



Rhode Island Energy™

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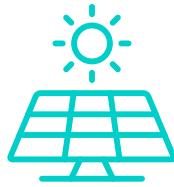
Rhode Island Renewable Energy Growth Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: January 28, 2025

Note: The purpose of this document is to educate customers and prospective customers about Rhode Island Energy's Renewable Energy (RE) Growth Program. This document is for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon for Program eligibility or other requirements. Please refer to the Renewable Energy Growth Program Tariffs, as well as the Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules, for Renewable Energy Growth Program eligibility and other requirements. Documents for both Residential and Non-Residential Customers can be found at the below website link under the section titled "RE Growth Program Tariffs and Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rule."

<https://www.rienergy.com/site/other-parties/business-partners/rfp-and-procurement/re-growth-program/related-links>



SMALL-SCALE SOLAR PROJECTS (25 KW OR LESS)

1) When can I apply/enroll in the Renewable Energy Growth Program?

Small-Scale Solar projects can enroll in the Renewable Energy Growth Program during a continuous open enrollment on a “first-come, first served” basis. Projects will be selected until the cap for the Program Year is filled, or until the Program Year ends. Please see “Enrollment Calendar and Submission Information,” which can be found at the website link on the front page.

2) I am very interested in solar. How do I find a solar installation firm?

Please refer to the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources’ list of current Rhode Island licensed Renewable Energy Professionals: <http://www.energy.ri.gov/policies-programs/for-vendors/renewable-energy-professional.php>.

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources provides additional information in their *Residential Guide to Going Solar*: <https://energy.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur741/files/documents/solar/Guide-to-Going-Solar.pdf>.

3) How can I negotiate and receive a higher rate for the generation?

The Performance Based Incentives are not negotiable and are fixed for the term of the applicable Tariff. The Performance Based Incentives (PBIs) are set by the DG Board and approved by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission. Please see section “Small-Scale Solar Projects” of “Enrollment Calendar and Submission Information,” which can be found at the website link here: <https://www.rienergy.com/site/other-parties/business-partners/rfp-and-procurement/re-growth-program/enrollment-calendar>

4) If I reside outside of Rhode Island, but have a vacation home in Rhode Island, are the rules different for me? No. Per the “Renewable Energy Growth Program for Residential Customers” Tariff, Section 1 (“Introduction”): “This Tariff will apply to an Applicant who has installed a Project with a nameplate capacity of up to and including 25 kilowatts at a Customer’s service location, or a Project with a nameplate capacity up to 250 kW that is operating as a Shared Solar Facility.” Further, as defined in the Tariff, a “Customer” is “an electric customer receiving retail delivery service on either Basic Residential Rate A-16 or Low-Income Rate A-60 and who is the customer of record at the location on which a Project is installed.” The “Renewable Energy Growth Program for Residential Customers” Tariff can be found at the website link on the front page.

5) Do I own the RECs associated with my Small-Scale Solar project? How do I register a Small-Scale Solar project with the ISO-NE and NEPOOL GIS?

Rhode Island Energy retains all Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for all projects that participate in the Renewable Energy Growth program. Rhode Island Energy will register all Small-Scale Solar projects with the ISO-NE and NEPOOL GIS on behalf of all Small-Scale Solar projects. All projects are required to cooperate with the Company to facilitate registration and participation in the ISO-NE markets and enable the creation of RECs in the NEPOOL GIS.

6) How do I obtain Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Certification of a Small-Scale Solar project as an Eligible Renewable Energy Resource?

Rhode Island Energy will do this on behalf of all Small-Scale Solar projects. All projects are required to cooperate with Rhode Island Energy to obtain qualification as an eligible renewable energy resource pursuant to the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Standard and other jurisdictions. Rhode Island Energy will do this on a project’s behalf, but a project must complete the REC Assignment Form and continue to cooperate with Rhode Island Energy in order to comply with this requirement. Therefore, Small-Scale Solar projects should not seek qualification on their own.

7) How are Performance Based Incentives (PBI's) calculated?

