

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission



NEW HAMPSHIRE RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2014

Submitted to:

THE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
ON ELECTRIC UTILITY RESTRUCTURING

Representative David Borden, Chair

THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Senator Russell Prescott, Chair

THE HOUSE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

Representative David Borden, Chair

I. Overview

This report provides an overview of the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) established pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law, and managed by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission). It also addresses renewable energy facilities whose electricity production is "net metered" or "group net metered" pursuant to RSA 362-A:9. The report is filed annually as required by RSA 362-F:10, IV.

The REF is a dedicated, non-lapsing fund, the purpose of which is to support electrical and thermal renewable energy initiatives, pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, I. Electricity suppliers must obtain renewable energy certificates (RECs) for set percentages of their retail electric load, as required by the RPS statute. A REC represents a megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity or an equivalent amount of thermal energy (3,412,000 Btu), generated from a renewable source.

RSA 362-F establishes four classes of renewable energy resources. Electricity suppliers must obtain RECs for each of the four classes.¹ In 2012, the RPS law was amended pursuant to SB 218 to add a subclass to Class I for renewable thermal energy. If electricity suppliers cannot or choose not to purchase or obtain sufficient RECs to comply with the RPS law, they must make alternative compliance payments (ACPs) to the REF. ACPs are the sole source of funding for the REF. Total ACPs fluctuate from year to year, depending on the price and availability of RECs in the regional market (comprising CT, RI, MA, ME and NH). ACP revenues, by year, are found below in Table I; REF revenue received for 2013, by class and by company, is found below in Table 2. Administrative expenses are found at Table 3.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, the Commission uses the REF to fund rebate and grant programs covering a range of thermal and electrical renewable technologies. Programs serve both the residential and non-residential sectors.

The statute mandates one-time incentive payments or rebates for small residential renewable generators (RSA 362-F:10, V). It also authorizes further rebate and grant programs for renewable thermal and electric energy projects (RSA 362-F:10, VIII). For all rebates and grants, projects funded must be located in New Hampshire. A summary of these rebate programs is found below in Table 4. Results of all rebate programs are found below in Tables 5 and 6.

The statute also mandates an annual request for proposals (RFP) for competitive grant awards to renewable projects in the non-residential sector (RSA 362-F:10, XI). A summary of the grants awarded in 2013 is found below in Table 7. A review of 2014 grant proposals is currently underway.

This report documents REF revenues for calendar year 2013 compliance and expenditures, and program activities during state fiscal year 2014 (FY14).

¹ Class I resources include renewable energy sources that began operation after January 1, 2006 and include wind, solar, geothermal, hydrogen derived from biomass fuels or methane gas, ocean thermal, wave, current, tidal energy, methane gas, eligible biomass technologies, incremental generation and the displacement of electricity from solar water heating systems. Class I includes a subcategory for useful thermal energy, pursuant to a 2012 amendment to RSA 362-F:3. Class II sources include facilities that produce electricity from solar technologies and began operation after January 1, 2006. Class III sources include landfill methane gas facilities and eligible biomass facilities that began operation on or before January 1, 2006. Class IV sources include qualified hydroelectric facilities that began operation on or before January 1, 2006.

REF program budgets and program expenditures in FY14 are presented in Table 8. The available funds for grant and rebate programs in fiscal year 2015 (FY15), net of transfers, administrative costs, and funds previously encumbered or committed are presented in Table 9.

Lastly, data on net metered renewable energy systems in New Hampshire are presented in Table 10, while data on group net metered energy systems are presented in Table 11.

II. REF Revenues and Administrative Costs

ACPs from electricity suppliers are made annually on or about July 1, for the prior calendar year. Thus, ACPs for 2013 were to be paid by June 30, 2014. Entities paying ACPs include New Hampshire’s electric utilities, as well as competitive electric power suppliers.

ACP REF revenues, by year, have been:

TABLE 1 – ACP REVENUES BY YEAR

July 2009 for CY 2008	\$ 4,483,917
July 2010 for CY 2009	\$ 1,348,294
July 2011 for CY 2010	\$ 2,625,499
July 2012 for CY 2011	\$19,121,853
July 2013 for CY 2012	\$9,323,198
July 2014 for CY 2013	\$17,585,980

ACP revenues in 2014 (for compliance year 2013) were \$17,585,980, as compared to the prior year’s revenue of \$9,323,198. This increase in revenue can mainly be attributed to a shortfall of Class I RECs. ACPs for Class I rose from \$3.04 million in 2013 to \$13.99 million in 2014.

