

### **What is the renewable energy fund?**

The renewable energy fund was created to help promote renewable energy initiatives in New Hampshire. The renewable energy fund supports initiatives through rebates and grants. These projects produce electricity or useful thermal energy using hydro, wind, biomass (such as pellets and chips), methane gas or geothermal or solar technologies.

### **Where does the money for the renewable energy fund come from?**

Under New Hampshire law, a certain percentage of the electric energy supplied in the state must be from renewable fuels and resources. Electric providers who cannot purchase enough renewable energy or who cannot get it at a reasonable price are allowed to meet this requirement by making an alternative compliance payment to the renewable energy fund.

### **Is the funding for the renewable energy fund the same every year?**

No. The amount of alternative compliance payments to the renewable energy fund varies from year to year.

### **When is the funding level known?**

Electricity providers make their alternative compliance payments for the prior calendar year on July 1. Once those payments are made, an estimate of how much money will be in the renewable energy fund for the fiscal year, which also begins on July 1, is available. Providers also file a report showing how much energy was sold and how much of the energy sold was renewable and then account for the difference between the amount required to be renewable and the actual amount that is renewable, if any, with the alternative compliance payment. Those reports must be verified to make sure the payments made are correct. So while there is an estimate of the funding on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the actual funding available isn't known until sometime in September.

Once all the payments have been verified, budgets for the programs supported by the renewable energy fund get put together. The budgets are then reviewed and approved by the Commission. In past years, budgets have been approved as early as September and as late as November.

### **Why were the solar programs closed in July 2017?**

The programs were closed due to uncertainty about the funding that would be available. The estimated funding for the renewable energy fund for fiscal year 2018 is \$3.6 million, approximately \$1.3 million less than funding for the 2017 fiscal year. Funds available in the 2017 fiscal year for the solar rebate program were fully committed on May 23, 2017. When the 2017 fiscal year ended on June 30, applications on the waitlist for the residential rebate program exceeded \$500,000. Shortly after that, monies committed to applications on the waitlist for commercial and industrial customers reached approximately \$1 million. With funding estimates for fiscal year 2018 lower than actual funding in the 2017 fiscal year and over \$1.5 million committed to applications on the wait list, the Commission closed the program until the alternative compliance payments are verified and budgets for the 2018 fiscal year programs are approved.

### **If I've already submitted a step 1 preapproval application for a rebate, will my application still be processed?**

If we received your application for the residential solar and wind rebate program on or before June 30, 2017, your application will be processed. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

If we received your application for the commercial and industrial solar rebate program on or before July 13, 2017, your application will be processed. As with the residential applications, all applications received before July 14, 2017, will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Will my step 2 final request application for a rebate be affected by the closing of the programs?**

If your step 1 application was received before the program closed, your step 2 application is not affected by the closing of the program. Please be sure to submit your step 2 application after your system is installed and interconnected so that we can process your rebate.

Don't know if you've submitted a step 1 or step 2 rebate application? Visit the [sustainable energy renewable energy rebate page](#) for more information about the rebate application process.

**How will I know if my application was received after the program was closed?**

If your application for the residential solar and wind rebate program was received after June 30, 2017, it will be returned to you or to the solar installer you are working with if the installer sent in the rebate application for you. If the application is returned to your solar installer, you will also receive a letter from the Commission letting you know that your rebate application has been returned. Applications for the commercial and industrial solar rebate program received after July 13, 2017, will be returned to the applicant.

**How can I find out when the programs open again?**

We will post an announcement on our [website](#). Information regarding the re-opening of the programs will also be available in the dockets for the rebate programs. Please check in with us in September for more information.

**Will the rebate amounts and program terms and conditions be the same?**

It is possible there will be changes to the program terms and conditions prior to the programs reopening. Before that happens, there would be an opportunity for public input, though.

**Are the residential solar and wind rebate program and the commercial and industrial solar rebate program the only programs supported by the renewable energy fund?**

No, there are several programs supported by the renewable energy fund. In addition to the residential solar and wind rebate program, there is a solar water heating rebate program and a wood pellet boiler/furnace rebate program. For commercial and industrial customers, there are programs for solar rebates and wood pellet boiler/furnace rebates as well as a grant program. Beginning with the 2018 fiscal year, a new program will also be supported by the renewable energy fund. Legislation passed in 2017 sets aside no less than 15 percent of the renewable energy fund for projects designed to benefit low-moderate income residential customers. Possible projects include the financing or leveraging of financing for low-moderate income community solar projects in manufactured housing communities or in multi-family rental housing.