



**RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND**

POWERED BY RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE



# Commercial-Scale Program

Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund (REF)

REVISED: June 2026

## Request for Projects

## Eligibility Checklist- Questions for potential applicants:

Eligibility Questions:	Yes/No
1. Do you own the property in which you want to install solar?	
2. Does the area in which you want to install solar have good-decent access to the sun? <i>(If unsure, please ask your installer about the shade analysis report being at a minimum of 80% TSRF)</i>	
3. Is the property in which you want to install solar located in Rhode Island?	
4. Will your project be net metered?	
(If you answer <b>no</b> to any of these questions, you may not eligible. If you are unsure about the questions, please contact <a href="mailto:REF@commerceri.com">REF@commerceri.com</a> )	

## Things to know:

- ✓ The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) and Rhode Island Energy Renewable Energy Growth (REG) programs cannot be combined. It is only allowed for applicants to choose between one. Not both.
- ✓ The REF Grant Programs are for net metering projects only. Eligible projects must be net-metered systems serving on-site electrical load or eligible nonprofit off-takers under a PPA structure.
- ✓ Projects utilizing virtual net-metering (VNM) are not eligible for funding under the REF Grant Programs.
- ✓ Must own the property where the project will be installed. If that land is leased, an agreement with the owner must be executed.
- ✓ Projects must be located in Rhode Island.
- ✓ Applicants can only apply for one grant program per individual project. Cannot combine.
- ✓ The REF Grant Programs are for Direct-Ownership Projects (D.O).
  - Including the exception of eligibility for non-profits under the Third-Party-Ownership (TPO) application.
- ✓ Please submit a complete electronic copy for all sections
  - Submit applications to: [REF@commerceri.com](mailto:REF@commerceri.com)
- ✓ Deadlines can be found at: <https://commerceri.com/renewable-energy-fund/>

## PURPOSE:

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (Commerce RI) seeks to fund commercial scale renewable energy projects to generate electricity. All projects must be in accordance with the [Rules and Regulations for the Renewable Energy Fund Development Programs](#). All applications for project funding should be submitted on forms found on [Commerce RI's website](#). Applications will be accepted any time during the open solicitation period.

## ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGIES:

1. Those technologies set forth in R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26-5.
2. Projects that have the ability to generate electricity or aid in electricity usage.
3. Solar Water Heaters or Solar Domestic Hot Water (SDHW).

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- Incentives are only available for systems that have not been installed (partially or completely) prior to REF approval of an incentive application submitted.  
- The grants are funded per project (per meter, per property (building)).

## ELIGIBLE SECTORS:

- Businesses
- Institutions
- Non-profits (eligible for the D.O or TPO application option)
- Municipalities
- State Facilities

## PROJECT FUNDING:

Commerce RI will award grants based on the rated DC capacity of a renewable energy project. Please refer to the table below for instructions. Incentive levels for this solicitation are as follows:

## Commercial Scale Projects

D.O* (TPO**- non-profits)	Solar Carport Adder	System Size	Energy Storage
\$0.70/W	\$0.55/W	For the first 0-50kW	\$0.50/W
\$0.40/W	\$0.55/W	For the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 50kW (up to 100kW)	This adder is based on the maximum continuous power rating the energy storage component of the project can deliver over three hours
\$0.30/W	\$0.55/W	For the 3 <sup>rd</sup> 50kW (up to 150 kW)	
\$0.20/W	\$0.55/W	For the 4 <sup>th</sup> 50kW (up to 200 kW)	
-	\$0.55/W	For the 5 <sup>th</sup> 50kW (201 kW and up)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum \$75,000/project</li> <li>• \$150,000 cap/block/installer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum \$200,000/project</li> <li>• \$600,000 cap/block/installer</li> </ul>	(unused funds will go to pending Small Scale applications or general funds)	Maximum \$40,000/project

<b>Solar Carport</b>	<b>Definition:</b> 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 carport.	
<b>SDHW***:</b>	Commerce RI will award grants based on the total contract price to install the system.	Maximum funding level is capped at \$4,000.00 per unit with 25% of total contract price.

\* Direct Ownership

\*\* Third Party Ownership- (eligibility for Non-profits only)

\*\*\*Solar Water Heaters or Solar Domestic Hot Water (SDHW)

- Funding level information and remaining balance is located on the REF webpage.
- All funding levels are subject to change.
- Notification towards funding level changes would be made a block prior.
- Subject to availability of funds.

For more details and updates, please refer to the REF webpage under "Grant Funding Level Information."  
<https://commerceri.com/renewable-energy-fund/>

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

<b><u>QUALIFICATION INFORMATION</u></b>	
The applicant should be a solar contractor, 3 <sup>rd</sup> party finance company, or other professional entity approved by Commerce RI.	
<b>Registered in Rhode Island:</b>	Applicant/Installer registered to do business in RI ( <a href="http://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/business-portal">http://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/business-portal</a> )
<b>Registered with the State of Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhode Island law requires anyone who is in the business of commercial construction, home construction, alterations, remodeling, or repair to residents to be registered with the State of Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board. <a href="https://crb.ri.gov/">https://crb.ri.gov/</a></li> <li>• Please provide a scanned copy of the registration card.</li> </ul>
<b>Rhode Island Renewable Energy Professional License (REP):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a sub-license of an electrical license. A master electrician can do everything under the REP. One of the two are sufficient.</li> <li>• All sub-contractors are under the responsibility of the developer/installer</li> <li>• This license is required if you plan to advertise or respond to state RFPs for solar installations.</li> <li>• Please read the description and FAQ section for clarity. You can apply through the link provided: <a href="https://energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/solar/renewable-energy-professional-rep">https://energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/solar/renewable-energy-professional-rep</a></li> </ul>
<b>Master Electrician License:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Electrical Contractor's License already includes the work allowed by the REP limited license.</li> <li>• Only contractors or individuals without an electrical license are required to obtain the REP limited license to perform ancillary non-electrical work on renewable energy systems.</li> <li>• Please provide this information in the application.</li> </ul>