ACP revenues for Class II also increased, from \$180,907 to \$291,656. Class III revenues declined from \$4,639,975 to \$1,731,400, and Class IV revenues increased slightly from \$1,457,845 to \$1,568,618.

The significant drop in ACP revenue for Class III was due to a reduction in the 2013 Class III REC requirement. In [Order No. 25,674](#), issued on June 3, 2014, the Commission reduced the Class III requirements for 2013 from 1.5% to 0.5% of an electricity provider’s retail sales. The Commission determined that, absent its intervention, pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, VI, there would be a substantial shortfall of Class III RECs for 2013, which in turn would result in high levels of ACPs, the costs of which would ultimately be borne by New Hampshire ratepayers. In recent years Class III RECs have been difficult to procure because sellers can get higher REC prices in other New England states; these states have higher ACPs for Class III RECs, which allows REC prices to exceed those in New Hampshire.

Table 2 below lists the utilities and other electricity suppliers that filed compliance reports for calendar year 2013, documents each company’s total ACP payments, and further breaks down these payments by renewable energy class. Where no revenue appears for a class, it is because the company obtained RECs to satisfy its obligation for that class.

TABLE 2 - ACP REVENUE FOR COMPLIANCE (CALENDAR) YEAR 2013

Company	Total	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Distribution Utilities					
Liberty Utilities (Granite State)	\$ 1,406,353	\$ 1,104,510	\$ 33,110	\$ 87,287	\$ 181,446
NHEC	\$ 103,509	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 103,509	\$ -
PSNH	\$ 8,808,817	\$ 7,451,180	\$ 133,650	\$ 597,713	\$ 626,275
PSNH GreenRate	\$ 45,419	\$ 44,594	\$ 825		
Unitil	\$ 172,673	\$ 50,765	\$ -	\$ 121,590	\$ 318
Unitil GreenRate	\$ 4,785	\$ 4,510	\$ 275		
Competitive Suppliers					
ConEdison Solutions	\$ 609,442	\$ 566,665	\$ -	\$ 42,777	\$ -
Constellation Energy	\$ 392,632	\$ 187,440	\$ 21,890	\$ 155,106	\$ 28,196
Devonshire (Fidelity)	\$ 100,848	\$ 69,795	\$ 605	\$ 9,009	\$ 21,439
ENH Power	\$ 1,193,437	\$ 940,335	\$ 26,895	\$ 70,970	\$ 155,237
Fairpoint Energy	\$ 171,616	\$ 134,970	\$ 3,905	\$ 10,269	\$ 22,472
First Point Power, LLC	\$ 415	\$ 330	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ 53
Glacial Energy	\$ 353,950	\$ 326,700	\$ 2,585	\$ 24,665	\$ -
Gulf Oil Limited Partnership	\$ 2,096	\$ 1,650	\$ 55	\$ 126	\$ 265
Hannaford/Competitive Energy	\$ 188,445	\$ 151,910	\$ -	\$ 11,466	\$ 25,069
Hess Energy Marketing (Direct Energy)	\$ 606,357	\$ 495,385	\$ -	\$ 103,446	\$ 7,526
Integrays Energy	\$ 567,618	\$ 420,475	\$ -	\$ 129,308	\$ 17,835
NextEra	\$ 577,604	\$ 303,985	\$ 13,805	\$ 81,522	\$ 178,292
Noble Americas	\$ 50,124	\$ 32,175	\$ 2,035	\$ 5,261	\$ 10,653
North American Power	\$ 697,381	\$ 554,950	\$ 15,895	\$ 41,895	\$ 84,641
PNE Energy	\$ 52,893	\$ 46,530	\$ -	\$ 6,363	\$ -
South Jersey Energy	\$ 32,910	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,332	\$ 22,578
South Jersey Energy (2011)	\$ 62,962	\$ 25,473	\$ 816	\$ 25,860	\$ 10,813
Texas Retail Energy (Walmart)	\$ 280,333	\$ 220,880	\$ 6,325	\$ 16,664	\$ 36,464
TransCanada	\$ 1,102,540	\$ 858,440	\$ 28,930	\$ 76,230	\$ 138,940
Xoom Energy New Hampshire LLC	\$ 821	\$ 660	\$ 55	\$ -	\$ 106
Total	\$ 17,585,980	\$ 13,994,307	\$ 291,656	\$ 1,731,400	\$ 1,568,618