Upon an applicant's acceptance and formal enrollment within the Renewable Energy Growth Program, a fixed kWh value will be established for the Performance Based Incentive, effective for the term of the contract and indicated on the Certificate of Eligibility provided to the Applicant. The Performance Based Incentive Payment will be calculated based on the fixed kWh rate as defined in a participant's Certificate of Eligibility, and it shall be provided to the Applicant and/or to the Bill Credit Recipient(s) in accordance with the tariff guidelines. For your site solar generation, you will receive a Performance Based Incentive payment consisting of a bill credit up to your monthly kWh site usage, and then a direct payment of any remaining Performance Based Incentive value. Your monthly home kWh usage will be calculated as normal with the retail kWh rates, and then directly subtracted from your PBI monthly payment based on your system generation. The PBI value will be calculated using your monthly usage or your monthly system generation, whichever is less. The rest of the PBI amount is then paid to you. Two examples may help clarify:

Month 1

REGrowth Project Energy Generation: 200 kWh

PBI rate: 32.25 cents/kWh

PBI total: 200 kWh * 32.25 cents = \$64.50

Customer Energy Usage: 300 kWh

Total Retail Rate: 16 cents/kWh (illustrative)

Total Charges for Electricity Use: 300 kWh * 16 cents = \$48.00

Total Net Bill: \$48 – (Bill Credit: 200 kWh x \$0.16) = \$16 plus the customer charge, taxes, and any other applicable charges

Net PBI: \$64.50 - \$32 bill credit = **\$32.50 payment to you**

Month 2

REGrowth Project Energy Generation: 400 kWh

PBI rate: 32.25 cents/kWh

PBI total: 400 kWh * 32.25 cents = \$129.00

Customer Energy Usage: 300 kWh

Total Retail Rate: 16 cents/kWh (illustrative)

Total Charges for Electricity Use: 300 kWh * 16 cents = \$48

Total Net Bill: \$48 – (Bill Credit: 300 kWh x \$0.16) = \$0 plus the customer charge, taxes, and any other applicable charges

Net PBI: \$129.00 - \$48 bill credit = \$81.00 payment to you

In short, if you use more than your system generates, you will owe an amount that's equal to such usage. If you generate more than you use, then your bill credit will reduce your energy charges to zero, and you will receive the additional amount of the PBI above the retail rate. The additional kWh you generated will be paid at the full PBI. All value is paid out each month, so there is no carryover of credits between months.

8) What is Shared Solar?

Please see Section 2.6 ("Shared Solar") of the "Rhode Island Renewable Energy Growth Program Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Small-Scale Solar Projects," which can be found at the website link on the front page.

In general, this option enables owner/tenant situations, multi-family/ multi-business buildings, and campuses the ability to share solar. It also provides flexibility for locating arrays. The host applicant will build a system that will incorporate the combined usage of all accounts. All accounts associated with a shared solar system must be in same customer class (i.e., residential or commercial) and must be located on the same or adjacent parcel of land as the generator, with the exception of public entities. The applicant for the shared solar system, known as the host, must designate at least 2 and no more than 50 recipients to participate. Each participant is known as a bill credit recipient. The host must provide all bill credit recipient billing account(s), percentage share of output and other required information on the Payment/Credit Transfer Form at time of application. Once the application is processed and connected Rhode Island Energy will create another account for PBI billing purposes only.

9) Please explain how Shared Solar PBI's are calculated.

Please see Section 6 of the "Renewable Energy Growth Program Tariff for Residential Customers" Tariff for a detailed description of how the Shared Solar PBIs are calculated. This Tariff can be found at the link found at the website link on the front page.

For the solar generation output, the full Performance Based Incentive (PBI) amount will be determined by the generation, in the form of bill credits on each recipient's account and as cash payments. Monthly generation must be allocated to the bill credit recipient's accounts. Each recipient will receive a bill credit each month based on their allocated generation or usage, whichever is less. The retail usage kWh rates in effect will be directly credited to each bill credit recipient's bill. The host direct payment will be the total PBI less the sum of the bill credits of all the recipients. If a bill credit recipient's usage is less than the allocated generation, the remaining generation will be included as part PBI and will be distributed to the host as part of the direct payment

Here are some examples that may help clarify:

Example 1:

Total Generation: 1800 kWh
PBI rate: 29.45 cents / kWh
PBI total: \$530.10 (Total Generation multiplied by PBI rate)

1st Bill Credit Recipient:

Allocation Percent: 35%
Generation Allocation: 630 kWh (Allocation Percent multiplied by Total Generation) Usage: 570 kWh
kWh for Bill Credit Determination: 570 kWh (the lesser of Generation Allocation or Usage)
Total Retail Rate: 16 cents/kWh (illustrative)
Bill Credit: \$91.20 (kWh for Bill Credit Determination multiplied by Total Retail Rate)

2nd Bill Credit Recipient:

Allocation Percent: 65%
Generation Allocation: 1170 kWh (Allocation Percent multiplied by Total Generation) Usage: 1030 kWh
kWh for Bill Credit Determination: 1030 kWh (the lesser of Generation Allocation or Usage)
Total Retail Rate: 16 cents/kWh (illustrative)
Bill Credit: \$164.80 (kWh for Bill Credit Determination multiplied by Total Retail Rate) Net PBI Direct Payment:
\$274.10 (PBI total – Sum of all Recipient's Bill Credits)

Example 2 (Allocation Percent Different from Example 1):

Total Generation: 1800 kWh
PBI rate: 29.45 cents / kWh
PBI total: \$530.10 (Total Generation multiplied by PBI rate)

1st Bill Credit Recipient:

Allocation Percent: 20%
Generation Allocation: 360 kWh (Allocation Percent multiplied by Total Generation) Usage: 570 kWh
kWh for Bill Credit Determination: 360 kWh (the lesser of Generation Allocation or Usage)
Total Retail Rate: 16 cents/kWh (illustrative)
Bill Credit: \$57.60 (kWh for Bill Credit Determination multiplied by Total Retail Rate)

2nd Bill Credit Recipient:

Allocation Percent: 80%

Generation Allocation: 1440 kWh (Allocation Percent multiplied by Total Generation) Usage: 1030 kWh

kWh for Bill Credit Determination: 1030 kWh (the lesser of Generation Allocation or Usage)

Total Retail Rate: 16 cents/kWh (illustrative)

Bill Credit: \$164.80 (kWh for Bill Credit Determination multiplied by Total Retail Rate) Net PBI Direct Payment:

\$307.70 (PBI total – Sum of all Recipient's Bill Credits)

10) Can I transfer my Certificate of Eligibility?

Yes, a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) may be transferred. In the case of Small-Scale Solar projects, to complete the transfer, Rhode Island Energy will require all of the standard Renewable Energy Growth application material, completed by the new COE holder. This includes a completed Payment/Credit Transfer Form, and a completed and signed REC Assignment Form. Upon satisfactory completion and submission of the documentation, Rhode Island Energy will issue a new COE to the transferee, under the same tariff through which the previous COE was issued.

11) What happens after 15 / 20 years? Does the system owner get to use the electricity generated for the balance of the system life?

At the end of the Tariff term for the Renewable Energy Growth Program, the system owner may keep, dismantle or sell the system. The Seller may participate in whatever programs are available at the time the Tariff expires or sell into the wholesale electric market. Rhode Island Energy cannot predict or advise what programs or pricing would be available to the Seller at that time in the future.

12) What happens if the system owner is not the Rhode Island Energy Account Holder?

All documentation must be in the Rhode Island Energy Account Holder's name. If the solar system is leased to someone other than the Account Holder, the Account Holder has two options: Call customer service 1-855-RIE-1101 and request the billing customer's name be changed or submit the application package in the Account Holder's name.

13) The customer's pertinent information is incorrect. What should I do?

If the information listed on the Rhode Island Energy Account is incorrect, the Account Holder has two options: Call customer service 1-855-RIE-1101 and request the Account Holder information be updated, or submit documentation with the information the way it is displayed on their Rhode Island Energy Account.

14) How do I obtain my usage?

Customers may log onto their Rhode Island Energy Account online and retrieve their usage history or can call customer service at 1-855-RIE-1101 and request usage history. Customers can request average bill information if the customer has not been located at their premise for over 12 months.

15) What is required for Renewable Energy Growth Small-Scale Solar projects at the time of submittal?

The application package consists of the following components:

1. Renewable Energy Growth Application
2. Site Diagram
3. Technical Specifications - Cut Sheets, Specs, and Technical References for all Equipment being used
4. Exhibit A – Simplified Interconnection Application
5. Exhibit I – Retail Customer Agreement
6. Payment / Credit Transfer Form
7. REC Assignment and Aggregation Form
8. ACH Authorization Form
9. W-9
10. Ownership and Segmentation Affidavit (must be notarized)
11. Solar Consumer Protection Disclosure Form (Self Installer, Third-Party, or Direct Ownership)

16) What could prevent my system from being interconnected?

The following are examples of deficiencies that could prevent your system from being interconnected:

1. Not submitting the entire completion package. The completion package consists of the following components, available here:
<https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/ri-process>
 - a. Certificate of Completion
 - b. As-builts
 - c. Commissioning Memo
 - d. Close out Pictures
2. Not submitting the Encrypted documents via the Egress Switch that was provided at Conditional Approval.
3. The local building department's final inspection documents are not provided to allow the work request to be closed out.

