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This webinar will begin promptly at 2:05PM. Thank you for your time.

Renewable Energy Growth Program Program Year 2025 Developers' Conference

<u>Rhode Island Energy Panelists:</u> Kenny Campbell, RE Growth Open Enrollment Lead Xue Coleman, RE Growth Open Enrollment Specialist

April 17, 2025



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Developers' Conference Housekeeping



During this Developers' Conference:

- Attendees will only be able to see the Panelists, not each other;
- All Attendees will be muted;
- The video function is disabled for all Attendees;
- The chat function is disabled; however,
- Attendees are able to ask questions of the Panelists using the Q&A feature.

This conference will not be recorded - the recording function is fully disabled.

The presentation used during this conference will be posted to the Rhode Island Energy (RIE) <u>Renewable Energy Growth Program website</u> for viewing after this conference concludes.

Thank you for your participation!

Submitting Questions



Rhode Island Energy will be presenting an overview of the Renewable Energy (RE) Growth Program, with a focus on the changes to Program Year 2025. Time is reserved for Q&A at the end of the presentation.

| To submit questions during this confer | rence, please click the "Q&A" | icon 🎴 | at the bottom of your screen – |
|--|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| a chat box should appear and allow ye | ou to enter your question. | Q&A | 1 |

Type your question into the box, send, and it will be visible to the Panelists. Please note, only the panelists will be able to see the questions submitted unless it is answered (via a written response).

The RIE Team will queue submitted questions and plans to respond to them at the end of the presentation. If you would like an official response to a question, please email <u>regnonsmallsolar@pplweb.com</u> for General Inquiries or questions about the Non-Small-Scale Solar Program, or <u>cap@rienergy.com</u> for questions on the Small-Scale Solar Program.

Disclaimer: Any statements herein describing or providing reference to documents and agreements are summaries only and are qualified in their entirety by reference to such documents and agreements, including the Renewable Energy Growth Program Tariffs and Rules, as well as the Solar Siting Bill. Further, the Developers' Conference presentation is intended for general information and discussion purposes only; answers to questions provided during today's presentation may not represent an official response by RIE.

Agenda



RE Growth Program Overview

Program Year 2025 Updates

- Small-Scale Solar Standard Performance-Based Incentives (PBIs)
- Residential Project Sizing Limitations
- Non-Small-Scale Solar Ceiling Prices (Unchanged)
- Plan A and Plan B Megawatt Allocation Plans
- Termination Provisions
- Assessor's Maps
- Other Program Updates, Including the Brownfield Remediation Incentive
- Open Enrollment Schedule
- Helpful Links

Q&A

Note: The Renewable Energy Growth Program is abbreviated as "RE Growth" in this presentation, and as "REG" in other locations.



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RE Growth Program Overview

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RE Growth Program Overview



- RE Growth Program complies with <u>R.I. General Laws § 39-26.6</u>.
- RIE has provided the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (RI PUC) approved Tariffs and Rules, available on <u>RIE's RE Growth website</u>.
- There are a variety of Renewable Energy Classes which differ by technology and project size.
- RE Growth Program is broken up into Small-Scale Solar and Non-Small-Scale Solar projects, as described on the next slide.
- Initial Performance Guarantee Deposits (PGDs) are required for all projects, except for Small-Scale Solar and Medium-Scale Solar projects, up to \$75,000.
- The <u>RIE Interconnection Documents page</u> has a tremendous number of resources regarding the interconnection process, including sample one-line diagrams for residential/small commercial solar projects, and Energy Storage System (ESS)-AC Coupled and DC-Coupled guidance diagrams.
- The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) has additional information on the RE Growth Program on their <u>OER website</u>.

Note: Changes in project ownership must be communicated to RIE through the CEI department..

RE Growth Program Overview



Small-Scale Solar

- Nameplate capacity of up to and including 25 kW DC.
- Ongoing enrollment period on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Standard Performance-Based Incentive (PBI) in cents per kWh generation.
- Apply to RE Growth via an interconnection application.

Non-Small-Scale Solar (Solar >25 kW, Wind, Hydro, Anaerobic Digestion)

- Three, two-week open enrollment periods in 2025, where developers must fill out a short-form application to RIE, which includes a bid price that is at or under the Ceiling Price for the applicable Renewable Energy Class.
- Applications will be reviewed to determine if the project meets specified eligibility and minimum threshold requirements.
- Projects that meet the above requirements will be awarded based on the bid price, up to the Renewable Energy Class megawatt target for the year.
- Projects must be operational within 24, 36, or 48 months, depending on the project type.
- Successful enrollees may choose to be paid directly for all output as a PBI, or may receive a combination of bill credits and the residual value of the PBI.