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Unitil and PSNH paid ACPs for the green energy rate instead of buying RECs. PSNH's GreenRate payment was \$39,765 for 2013 and \$5,653.83 for 2011. Liberty has not made any ACP payments toward the green energy rate.

REF administrative expenditures cover the cost of managing the various rebate and grant programs and overseeing the resulting projects funded by the REF. Administrative costs to date have been:

TABLE 3 – ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, BY YEAR

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Actual
2010	\$376,735	\$217,581*
2011	\$360,326	\$226,042*
2012	\$237,594	\$224,754*
2013	\$391,670	\$369,260
2014	\$528,499	\$522,656**

*** Administrative costs were partially offset during these fiscal years with ARRA funds made available by the Office of Energy and Planning and the federal Department of Energy.**

**** Administrative costs increased in FY14, reflecting an increase in the number of rebate programs administered, and a substantial increase in the amount of rebate and grant funds disbursed.**

III. REF Rebate and Grant Programs

Pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, the Commission administers three residential renewable energy rebate programs, two commercial and industrial renewable energy rebate programs, and a competitive grant program for commercial-scale renewable energy projects.

Renewable Energy Rebate Programs

Rebate programs funded by the REF are described below in Table 4.

TABLE 4 – SUMMARY OF RENEWABLE ENERGY REBATE PROGRAMS

REF Rebate Programs	Eligible Technologies and Capacity Limits	Incentive Levels	Authority, Date of Inception
Residential electrical renewable energy rebate	Solar electric panels (PV systems), wind turbines, and other renewable electric generation up to and including 10 kilowatts	\$0.75 per watt up to a maximum of \$3,750, or 50% of the total cost of the facility, whichever is less	RSA 362-F:10, V July 2009
Residential solar hot water rebate	Solar water heating systems w/ capacity of 5.5 MMBtus or greater	\$1,500, \$1,700, or \$1,900 depending on system capacity	RSA 362-F:10, VIII April 2010
Residential wood pellet boiler/furnace rebate	Bulk-fed wood pellet central furnaces/boilers	30% of the system cost and installation, or \$6,000, whichever is less	RSA 362-F:10, VIII April 2010

Commercial & Industrial Solar Technologies rebate	PV systems and solar water heating systems up to and including 100 kW or thermal equivalent	\$0.80 per watt (A/C) for solar electric systems and \$0.07/rated or modeled kBtu/year (\$0.12 per thousand-Btu/year for systems of fifteen collectors or fewer in size) for solar thermal systems, and capped at \$50,000 or 25% of the total cost of the facility, whichever is less	RSA 362-F:10, VIII October 2010
Commercial and Industrial Wood Pellet Furnace/Boiler rebate	Non-residential bulk-fuel fed wood pellet boilers and furnaces of 2.5 million Btus or less	30% of heating appliance(s) and installation cost, up to a maximum of \$50,000; additionally, a rebate of 30% up to \$5,000 is available for thermal storage tanks and related components	RSA 362-F:10, VIII December 2013

Program results for the REF rebate programs in FY14 are summarized below in Table 5.

TABLE 5 – REF REBATE PROGRAM RESULTS FOR FY14

REF Rebate Program	# of applications	# rebates awarded ²	Rebate funds disbursed	Average rebate award
Residential PV/Wind	326	271	\$945,288	\$3,488
Residential Solar Water Heating	45	69	\$104,900	\$1,520
Residential wood pellet furnace/boiler	55	55	\$307,250	\$5,768
C&I solar electric and solar thermal	91	45	\$725,621	\$16,125
C&I wood pellet furnace/boiler	29	6	\$121,469	\$20,245
Totals	546	446	\$2,204,528	\$4,943

² The number of rebates awarded may exceed the number of rebate applications in instances where payments are made on applications received during the prior fiscal year.

