

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Intra-Department Communication

**DATE:** June 23, 2020

**AT (OFFICE):** NHPUC

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

**SUBJECT:** DE 10-024, DE 10-212, 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

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On June 18, 2020, Staff filed a memorandum recommending that the Commission approve 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. In response to Staff's recommendation, on June 19, 2020, several stakeholders submitted written comments to the Commission in opposition to that proposal. Written comments were received from: Morton Baily, Lyme Green Heat Inc.; Leslie Otten, Maine Energy Systems; Jared Mulliner, Maine Energy Systems; and Charles Niebling, Innovation Natural Resource Solutions LLC on behalf of Brett Jordan, Lignetics, Inc., Les Otten, Morton Bailey, Rob Riley of Northern Forest Center, and Mark Froling of Froling Energy.

The commenters cited the current state of emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic, as well as low oil and propane heating fuel prices, as the reasons for the residential pellet program's unexpended funds. To increase demand for residential bulk fed pellet boilers and furnaces, individual businesses have invested in marketing campaigns and the Northern Forest Center is about to commence a regional marketing and promotional effort focused on modern wood heating, according to the commenters.

Based on its review of the filed comments, Staff is revising its budget reallocation recommendation. This memorandum requests approval to amend certain residential and non-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 22, 2020, the Residential Solar PV and Wind Rebate program budget is nearly fully reserved. In contrast, the Commercial and Industrial Solar Rebate program has experienced only moderate

demand. The table below summarizes approximate available funds as of June 22, 2020 for each of these programs.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Approximate Funds Available</b>
Residential Solar PV and Wind Rebates	\$10,000
Commercial and Industrial Solar Rebates	\$500,000

Program Budget Reallocation Request

Based on anticipated demand, Staff recommends reallocating a total of \$75,000 from the Commercial and Industrial Solar Incentive program to the Residential PV and Wind Rebate Program. The recommended program budget adjustments are defined in the table below.

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY20 Budget</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjusted FY20 Budget</b>
Residential PV and Wind Rebates	\$1,279,854	\$75,000	\$1,354,854
Commercial and Industrial Solar Rebates	\$2,525,531	(\$75,000)	\$2,450,531

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 impacts of the proposed budget adjustments as an allocation percentage relative to each sector are highlighted below.

	<b>FY19</b>	<b>Percent Electric Sales by Sector</b>	<b>Percent REF by Sector</b>	<b>FY20 After Transfer</b>	<b>Percent Electric Sales by Sector</b>	<b>Percent REF by Sector</b>	<b>Two-Year Total</b>	<b>Two-Year %</b>
<b>Residential Sector</b>	\$1,673,705	41%	41%	1639118	42%	44%	\$3,312,823	42%
<b>Non-residential Sector</b>	\$2,408,503	59%	59%	2084973	58%	56%	\$4,493,476	58%
<b>Total</b>	\$4,082,208			\$3,724,091			\$7,806,299	

The recommended budget adjustments meet other statutory allocation requirements.

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 Renewable Energy Fund is expected at or around the start of the next fiscal year; July 1, 2020.

Staff recommends the Commission approve the transfer of \$75,000 from the Commercial and Industrial Solar Incentive program to the Residential PV and Wind Rebate Program, and authorize Staff to establish program waitlists if or when program FY20 budget funds become fully reserved.

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