

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR MUNICIPAL & SCHOOL ENERGY PROJECTS IN NH

Financial Grants & Incentives

NH CORE UTILITY ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR MUNICIPALITIES - 2015



<p>Pre-project Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost walk through assessments • Shared cost technical support • No cost energy efficiency short and long-term planning 	<p>Technologies Supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting and Lighting Controls • Energy Management Systems • Air-conditioning (electric) • Heating and Water Heating (includes propane and oil) • Motors and VFDs • Compressors • Weatherization • Customized projects
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Financial Support (incentives, funds are limited):

- Prescriptive rebates – set rebate amounts based on equipment installed
- Customized projects (electric and gas):
 - Up to 50% of the installed cost of energy efficiency measures (retrofit to existing equipment, replacing inefficient working equipment, and weatherization).
 - Up to 75% of the incremental cost of major renovation and replacing failed equipment
 - Up to 75% (100% for public schools) of the incremental cost of new construction

Loans for Electric Customers (funds are limited):

- On-Bill Financing

or more information on NH CORE utility programs:



www.libertyutilities.com or 603-595-2304 (gas) or 603-637-4346



www.nhec.com or 800-698-2007



www.eversource.com or 866-554-6025



www.unitil.com or 800-852-3339

Financial Grants & Incentives (continued)

- **NH Public Utilities Commission's Renewable Energy Rebates**

- ***Commercial & Industrial (includes municipal)***

- Commercial & Industrial Solar Incentive Program -

puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/RenewableEnergyRebates-CI.html

Beginning April 17, 2015, this program will offer rebate for solar electric and thermal systems in two eligible project categories. The first category (Category 1) is for solar electric and thermal systems rated less than or equal to 100 kilowatts (AC) or thermal equivalent. The second (Category 2) is for solar electric systems greater than 100 kW (AC) but less than 500 kilowatts (AC). In each Category, incentives are limited to 25% of the total project cost if less than the AC incentive payment otherwise calculated. This program is open to non-profits, businesses, public entities, and other non-residential entities within New Hampshire. The Category 1 incentive levels for new solar electric systems are \$0.75 per Watt AC, and for thermal systems, the incentive level is \$0.07 per thousand-Btu per year (\$0.12 per thousand-Btu/year for systems of fifteen collectors or fewer in size). The Category 1 incentive levels for expanded solar electric systems is \$0.50 per Watt AC, and for expanded thermal systems is \$0.04 per thousand-Btu per year. The Category 2 incentive levels for new solar electric systems are \$0.65 per Watt AC. The Category 2 incentive level for expanded solar electric systems is \$0.30 per Watt A/C. **For example: the Town of Bristol received a rebate of \$12,075 for a 15.37 kW solar electric system installed on the library.** For complete program details, please contact Liz Nixon, Elizabeth.Nixon@puc.nh.gov

- Commercial & Industrial Bulk Fuel-Fed Wood Pellet Central Heating Systems -

puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/RenewableEnergyRebates-CI-BFWP.html

This program offers a rebate payment of 30% of the heating appliance(s) and installation cost, up to a maximum of \$50,000, for investments in non-residential bulk-fuel fed wood pellet boilers and furnaces of 2.5 million BTU or less, that became operational on or after December 18, 2013. Additionally, a rebate of 30% up to \$5,000 is available for thermal storage tanks and related components. This program is open to businesses, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, governmental or municipal entities, or multi-family residences of 4 units or greater. **Currently, applications have been received from schools (both public and private) and municipalities for a wide range of wood pellet boiler projects.** For complete program details, please refer to STEP 1: REBATE PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION or contact Barbara Bernstein, barbara.bernstein@puc.nh.gov.

- ***Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) Market Revenue***

To learn more about how to certify REC's from a residential or commercial renewable energy system contact Barbara Bernstein, barbara.bernstein@puc.nh.gov.

- **An Annual PUC Competitive Grant for Non-Residential Renewable Energy Projects**

The NH PUC issues an annual RFP (usually in the Spring) with funds from the Renewable Energy Fund to financially assist eligible renewable energy projects. **For example: Sullivan County received a grant of \$300,000 to support the installation and operation of a biomass fueled combined heat and power (CHP) generation system at the Sullivan County Nursing Home and the County Corrections Facility located in Unity, NH. And Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative received a grant of \$317,980 for a 120 kW solar electric system at the Plymouth Village and Water Sewer District.** Visit here for more information:

<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/RFPs.htm>

- **NH Pay for Performance (P4P)**

The Pay for Performance Program comprehensively addresses the energy efficiency needs of the commercial, industrial, and municipal government sectors by working with participants, such as developers, building owners and their representatives, to improve energy efficiency of commercial and industrial buildings. The Program is implemented through a network of qualified Program Partners. **Funded project example: Bovie**

Screen Process, with assistance from IBEA, a P4P Partner firm, invested in several energy efficiency measures last year at their manufacturing facility in Bow. Through equipment and control upgrades, lighting updates and other energy efficiency measures that were outlined in an Energy Reduction Plan, Bovie will reduce their overall energy consumption by 23%. For more information about the Program and to learn more about how to turn your energy efficiency project into a NH P4P project, visit nhp4p.com or call 603.766.0784.