17) What is the Service Upgrade form?

The Renewable Energy Growth program requires an additional Meter to be installed on site, which is requested through a Service Upgrade form. Regarding the construction of the additional meter socket, the municipal inspection associated with the new meter socket must be cleared by the **Local Town Electrical Inspector or Authority Having Jurisdiction**. This requirement **CANNOT** be cleared by sending in a certificate of completion document. The three options are:

- 1: Call 800 375 7405, hit option 1 to clear Municipal Inspections using the VRU system.
- 2: Fill out Municipal clearance form (supplied at the time of conditional approval) and fax 888 266 8094, or email to:
workrequest@rienergy.com
- 3: Call 800 375 7405, hit option 2 to speak to a representative

18) What are the Renewable Energy Growth Installation Requirements?

Overhead Service Installations

1. At the home, provide single service from the weather head to a multi-gang meter socket, for installation of the multiple meters required for Renewable Energy Growth.
2. Or, at the home, provide parallel services from the weather head to individual meter sockets, for installation of the multiple meters required for Renewable Energy Growth.

Note: Installation of a single service from the weather head to a junction box mounted on the side of the house, which would subsequently serve individual meter sockets is not acceptable. Bifurcation of the service for the purposes of serving multiple meters related to Renewable Energy Growth is only acceptable at the weather head.



UNDERGROUND SERVICE INSTALLATIONS

Provide single service to house, which will feed a multi-gang meter socket, for installation of the multiple meters required for Renewable Energy Growth. Expansion joint is required for the feeder entering the meter socket, which is consistent with Rhode Island Energy standard practice for meter installation.

Note: Due to the nature of underground service installations, a multi-gang meter socket is the only acceptable means of installation.

19) What types of forms are required in the NCAP Application Portal?

Small-Scale Solar projects have 4 e-signed forms that can be filled out in the portal (Application, Payment Credit Transfer (PCT) form, REC, Service Upgrade form). The remaining documents will have to be pre-signed if needed and uploaded to the portal (Copy of Customer's Rhode Island Energy Account Holder's Bill (within the last three months), Affidavit – Notarized, Electrical Single Line Diagram, Site diagram, Tech sheets (panel and inverter), and Service Upgrade form).

20) How does Rhode Island Energy handle documents that contain sensitive information?

Rhode Island Energy's priority is to protect our customers' sensitive information. We have a secure email link called Egress Switch that encrypts documents such as Automated Clearing House (ACH) and the W-9.

21) What is a "Third-Party Application"?

Rhode Island Energy considers any application that has a system owner other than the Rhode Island Energy Account Holder a Third-Party Application. Any Third-Party Applications must submit an Exhibit I, available here <https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/ri-process>, at the time of Interconnection submittal.

22) What is Project Segmentation, and how is it defined?

Please see Section 3 ("Project Segmentation") of the "Renewable Energy Growth Program for Residential Customers" Tariff, which can be found at the website link at the top of the page.

23) Are Batteries allowed under the Renewable Energy Growth program?

Energy Storage Systems ("ESS"), such as electro-chemical batteries, that can store and release electrical energy, may be co-located with Renewable Energy Growth qualifying projects. When the ESS is located behind-the-meter of a customer and able to charge from the electric power system, the ESS must be configured in a manner that they cannot export through the Renewable Energy Growth production meter. When configured to charge directly from the Renewable Energy Growth system, ESS must be configured so that any energy used for back-up supply purposes is not measured by the Renewable Energy Growth production meter. Please see the available links titled "ReGrowth Energy Storage System (ESS)- AC Coupled" and "ReGrowth Energy Storage System (ESS)- DC Coupled" on the Standards, Regulations, and Documents page of the Rhode Island Energy Distributed Generation Portal under Simplified Guidance Documents. <https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/ri-process>

24) What solar systems are eligible for inspection?

All facilities shall be subject to inspection for quality and quantity assurance by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, or its duly contracted agents, at the request of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources or its agent. Failure to allow such inspection in reasonable time and with full access to the facility will be considered a potential cause for termination or suspension of PBI payments until cured.

25) What are self-installers and new installers required to do?