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Program Year 2025 Updates

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Small-Scale Solar Standard PBIs



• The Standard PBIs for Small-Scale Solar I and II for Program Year 2025 are provided below:

| Renewable Energy Class (Nameplate kW) | Ceiling Price/Standard PBI (Inclusive of assumed eligible federal incentives) (cents/kWh) | Term of Service (years) |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Small-Scale Solar I (>0-15 kW DC) | 33.85 | 15 Year Tariff |
| Small-Scale Solar II (>15-25 kW DC) | 32.35 | 20 Year Tariff |

- The PY2025 Megawatt Allocation for Small-Scale Solar projects is 9 MW DC.
- The currently available capacity for RE Growth Small-Scale Solar can be found at the following webpage: https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/article/Residential-Renewable-Energy-Growth-program-available-cap.

Residential Project Sizing - Changes





Residential Standard DG Projects can now be sized up to 25 kW DC, regardless of their actual on-site usage.



Residential Shared Solar Projects still need to be sized to produce electricity at an annual level equal to or less than the aggregate on-site use of the Residential Customer and the bill credit recipient(s), as measured over the previous three (3) years at the eligible electric service account(s) located on the same or adjacent parcels of land.



Residential Shared Solar Projects, which allow for the sharing of bill credits to bill credit recipients on the same or adjacent parcels of land, is unchanged in Program Year 2025.



Previously, Residential Standard DG Projects were sized to produce electricity at an annual level equal to or less than the three-year average on-site usage. This requirement has been removed.

Non-Small-Scale Solar Ceiling Prices

- In Program Year 2024, the RI PUC approved 3-year ceiling prices for all Renewable Energy Classes, except for Small-Scale Solar I and Small-Scale Solar II.
- For Non-Small-Scale Solar:
 - The PBI paid is the price bid during the Open Enrollment in cents/kWh, which must be less than or equal to the applicable ceiling price.
 - PBIs are paid at a fixed rate for 20 years, providing revenue certainty for developers.

| Renewable Energy Class | <u>2024 Ceiling</u> Price (per <u>kWh)</u> | 2025 Ceiling Price (per <u>kWh)</u> | <u>2026 Ceiling</u> Price (per <u>kWh)</u> | <u>Term of</u> Service (Years) |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Medium-Scale Solar (>25 kW-250 kW DC) | <u>33.15</u> | <u>31.95</u> | <u>31.35</u> | <u>20</u> |
| Commercial-Scale Solar I (>250-500 kW DC) | 29.35 | 28.55 | 28.35 | 20 |
| Commercial-Scale Solar II (>500 to <1,000 kW DC) | 24.45 | 23.75 | 23.55 | 20 |
| Large-Scale Solar I (1 to <5 MW DC) | 18.65 | 18.05 | 17.85 | 20 |
| Large-Scale Solar II (5 to <10 MW DC) | 18.05 | 17.45 | 17.25 | 20 |
| Large-Scale Solar III (10 to <15 MW DC) | 18.05 | 17.45 | 17.25 | 20 |
| Large-Scale Solar IV (15 to <39 MW DC) | 18.05 | 17.45 | 17.25 | 20 |
| CRDG Commercial-Scale Solar I (>250-500 kW DC) | 32.25 | 31.45 | 31.25 | 20 |
| CRDG Commercial-Scale Solar II (>500 to <1,000 kW DC) | 27.35 | 26.65 | 26.35 | 20 |
| CRDG Large-Scale Solar I (1 to <5 MW DC) | 21.35 | 20.75 | 20.52 | 20 |
| Wind (>0 to 5,000 kW) | 20.25 | 19.85 | 19.85 | 20 |
| CRDG Wind (>0 to 5,000 kW) | 22.05 | 21.65 | 21.75 | 20 |
| Anaerobic Digestion (>0 to 5,000 <u>kW)</u> | 19.05 | 18.95 | 19.05 | 20 |
| Hydroelectric (>0 to 5,000 kW) | 34.15 | 33.35 | 33.45 | 20 |

Plan A and Plan B Megawatt Allocation Plans

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- Large-Scale Solar projects will only be eligible to bid in the Program Year 2025 Third Open Enrollment.
- The Plan A Megawatt Allocation Plan • will be used unless there is an ASO #3 Transmission Attrition Study that is not complete and valid forty-five (45) days prior to the anticipated opening of the Third Open Enrollment, or unless the Company determines that the ASO#3 applications will be unable to bid due to events for which the Company is not at fault. If either of these conditions are met, the Plan B Megawatt Allocation Plan will be used.