REQUIRED ITEMS	DESCRIPTIONS
1. Application	Fill out all fields within the Commercial Scale application.
2. An executed turnkey contract	The contract must be between the project site owner and a renewable energy installer or developer and it must match the REF application. The contract must include and specify the REF rebate amount and the system size. The contract should be contingent upon receiving funding from Commerce RI's Renewable Energy Fund and provide content to an alternative option in going solar if the project is not accepted under the REF program. <b>Applications sent in without an executed contract will be not be accepted.</b>
3. Signed Agreement	An agreement between the project site owner/installer and the host customer must be included with the application. This could be in a form of a Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) or a net metering agreement. The agreement should be contingent upon receiving funding from Commerce RI's Renewable Energy Fund to reflect its savings onto the host customer. (Applicable to TPO projects)
4. Proof of Funds	Proof of project funds must be provided to verify that the project will be constructed upon REF grant application approval. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Acceptable options:</b> Bank statements, a signed document from the applicants' bank stating proof of sufficient funds, or the applicant can also send us a document that simply states that your company or the customer has the funds to secure and allocate to pay for the remainder of the solar project being constructed with a signature from the company's CEO, CFO or a financial executive.</li> </ul>
5. Electricity Bill	A complete copy of most recent (less than a year old) electricity bill (if new construction, please include a request for service from Rhode Island Energy)  For new buildings or buildings with no energy history, this would be an exception. We will accept the electricity bill once they receive them for the first month. Just make sure that you mention this in the application as well. Or an Electrical Service request from the utility. <a href="https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RIEC/s/forms">https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RIEC/s/forms</a>
6. A minimum 3-year workmanship	A minimum <b>3-year workmanship</b> warranty on labor associated with the installation. Include a copy of workmanship warranty (if not included with turnkey contract).
7. W-9 and ACH form	An ACH form is now required to receive payment. Completed ACH & W-9 forms for the system owner ( <b>less than a year old</b> ). Form can be found here: <a href="http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf">http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf</a>
8. For Projects 500 kW or greater:	<b>According to Rhode Island Energy:</b> Prior to submitting an Interconnection Application through either the Expedited or Standard Process (see Sections 3.2 of R.I.P.U.C. 2163 Standards for Connecting Distributed Generation), all Interconnecting Customers with Facilities that are 500 kW or greater must request and receive a Pre-Application Report from the Company. <b>Please Provide a copy at application.</b> <a href="https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/article/RI-Interconnection-Documents">https://portalconnect.rienergy.com/RI/s/article/RI-Interconnection-Documents</a>

<b>9. Land Owner proof of documentation</b>	Letter of intent that is binding for the use of the property, a lease agreement, or any related document of proof. (if applicable)
<b>10. Final Inspection:</b>	Commerce RI reserves the right to inspect all projects before final funding is released.
<b>11. Project Completion:</b>	Projects must be completed within <b>eighteen (18) months</b> of contract signing.

<b>ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO SOLAR PV; SDHW, SOLAR CARPORTS PROJECTS:</b>	
<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>
<b>1. Shade analysis or diagram</b>	Please refer to the <b>REF Minimum Technical Requirements</b> Document posted on the REF webpage for full details: <a href="#">REF Minimum Technical Requirements 2025-12</a>
<b>2. Layout drawing</b>	Of the project which shows location of all major equipment and possible roof obstructions
<b>6. Electrical drawing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>For PV:</b> One-line or three-line electrical drawing must be included with application.</li> <li><b>For SDHW:</b> Cross-section drawing of roof showing the size, spacing, and rafter run.</li> </ul>

<b>ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO WIND PROJECTS:</b>	
1) Max equipment size would reflect the funding tier above, capping at the max incentive amount per site per customer	
2) Only 2 projects (at maximum funding level) for wind projects annually. Subject to change as updates may occur.	
<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>
<b>1. FAA Approval</b>	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Provide a copy
<b>2. Letter or Copy of city/town ordinance</b>	Proof that the project is permissible within jurisdictional authority (Either a letter or copy of city/town ordinance will suffice)
<b>3. Project location site plan/Layout Drawing</b>	Which shows location of all major equipment, laydown zone of turbine, and shadow flicker predictions
<b>4. Manufacturer's specifications</b>	Manufacturer's specifications for all major equipment.

5. Detailed system output	Forecasted for the project including an explanation of all assumptions
6. Electrical drawing	System one-line or three-line electrical drawing

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO **HYDRO OR ANAEROBIC DIGESTER PROJECTS:**

Max equipment size would reflect the funding tier above, capping at the max incentive amount per site per customer

ITEMS	DESCRIPTIONS
1. Letter or Copy of city/town ordinance	Proof that the project is permissible within jurisdictional authority (Either a letter or copy of city/town ordinance will suffice)
2. Layout drawing	Drawing of project site which clearly label all major equipment including but not limited to the dam, intake canal, tailrace, powerhouse, sluice gate, and point of grid interconnection.
3. Manufacturer's specifications	Manufacturer's specifications for all major equipment.
4. Detailed system output	Forecasted for the project including an explanation of all assumptions
5. Electrical drawing	System one-line or three-line electrical drawing

#### FOR ALL OTHER QUESTIONS:

Please contact the REF staff at [REF@commerceri.com](mailto:REF@commerceri.com) for application questions.