Self-installers and new installers who have not installed a Renewable Energy Growth Small-Scale Solar project prior to the 2019 Program Year are required to complete mandatory training through a webinar prior to submitting an interconnection application. The training, offered by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources and found on its website, is a recorded webinar that discusses the Minimum Technical Requirements and the unique interconnection requirements of the Renewable Energy Growth Program. A Certificate of Completion, indicating that the installer has completed the training, must be submitted with the interconnection application. The training can be found at the following website: <https://energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/wind/renewable-energy-growth-program-reg-program>

26) What is the difference between Net Metering and the Renewable Energy Growth Program?

The Renewable Energy Growth Program is separate and distinct from Net Metering. An eligible DG project can elect to receive compensation under the Net Metering Provision, [R.I.P.U.C. No.2241](#). A Net Metering project can supply their own power to offset their energy consumption through a netting process that compensates customers with Net Metering credits designed to even out monthly billings over twelve months. Customers participating in Net Metering are not eligible for participation in Renewable Energy Growth Program. DG projects participating in the Renewable Energy Growth Program can receive direct payment of a fixed performance-based incentive (PBI) in the form of a check or other mutually agreed upon payment method for the output of the project each month, after subtracting the value of customer bill credits.

27) Can I have Net Metering and Renewable Energy Growth on the same account?

No, this is not permitted. See Net Metering Provision, [R.I.P.U.C. No.2241](#), for more information on Net Metering.

28) Can I switch from Renewable Energy Growth to Net Metering?

No, a project that has finished construction and has received a final Certificate of Eligibility may not “switch” to Net Metering. A project that has a conditional Certificate of Eligibility may terminate their conditional Certificate of Eligibility, as described in Section 9 (“Termination”) of the Residential Tariff, or have their conditional Certificate of Eligibility expire, as described in Section 2.4 of the “Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Small-Scale Solar projects.” Both of these documents can be found at the link at the top of this page. Please note that wanting to switch from Renewable Energy Growth to Net Metering will not be deemed a justifiable reason to terminate a Renewable Energy Growth Program conditional Certificate of Eligibility. However, the following exception applies: If the customer has a facility enrolled in Renewable Energy Growth and installs an additional renewable energy facility that they would like to enroll in Net Metering, then the original facility may be transferred from Renewable Energy Growth to Net Metering. For full details, see the Renewable Energy Growth Residential Tariff and the Net Metering Provision, [R.I.P.U.C. No.2241](#).

29) Can a system that is enrolled in Renewable Energy Growth switch enrollment to a new program year?

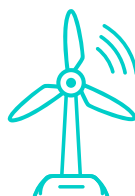
No, a system that has been enrolled in the Renewable Energy Growth Program (i.e. a system has been issued a Certificate of Eligibility) may not reenroll in a new program year without first terminating their Certificate of Eligibility, as described in Section 9 (“Termination”) of the Residential Tariff, or letting their conditional Certificate of Eligibility expire, as described in Section 2.4 of the “Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Small-Scale Solar projects.” In addition, these documents should be reviewed to confirm that the project is eligible to reenroll. Both of these documents can be found at the link at the top of this page. Please note that the desire to obtain a new program year’s ceiling prices will not be considered a justifiable reason for termination.

30) What is the Solar Consumer Protection Disclosure Form?

The Solar Consumer Protection Disclosure Form is a required form that the developer must review with the customer which outlines the rights of solar consumers. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources is in the process of updating this form during 2023. Please make sure you are downloading the most recent version of this form. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources has created a website for all the materials related to the implementation of the 2022 Residential Solar Energy Disclosure and Homeowner’s Bill of Rights Act. You can view the law and forms here: <https://energy.ri.gov/resources/major-initiatives/solar-consumer-protection>.

31) What information is shared publicly?

Rhode Island Energy provides general project information to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission on a quarterly basis. This project information may include, but is not limited to, system specifications, project location, and incentive program enrollment. Customer name and service address are redacted from all documents provided to the Commission for sharing publicly. Additional data and information may be shared with the Distributed Generation Board, the Office of Energy Resources, and their vendors.



SOLAR (GREATER THAN 25KW), WIND, HYDRO AND ANAEROBIC DIGESTER PROJECTS

32) When can I apply/enroll in the Renewable Energy Growth Program?

There will be three enrollments per program year (April 1 through March 31). Each enrollment will be open for a two (2) week period. Please see the Renewable Energy Growth website, which can be found at the website link at the top of the page, for anticipated dates for this program year.

33) What is the largest distributed generation system size eligible to participate in the Renewable Energy Growth Program? Is nameplate capacity measured in AC or DC?