Cumulative results for the rebate programs since their inception are shown below in Table 6.

TABLE 6 – CUMULATIVE REBATE PROGRAM RESULTS

REF Rebate Programs	# of applications	# of rebates awarded	Rebate funds disbursed	Rebate funds reserved or in process	Average rebate award	Aggregate applicant investment
Residential PV or wind	1,497	1,251	\$5,543,061	\$205,665	\$4,431	\$24,014,949
Residential solar water heating	479	438	\$939,500	\$21,200	\$2,145	\$2,904,204
Residential wood pellet*	242	201	\$1,154,505	\$207,505	\$5,744	\$3,313,388
C & I solar electric and solar thermal rebates	277	153	\$2,093,720	\$2,018,713	\$13,684	\$10,400,120
C&I wood pellet boiler/furnace	32	6	\$121,469	\$501,432	\$20,245	\$1,650,758
Totals	2,527	2,049	\$9,852,255	\$2,954,515	\$4,808	\$42,283,419

*Includes ARRA funded projects.

Commercial and Industrial Competitive Grant Program

RSA 362-F:10 requires the Commission to issue an annual RFP for non- residential renewable energy projects that are not eligible to participate in incentive and rebate programs developed under RSA 362-F:10, V and RSA 362-F:10, VIII.

In 2013, the Commission issued ten grant awards totaling \$3.8 million. Below is a summary table of the grant-funded projects.

TABLE 7 – REF COMPETITIVE GRANTS 2013

Grantee	Grant Amount	Project Description	Total Project Cost	Leveraged funds
Fall Mountain Regional School District	\$100,000	Install two wood pellet boilers	\$492,000	\$392,000
Fiske Hydro, Inc.	\$225,000	Refurbish hydroelectric dam in Hinsdale and increase generating capacity	\$362,000	\$137,000
Historic Harrisville, Inc.	\$150,000	Install three wood pellet boilers and storage tank	\$231,185	\$81,185
Holderness School	\$300,000	Install biomass district heating system for 24 buildings	\$3,950,000	\$3,650,000

Jericho Power, LLC	\$1,000,000	Install wind energy project on Jericho Mountain in Berlin	\$20,048,000	\$19,048,000
Northwood Renewables, LLC	\$125,000	Refurbish hydroelectric dam in Ashland and increase generating capacity	\$227,225	\$102,225
Pierce Solar, LLC	\$175,000	Install 192 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system at Franklin Pierce University	\$625,000	\$450,000
Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative	\$317,890	Install 119 kilowatt solar photovoltaic array at Plymouth wastewater treatment plant	\$427,980	\$110,090
Water Street Solar 1, LLC	\$1,220,000	Install 947 kilowatt solar photovoltaic array at Peterborough wastewater treatment plant	\$2,626,495	\$1,406,495
Xylogen, LLC	\$200,000	Install central biomass heating plant at school in Wilton	\$525,000	\$325,000
Totals	\$3,812,890		\$29,514,885	\$25,701,995

The Commission issued its annual RFP for renewable energy projects on August 21, 2014. Twenty-seven grant proposals requesting \$18 million were submitted to the Commission. The grant review process is currently underway.

IV. REF Program Budgets, Expenditures, and Current Balance

The Commission’s state appropriation for the REF for FY14 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) was \$7,838,062. Funds for rebate and grant programs, net of administrative expenses, totaled \$6,883,084 and were allocated between the residential and non-residential (commercial and industrial) sectors as follows:

Residential sector: \$2,220,000
Non-residential: \$4,683,084

Budgets and expenditures for the rebate and grant programs are shown below in Table 8.

TABLE 8 – FY 14 REF REBATE AND GRANT PROGRAM BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES

REF PROGRAM	FY 14 Initial Program Budget	FY 14 Program Expenditures	Program Funds Committed for FY15
Residential solar (PV) & wind	\$1,896,891	\$945,288	\$500,220
Residential solar hot water	\$220,500	\$76,000	\$21,200
Residential wood pellet boiler/furnace	\$575,819	\$416,778	\$77,634
C&I Solar (PV and solar thermal)	\$2,338,197	\$725,621	\$1,612,576
C&I biomass heating systems	\$629,140	\$121,469	\$466,068

C&I RFP*	\$4,300,000	\$614,136	\$4,371,061
Total Residential & C&I Programs	\$9,960,548	\$2,899,291	\$7,048,759

*The FY14 C&I RFP Initial Program Budget does not include \$1,636,640, which is reserved for the FY15 C&I RFP, and does not include the adjustments made to the other program budgets to account for the FY15 C&I RFP reserve, but the FY15 C&I RFP is included in the Program Funds Committed for FY15.