- **US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loans and Grants**

USDA administers a number of loan and grant programs of which communities in NH may be eligible. Learn more: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ProgramsAndOpportunities.html>

- **New England Grassroots Environment Fund**

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund ("The Grassroots Fund") is both a funders collaborative, providing grants for community sustainability-related projects and a network-building organization, helping provide organizing support to these grassroots groups. The Grassroots Fund provides small grants to **grassroots groups**, such as energy committees, focused on solving local issues in areas such as energy and climate change, local food and economy systems, water and environmental justice. grassrootsfund.org

Loan Programs

- **CDFA's Clean Energy Fund**

CDFA offers multiple financial products to help municipalities in New Hampshire better control their long term energy costs by improving the energy efficiency of their buildings and adding renewable energy technologies when economically appropriate. Our Clean Energy Fund is designed to help finance energy efficiency and integrated renewable energy generation projects. We make it simple to apply for financing with one application for all of our programs, and we have a dedicated low-interest revolving loan fund for municipal projects. This revolving loan fund helps municipalities improve the energy efficiency of their municipal buildings, street lighting, water and sewer treatment facilities, and where appropriate, electrical distribution systems. **For example: The Town of Gilmanton received funding to upgrade the energy efficiency of its Academy Building including insulating the shell, a boiler upgrade, insulation of the boiler room and repairing windows to reduce heat loss.** nhcdfa.org/energy-efficiency/for-municipalities-overview

- **Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF)**

An effective energy conservation measure for municipal water systems may be as simple as reducing how much water is pumped into the distribution system. Since 2010, the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) has used a set aside of the DWSRF to pay for leak detection surveys at community water systems. The surveys are performed by an independent professional leak detection firm and provided to systems at no direct cost. Water systems are required to provide an operator to assist with the survey and repair any leaks that are identified. DES solicits projects from water systems each June and the surveys are performed the following field season. Contact the DES Water Conservation Program for more information: des.nh.gov, click A to Z list in the upper right corner, and scroll down to "Water Conservation".

- **New Hampshire Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (NH CWSRF)**

The NH CWSRF program provides low-interest loans to local government entities to improve and replace wastewater treatment facilities and wastewater collection systems with the ultimate goal of protecting and improving public health and water quality. A portion of the CWSRF program is used to fund nonpoint source, watershed protection and restoration, and estuary management projects that help control water quality pollution in New Hampshire. In 2014, DES intends to provide financial incentives to encourage energy audits. Principal forgiveness may be provided to CWSRF loan recipients who complete, or have already completed, a comprehensive process energy audit that is in accordance with minimum guidance provided by the NH Department of Environmental Services. <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wweb/grants.htm>

Technical Assistance & Resources

- **Local Energy Solutions (LES) Training Series**

The LES Training Series is comprised of 3 types of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change related training offerings from the Local Energy Work Group and its trusted, partner organizations. These trainings include: Conferences, workshops/round tables discussions and webinars. NHenergy.org

- **EPA Portfolio Manager**

Portfolio Manager is an interactive energy management tool that allows you to track and assess energy and water consumption across your entire portfolio of buildings in a secure online environment. Whether you own, manage, or hold properties for investment, Portfolio Manager can help you set investment priorities, identify under-performing buildings, verify efficiency improvements, and receive EPA recognition for superior energy performance. For more information contact Linda Darveau, US EPA Region 1, Darveau.Linda@epa.gov or (617) 918-1718 - energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings/use-portfolio-manager?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfoliomanager

- **NH Local Energy Audit Exchange**

Although the deadline has passed for applications to receive municipal and school audits under the NH Local Energy Audit Exchange, this website can add value to energy project planning through highlights of energy efficiency opportunities unearthed through building audits across the state. nhlocalenergyaudits.com

- **Energy Efficiency Planning, Funding and Improvements For New Hampshire's Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems: Saving Energy, Water and Dollars**, NH DES, October 2011

Water and wastewater systems all rely upon energy to operate their utilities. Recently, a number of initiatives have been established to provide technical and financial assistance with implementing energy efficiency. This document summarizes how water and wastewater systems can capitalize on these opportunities. It also summarizes energy efficiency projects that have been recently completed by water and wastewater systems in NH. <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-11-25.pdf>

- **Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Energy Efficiency (DSIRE)**

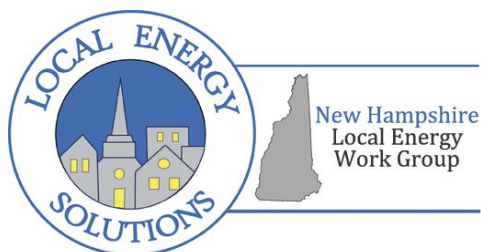
DSIRE is the most comprehensive source of information on incentives and policies that support renewables and energy efficiency in the United States. Established in 1995, DSIRE is currently operated by the N.C. Solar Center at N.C. State University, with support from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. DSIRE is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. dsireusa.org

- **DOE's Cash Flow Opportunity Calculator**

The Cash Flow Opportunity (CFO) Calculator helps decision-makers answer three critical questions about energy efficiency investments:

1. How much new energy efficiency equipment can be purchased from the anticipated savings?
2. Should this equipment purchase be financed now, or is it better to wait ?
3. Is money being lost by waiting for a lower interest rate?

energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings/find-financing/calculate-returns-energy-efficiency?c=assess_value.financial_tools



Contact the NH Local Energy Work Group for inclusions or deletions to this compilation. lesinfo@grassrootsfund.org

Visit nhenergy.org for local energy events, news, tools and resources.