Please see Schedule 2 and 3 of the "Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Solar (Greater than 25kW), Wind, Hydro and Anaerobic Digester Projects." As described in Section 1.2 of the Enrollment Rules, each Program Year, the DG Board will set the eligible system class sizes, subject to Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission approval. These class sizes are subject to change each year. All projects and targets in the Renewable Energy Growth Program are stated in nameplate capacity. Per Section 1.2 of the Rules, the nameplate capacity of a Project is its maximum rated output or gross output of a generator; for solar technology, it is the total rated power output of all the panels measured in direct current (DC).

34) I understand I need an Impact Study for Renewable Distributed Generation (ISRDG) for my project in order to apply in the upcoming enrollment period. How do I apply for an ISRDG? All applicants to the Renewable Energy Growth Open Enrollments must have an ISRDG completed prior to applying or have a valid Interconnection Service Agreement. A valid Interconnection Service Agreement means an agreement executed by both the interconnecting customer and Rhode Island Energy. You can submit an application for interconnection and request a study at the following link: <https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/ri-process>

35) I will not have a completed study prior to submitting an application. Are there any exceptions?

No. All projects are required to have a completed interconnection study or Interconnection Service Agreement included with their application at the time of submittal. Applications without either a completed interconnection study or a valid Interconnection Service Agreement will be rejected.

36) At what point in the enrollment process do I negotiate the amount Rhode Island Energy will pay me under our contract?

The Renewable Energy Growth Program does not operate under a contract, nor are there any negotiations of payment amounts between Rhode Island Energy and Renewable Energy Growth Program participants. Terms and conditions for participation in Renewable Energy Growth are described in Renewable Energy Growth Program Tariffs, as well as the Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules, which can be found at the website link at the top of the page. Terms and conditions specific to an awarded project can be found in the project-specific Certificate of Eligibility, if awarded.

37) I need to make a change to my online application that was previously submitted. How can I correct this?

If you submit an application but wish to make changes, you will need to re-submit a new application via the online web portal during an open enrollment period. If multiple applications are submitted for the same project, the application with the latest date/time stamp submittal will be evaluated by Rhode Island Energy in the current open enrollment. All prior application submissions for that project will not be evaluated.

38) Who determines the ceiling prices accepted in the Renewable Energy Growth Program, and how frequently?

For each program year, the DG Board will recommend the Ceiling Prices for each renewable energy class, subject to Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission approval.

39) Will the performance guarantee deposit be refunded if the project is not selected?

The performance guarantee deposit is due *after* a project has been selected.

40) What happens after 20 years? Does the system owner get to use the electricity generated for the balance of the system life?

At the end of the Tariff term (Renewable Energy Growth Program), the system owner may keep, dismantle or sell the system. The Seller may participate in whatever programs are available at the time the Tariff expires or sell into the wholesale electric market. Rhode Island Energy cannot predict or advise what programs or pricing would be available to the Seller at that time in the future.

41) What constitutes a “valid Interconnection Service Agreement”?

A valid Interconnection Service Agreement is one that has been signed by both the applicant and Rhode Island Energy.

42) I have been awarded a Certificate of Eligibility. Can I speak with the Company regarding next steps and Renewable Energy Growth Program requirements?

Yes. If desired, the program representative can set up a one-on-one call to discuss your Certificate of Eligibility and answer questions you may have regarding the Renewable Energy Growth Program Tariffs, as well as the Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules. Please let us know via email at cleanenergycontracts@pplweb.com, and we will schedule a Microsoft Teams meeting with you.

43) I have been awarded a Certificate of Eligibility from the Company. What happens next?

Pursuant to Section 3.d of the Tariff, after receiving the Certificate of Eligibility, the Applicant must provide the Output Certification within: (1) 48 months for Small DG Projects using hydropower; (2) 36 months for anaerobic digestion; or (3) 24 months for all other DG Projects. If the Output Certification is not received within the specified timeframe, the Certificate of Eligibility will be voided, and the Deposit will be forfeited. Once a DG Project has provided the Output Certification to Rhode Island Energy, the project then has 90 days to meet all other requirements specified in Section 8(a) to receive payment pursuant to the Tariff.

44) What is an Output Certification?

Please see Section 2 (“Definitions”) of the Non-Residential Tariff. An Output Certification is a certification provided by an independent engineer (licensed Professional Engineer) stating that construction of both the DG Project and the interconnection facilities is complete in all material respects, that the metering has been installed and tested, that the Nameplate Capacity is as on the Certificate of Eligibility, and that the DG Project is capable of producing at least 90% of the maximum hourly output specified on the Certificate of Eligibility.