Table 9 below summarizes the available funds for grant and rebate programs in FY15, net of transfers, administrative costs, and funds previously encumbered or committed.

TABLE 9 – APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS FOR FY15

\$7,395,798	Cash Balance as of June 30, 2014
\$15,847,911	CY13 ACP Payments received in FY14
\$1,738,070	CY13 ACP Payments received in FY15
(\$373,534)	Legislature Commitment to Site Evaluation Committee (SB 245-FN)
\$24,608,244	FY15 Cash Available to REF programs
\$7,840,634	FY15 Legislative Appropriation
(\$518,573)	FY15 Administrative Costs (budgeted)
\$7,048,759	FY14 Encumbered and Committed Rebate and Grant Funds
\$14,370,820	FY15 Rebate and Grant Funds Available
(\$2,677,698)	Rebates Committed
(\$4,371,061)	RFP/FY 14 Grant Funds Awarded and Committed
\$7,322,061	FY15 Funds Available for REF Program Budgets
\$2,862,704	FY15 funds allocated to residential sector
\$4,459,357	FY15 funds allocated to C&I sector

Allocation of funding between residential and non-residential sectors

In 2010, the New Hampshire legislature required the Commission to reasonably balance REF expenditures between the residential and non-residential sectors over each two-year period beginning July 1, 2010, in proportion to each sector’s share of total retail electricity sales. In 2012, the legislature modified this requirement such that the Commission must reasonably balance the amounts expended, **allocated or obligated** during each two-year period. See RSA362-F:10, X.

For calendar years 2012 and 2013, retail electricity sales for the residential sector accounted for 41% of total retail sales, while sales for the non-residential (commercial & industrial) sector accounted for 59% of total retail sales.

In FY15, which is the first year of the two-year period beginning July 1, 2014, ACP funds have been budgeted as follows:

- Residential programs: \$2,862,704, or 39% of available funds
- Commercial & Industrial programs: \$4,459,357, or 61% of available funds

Funding cap for residential renewable electricity program

RSA 362-F:10, VI places a cap on spending for the residential rebate program for solar electric panels and wind turbines up to and including 10 kilowatts in capacity. No more than 40% of the REF can be allocated to this program, measured over two-year periods commencing July 1, 2010.

In FY15, which is the first year of a new two-year cycle commencing July 1, 2014, the Commission has allocated \$1,299,800 for the above-referenced residential renewable energy rebate program. This amount represents nearly 18% of available REF funds for FY15, well below the applicable biennial cap of 40%.

Use of Class II revenues for solar technology incentives

RSA 362-F:10, I requires that “Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire.” For calendar year 2013, ACPs for Class II were received in July 2014 in the total amount of \$291,656. In FY15, these funds and more will be budgeted and expended on various REF rebate and grant programs for solar energy technologies.

V. Inclusion of Thermal RECs in RPS

When the RPS law was enacted in 2007, it applied exclusively to *electrical* renewable energy resources. RSA 362-F:3 was amended in June 2012, however, to create a Class I subcategory for useful thermal energy and to require electricity suppliers to obtain thermal RECs beginning in 2013. Eligible thermal technologies include biomass, solar hot water or air, and geothermal heating and cooling systems, also known as ground source heat pumps. The Commission was charged with developing administrative rules to “adopt procedures for the metering, verification, and reporting of useful thermal output.” RSA 362-F:13, VI-a.

In Order [25,484](#), issued in April 2013, the Commission noted that, due to technical challenges with thermal metering standards, the rulemaking required by the statute could not be completed in time to certify facilities for the production of useful thermal energy RECs in 2013. Pursuant to its authority under RSA 362-F:4,V, the Commission delayed the implementation of the thermal REC requirement from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2014.