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|---|--|--|
| Renewable Energy Class | Plan A 2025 Annual Enrollment Target (Nameplate MW) | Plan B 2025 Annual Enrollment Target (Nameplate MW) |
| Medium-Scale Solar (>25 – 250 kW DC) | 6 | 6 |
| Commercial-Scale Solar I (>250 to 500 kW DC) | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| Commercial-Scale Solar II (>500 to <1,000 kW DC) | 7 | 7 |
| Large-Scale Solar I (1 to <5 MW DC)** | 20 | 10 |
| Large-Scale Solar II (5 to <10 MW DC)** | 30 | 0 |
| Large-Scale Solar III (10 to <15 MW DC)** | 15 | 0 |
| Large-Scale Solar IV (15 to <39 MW DC) | 0 | 0 |
| CRDG Commercial-Scale Solar I (>250 to 500 kW DC)** | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| CRDG - Commercial-Scale Solar II (>500 to <1,000 kW DC) | 1 | 1 |
| CRDG Large-Scale Solar 1 (1 to <5 MW DC) | 5 | 5 |
| Community Remote and Non-Community Remote Wind | 3 | 3 |
| Anaerobic Digestion (>0 to 5,000 kW) Small-Scale Hydropower (>0 to 5,000 kW) | 1 | 1 |

Termination Provisions – New Requirements



Once granted a Conditional Certificate of Eligibility, an early termination is considered only under the following criteria:

- 1) A formal request for termination must be submitted to the Company, via the RE Growth Termination Request Form posted on RIE's <u>RE Growth website</u>.
- 2) The Termination Request responses will be compared to the Termination Provisions of the applicable Tariff to determine whether it aligns with the allowable conditions specified in the Tariff. RIE may request additional information or documentation prior to a decision.
- 3) Termination will be granted if the Applicant cannot fulfill their obligations:

Due to an event or circumstance that is beyond the Applicant's reasonable control

AND

... for which the Applicant could not prevent or provide against by using commercially reasonable efforts.

Assessor's Maps – New Requirements





Beginning in Program Year 2025, assessor's maps must show the parcel location of the proposed project as well as the parcel location, size and renewable technology of any other [adjacent] renewable energy pending projects or projects which have received a final COE in the past 24 months and have the same owner and/or developer.

Tax Credit Eligibility & Project Segmentation Affidavit are still be required to confirm the Applicant understands and is complying with the prohibition on project segmentation.



The intent of the assessor's map is to prevent against project segmentation. The addition information required on the assessor's map allows the Company to review projects to ensure compliance.

Other Program Year 2025 Updates





For projects that are paid their PBI as a combination of bill credits and residual cash payments, the value of the bill credits will not be allowed to exceed the value of the PBI.



Updated Solar Consumer Protection Disclosure Forms are available on <u>RI OER's "Solar</u> <u>Consumer Protection" page</u>. <u>The 2025 version of this form will be required starting on</u> <u>May 19th, 2025.</u>



Brownfield Remediation Incentive (Coming Soon, Pending Further RI PUC Review)

- For Large-Scale Solar I and II projects sited on a brownfield that requires remediation at the time of application
- One-time payment of \$140/kW DC of nameplate capacity and is offered for the portion of a project that is sited on a brownfield requiring remediation.
- Pilot will remain in effect until \$2.5 million has been allocated, subject to an interim review by the RI PUC after three Program Years.

Open Enrollment Schedule



• First Open Enrollment is anticipated to begin on April 21st, 2025.

| Anticipated Timeline | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Event | Date | |
| Enrollment Begins | 4/21/2025 | |
| Due Date for Submission of Applications | 5/2/2025 | |
| Notice of Selection | 5/26/2025 | |
| Notice of Non-Selection | 6/6/2025 | |
| File Results with RI PUC for approval and issuance | 6/10/2025 | |
| of Medium-Scale Solar Conditional COEs | 6/10/2025 | |
| RI PUC Approval (expected) | 8/8/2025 | |

- Second Open Enrollment is anticipated to begin on June 16th, 2025.
- Third Open Enrollment is anticipated to begin on August 18th, 2025.





- RE Growth Program Main Website: <u>https://www.rienergy.com/site/other-parties/business-partners/rfp-and-procurement/re-growth-program</u>
- RE Growth Program Enrollment Calendar & Submission Information Website: <u>https://www.rienergy.com/site/other-parties/business-partners/rfp-and-procurement/re-growth-program/enrollment-calendar</u>
- RE Growth Program Related Links & Tax Policy: https://www.rienergy.com/site/other-parties/business-partners/rfp-and-procurement/re-growth-program/related-links
- Rhode Island Main Page, including Interconnection Process, Documents, Incentives and Programs, Project Guidance, FAQs and Useful Links, and Portal Assistance: <u>https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/</u>
- Rhode Island Interconnection Documents: <u>https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/article/RI-Interconnection-Documents</u>
- For Non-Small-Scale Solar projects, RI PUC link for applying to be an eligible Renewable Energy Resource - <u>https://ripuc.ri.gov/utility-information/electric/rhode-island-renewable-energy-standard-ri-res-program</u>





Questions & Answers

Submitting Questions



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at the bottom of your screen -

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