45) What is the purpose of the Output Certification and why is it important?

The Output Certification provided by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission confirms the eligibility of the system as a Renewable Energy Resource and assigns a unique certification number. It also provides the effective date of the Performance Based Incentive payments, which is then used to finalize the Certificate of Eligibility. The finalized Certificate of Eligibility, alongside all required Payment Information Document, are used to initiate the Performance Based Incentives

46) How do I obtain Certification from the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission that the DG Project is an Eligible Renewable Energy Resource in Rhode Island?

All DG Projects are required to obtain Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Certification of the DG Project as an Eligible Renewable Energy Resource as a condition for payment under the Tariff. A DG Project must apply for eligibility with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission via the Renewable Energy Resources Eligibility Form (RES Form). RES Forms shall be submitted to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission. The application and process for obtaining eligibility can be found on the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission website here: <https://ripuc.ri.gov/utility-information/electric/rhode-island-renewable-energy-standard-ri-res-program>. All projects are encouraged to begin the application process early, as it can take up to 90 days for Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission approval.

47) I am attempting to complete and submit my RES Form with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, but I do not have my ISO-NE asset ID yet. How can I start this process without this information?

A DG project cannot be registered with the ISO-NE until the project is fully constructed, interconnected and all metering equipment has been tested and communication has been verified. Once the project has achieved these requirements, a project can be registered with the ISO-NE, which can take up to 10 business days. A DG project can submit their RES Form to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission without the ISO-NE asset ID and the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission can give the DG project a "conditional" approval, subject to the completion of the ISO-NE asset registration. The project would then supplement their Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission filing with the ISO-NE asset ID.

48) Can I transfer my Certificate of Eligibility?

Yes, a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) may be transferred. To complete the transfer, Rhode Island Energy will require all of the standard Renewable Energy Growth application material, completed by the new COE holder. This may include a completed Payment/Credit Transfer Form, and a completed and signed REC Assignment Form. Upon satisfactory completion and submission of the documentation, Rhode Island Energy will issue a new COE to the transferee, under the same tariff through which the previous COE was issued. Please make sure to submit updated contact information for the new COE holder to Rhode Island Energy via the Distributed Generation Portal.

49) Where can I find the results of previous Open Enrollments?

Please see the "Open Enrollment Results" Section on the Renewable Energy Growth website at the link posted at the top of this page.

50) What is the difference between Net Metering and the Renewable Energy Growth Program?

The Renewable Energy Growth Program is separate and distinct from Net Metering. An eligible DG project can elect to receive compensation under the Net Metering Provision, [R.I.P.U.C. No.2241](#). A Net Metering project can supply their own power to offset their energy consumption through a netting process that compensates customers with Net Metering credits designed to even out monthly billings over twelve months. Customers participating in Net Metering are not eligible for participation in Renewable Energy Growth Program. DG projects participating in the Renewable Energy Growth Program can receive direct payment of a performance-based incentive (PBI) in the form of a check or other mutually agreed upon payment method for the output of the project each month. Alternatively, if a project can be configured to serve on-site load and meets the sizing requirements and limitations defined in the applicable Tariffs, it also has the option to be compensated via a combination of a direct payment and a customer bill credit each month.

51) Can I have Net Metering and Renewable Energy Growth on the same account?

No, this is not permitted. See Net Metering Provision, [R.I.P.U.C. No.2241](#), for more information on Net Metering.

52) Can I switch from Renewable Energy Growth to Net Metering?

No, a project that has finished construction and has received a final Certificate of Eligibility may not “switch” to Net Metering. A project that has a conditional Certificate of Eligibility may terminate their conditional Certificate of Eligibility, as described in Section 11 (“Termination Provisions”) of the Non-Residential Tariff, or have their conditional Certificate of Eligibility expire, as described in Section 2.3.2 of the “Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Solar (Greater than 25 kW), Wind, Hydro, and Anaerobic Digester Projects.” Both of these documents can be found at the link at the top of this page. Please note that wanting to switch from Renewable Energy Growth to Net Metering will not be deemed a justifiable reason to terminate a Renewable Energy Growth Program conditional Certificate of Eligibility. However, the following exception applies: If the customer has a facility enrolled in Renewable Energy Growth and installs an additional facility that they’d like to enroll in Net Metering, then the original facility may be transferred from Renewable Energy Growth to Net Metering. For full details, see the Renewable Energy Growth Non-Residential Tariff and the Net Metering Provision, [R.I.P.U.C. No.2241](#).