The Commission issued draft administrative rules (Chapter Puc 2500) on April 10, 2014, and anticipates that final rules will be in effect by the end of October 2014. The rules will be retroactive to January 1, 2014, in order to enable thermal energy facilities to qualify for production of thermal RECs beginning in the first quarter of 2014.

VI. Net Metered Facilities, Allowed Net Metered Capacity and Group Net Metering

Each utility’s total capacity of net metered facilities is listed in Table 10. The amounts of energy net metered by each utility are generally well below the allowed net metered capacity per utility as set forth in RSA 362-A:9, I. The New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, however, is at about 64% of its allowed net metered capacity. Overall, the total installed net metered capacity of 10.153 MW is approximately 20% of the allowed capacity of 50 MW, as of the end of 2013.

Table 10 – Total Net Metered Facilities as of December 31, 2013

Electric Utility	2013 # of Installs*	Total Installs to Date*	2013 Capacity Added (MW- DC)	Total Capacity to Date (MW)	Peak Load (MW)**	Allowed Net Metered Capacity (MW)**
Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric)	19	63	0.165	0.231	189	4.12
New Hampshire Electric Cooperative	88	360	0.627	2.026	124	3.16
Public Service Company of NH	215	912	1.879	6.999	1,588	36.55
Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.	26	109	0.148	0.897	268	6.17
Total Net Metered Facilities 2013	348	1,444	2.819	10.153	2,169	50

* Based on the utility reports to DOE (EIA Form 826) and includes system expansions.

** Based on the share of 2010 peak load pursuant to Puc 900 and RSA 362-A:9.

In July 2009, the Legislature enacted SB 98, amending RSA 362-A:9 to allow for group net metering, also known as virtual net metering. The law permits net-metered renewable energy facilities, known as hosts, to share the proceeds from sales of surplus electricity generation with other electric utility account holders, known as group members. In some cases, the group host and the group members may be the same party; for instance, a town might net meter a solar array and use the proceeds to offset utility expenses associated with other town electric meters, or they may be unrelated but working together under an agreement amongst themselves. The host and the group members must all be default service customers of the same distribution utility, meaning they may not procure energy from a competitive electric power supplier. Group net metering applications are reviewed by the Commission.

The Commission issued interim administrative rules (Chapter Puc 900) to implement group net metering on January 2, 2014. Draft final rules were issued on June 19, 2014. A public comment hearing was held at the Commission on August 27, 2014. The Commission is now reviewing written comments submitted after the hearing. It is expected that final rules will be submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules in November, 2014.

Table 11 below provides information about group net metering applications submitted to the Commission through September 15, 2014.

Table 11 – Group Net Metering Applications since January 2, 2014

Electric Distribution Utility	# of Applications Submitted	# of Applications Approved	Capacity of Approved Host Installations (kilowatts/megawatts)	Technology Employed
PSNH	20	17 ³	993 kW	16 PV, 1 Hydro
Liberty	2	2	54 kW	2 PV
NH Electric Co-op	1	1	22 kW	1 PV
Unitil	0	0	0	0
Totals	23	20	1.07 megawatts	19 PV, 1 Hydro

VII. Conclusion

Since its inception in July 2009, the Renewable Energy Fund has established six grant and rebate programs that have experienced substantial demand and growth over time. The REF has funded 2,049 rebates for renewable energy systems, and provided New Hampshire homeowners, businesses, schools, towns, non-profit organizations, and other eligible entities with \$9,852,255 in funding to develop these systems. In addition, the Commission’s competitive grant program has provided more than \$5 million in funding for renewable energy projects for schools, businesses, and municipalities, featuring technologies from biomass heating systems to hydroelectric project upgrades to photovoltaic arrays and solar hot air, among others. In 2014, it is expected that an additional \$ 3-4 million will be awarded through new grants for renewable energy projects.

These rebate and grant funds have been leveraged with \$75.2 million in private investment, providing a boost to the state’s economy and creating jobs for electricians, plumbers, and alternative energy businesses. In addition, there has been substantial growth in distributed generation renewable energy systems that serve to diversify our energy sources, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase our energy independence.

Demand for rebates and grant awards continues to be strong, as the 2013 and 2014 data set forth in this Report demonstrate.

³ Three applications are pending.