex@greenenergyoptions.com  
jenna@samesunvt.com

staiteenergy@gmail.com  
sandra@plymouthenergy.org  
Eric@granitestatesolar.com  
madeleine.klein@engie.com  
sarah.knowlton@libertyutilities.com  
markakovacs@comcast.net  
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov  
kroll@gcglaw.com  
mlatham@paneltheplanet.com  
lemayg@nhec.com  
Paul@greenmntsolar.com  
matt@townlineequipment.com  
bob@townlineequipment.com  
madeleine@cleanenergynh.org  
dennis@thearchitects.net  
jason.morse@baesystems.com  
fortunat@revisionenergy.com  
mulin@revisionenergy.com  
nickelec2002@yahoo.com  
niebling@inrslc.com  
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov  
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov  
ran@essexhydro.com  
policies@solbid.com  
matt.okeefe@unh.edu  
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov  
rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov  
joliver@vermontlaw.edu  
fred.paine@us.ngrid.com  
palma@unitil.com  
deandra.perruccio@puc.nh.gov  
kim.quirk@gmail.com  
gilrichardson@wildblue.net  
sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov  
mrobinson@new-day-energy.com  
jroche@biaofnh.com  
jenna@samesunvt.com  
paul@nhcom.solar  
scott@tarmusa.com  
sjescompliance@sjindustries.com  
policies@solbid.com  
jsohn@safarienergy.com  
envsolar@comcast.net  
cszanton@szantoncompany.com  
mtessier@goffstownnh.gov  
ketraum@gmail.com  
tanya.wayland@puc.nh.gov

mweissflog@kwmanagement.com  
david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov  
azanna.wishart@puc.nh.gov  
dwoodward@berkshiremfp.com  
worsowicz@gcglaw.com

Without Email Addresses

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John Anton  
Northern New England Housing Investment Fund  
130 North Main St  
Concord NH 03301

Marc Spinale  
,n3 Clark Farm Rd  
Hancock NH 03449

# Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 13-298

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Email Addresses

---

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov  
madams@northernforest.org  
Christopher.aslin@doj.nh.gov  
lghbailey@gmail.com  
sbarnes@sjindustries.com  
gbass@noblesolutions.com  
brianna@cleanenergynh.org  
achesley@devinemillimet.com  
brian@umginc.com  
jeffrey.cyr@dos.nh.gov  
kevindeannow@gmail.com  
pemihollowg@gmail.com  
allen.desbiens@eversource.com  
ddriscoll@concordnh.gov  
robert.c.flanders@gmail.com  
ted.newdayenergy@gmail.com  
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov  
mark@frolingenergy.com  
sgates@tarmusa.com  
agauntt@granitestatesolar.com  
tgauntt@granitestatesolar.com  
dhenry@hotzero.biz  
kjoseph@napower.com  
Eric@granitestatesolar.com  
amy.klaviter@constellation.com  
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov  
skueffner@xoomenergy.com  
mleclerc@providerpower.com  
madeleine@cleanenergynh.org  
jmiranda@rc.com  
jason.morse@baesystems.com  
rmunnelly@davismalm.com  
scott@tarmusa.com  
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov  
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov  
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov  
sormsbee@colonialpowergroup.com

dpatch@orr-reno.com  
deandra.perruccio@puc.nh.gov  
sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov  
mark.saltsman@libertyutilities.com  
info@napower.com  
aschmid@solect.com  
firstchoiceenergy@comcast.net  
david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov  
azanna.wishart@puc.nh.gov

# Service List - Docket Related

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Email Addresses

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ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov  
richard.chagnon@puc.nh.gov  
karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov  
allen.desbiens@eversource.com  
Stephen.Eckberg@puc.nh.gov  
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov  
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov  
adele.leighton@puc.nh.gov  
madeleine@cleanenergynh.org  
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov  
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov  
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov  
david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov  
azanna.wishart@puc.nh.gov