53) Can a system that is enrolled in Renewable Energy Growth switch enrollment to a new program year?

No, a system that has been enrolled in the Renewable Energy Growth Program (i.e. a system has been issued a Certificate of Eligibility) may not reenroll in a new program year without first terminating their Certificate of Eligibility, as described in Section 11 (“Termination Provisions”) of the Non-Residential Tariff, or letting their conditional Certificate of Eligibility expire, as described in Section 2.3.2 of the “Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Solar (Greater than 25 kW), Wind, Hydro, and Anaerobic Digester Projects.” In addition, these documents should be reviewed to confirm that the project is eligible to reenroll. Both of these documents can be found at the link at the top of this page. Please note that desire to obtain a new program year’s ceiling prices will not be considered a justifiable reason for termination.

54) What is the Solar Consumer Protection Disclosure Form?

The Solar Consumer Protection Disclosure Form is a required form that the developer must review with the customer which outlines the rights of solar consumers. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources is in the process of updating this form during 2023. Please make sure you are downloading the most recent version of this form. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources has created a website for all the materials related to the implementation of the 2022 Residential Solar Energy Disclosure and Homeowner’s Bill of Rights Act. You can view the law and forms here: <https://energy.ri.gov/resources/major-initiatives/solar-consumer-protection>.

55) What information is shared publicly?

For selected projects, the project name, owner, address and contact information, project description, nameplate capacity, maximum hourly output, Performance Based Incentive amount and term, and ceiling price are all publicly filed with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission. Additional data and information may be shared with the Distributed Generation Board, the Office of Energy Resources, and their vendors.

56) I am pursuing Federal Investment Tax Credits. Am I obligated to inform Rhode Island Energy?

Yes. As defined in Section 2.1.3 (“Application Completeness and Timeliness”) of the “Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Solar (Greater than 25 kW), Wind, Hydro, and Anaerobic Digester Projects,” which can be found at the website link provided at the top of this page, Applicants are required to provide to Rhode Island Energy information on whether the project intends to qualify for Federal Investment Tax Credits. This will be done through the application process or upon request by the Company during each open enrollment period.

57) Will the information I provide on the Federal Investment Tax Credits I am pursuing be used in the evaluation and selection process for the Renewable Energy Growth Program?

No. The information collected on Federal Investment Tax Credits a project is pursuing is not used in the selection process. It is required to be provided to Rhode Island Energy for an application to be deemed complete and eligible for evaluation.



HISTORICAL PROGRAM QUESTIONS

58) Is the Solar Carport Incentive a part of this year's Open Enrollments?

No, the Solar Carport Incentive Pilot program has ended as of Program Year 2022.

59) What was the definition of a Solar Carport?

During the Solar Carport Incentive Pilot program, a Solar Carport was defined as: the portion of the direct current (DC) nameplate capacity of a Solar DG Project that is installed above a permeable and/or non-permeable existing or new parking area and associated access and walkway areas (as recognized by the local municipal building and/or zoning department), which is installed in a manner that maintains the function of the area beneath the structure, and is continued to be used or available for use for such purposes for the term of enrollment in this tariff.

60) What if there are changes in the DC nameplate rating of the Solar Carport portion of a project once built?

Any change in the DC nameplate rating of a Solar Carport portion of a project as-built must be provided to the Company prior to Authority to Interconnect, and adjustments to the Solar Carport Incentive will be reflected in the final Certificate of Eligibility provided to the Customer. No changes to the Solar Carport portion of the project are permitted after the project is operational.

61) Does the Project owner for a previously enrolled Solar Carport project have to provide final cost?

Yes. The project owner shall provide final cost data, with documentation to verify costs (invoices, contracts, etc.) for the carport's canopy structure and mounting system at the time of approval of final Certificate of Eligibility as a condition for receiving payment of the PBI and Carport Adder.

Useful Links

- Rhode Island Main Page, including Interconnection Process, Documents, Incentives and Programs, Project Guidance, FAQs and Useful Links, and Portal Assistance. <https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/ri-process>
- Chapter 39-26.6 of The State of Rhode Island General Laws - The Renewable Energy Growth Program: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE39/39-26.6/INDEX.HTM>
- Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission: <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/>
- Independent System Operator (ISO) New England: <http://www.iso-ne.com/index.html>
- New England Power Pool Generation Information System (NEPOOL GIS): http://www.iso-ne.com/committees/comm_wkgrps/mrkts_comm/geninfo_sys/operating/index.html