



**The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid**

**Rhode Island Renewable Energy Growth Program  
Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Small-Scale Solar  
Projects**

***Effective Date: April 1, 2019***

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## **I. Introduction and Overview**

National Grid (the Company) would like to welcome you to the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Growth Program (RE Growth Program). The RE Growth Program seeks to make it easy and attractive to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at the homes and businesses of National Grid's customers. An applicant (Applicant) to the RE Growth Program may be a solar developer or a National Grid customer.

Residential customers or their developers may apply for the RE Growth Program on a first-come, first-served basis. These solar systems will earn "Bill Credits" for the customer from the energy produced and used, and the remainder of the Standard Performance Based Incentive (PBI) payment for the renewable energy certificates from the enrolled system and any excess production. This program year's Standard PBIs are listed in Schedule 2 in this document.

Non-residential customers or their developers may also apply to the RE Growth Program on a first-come, first-served basis. These solar systems will have the option to receive the entire incentive payment directly or a combination of a direct payment and a Bill Credit for the customer, as specified in the Non-Residential Tariff.

This document provides information on the Solicitation and Enrollment Rules necessary to participate and enroll in the RE Growth Program.

### **1.1 Purpose of the Solicitation and Enrollment**

The RE Growth Program was developed pursuant to Chapter 26.6 of Title 39 of the Rhode Island General Laws to facilitate the development of and compensation paid to distributed generation (DG) projects in Rhode Island. These Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules for Small-Scale Solar Projects (Rules) provide the means by which a project can qualify for and enroll in the RE Growth Program. The Rules are only part of the RE Growth Program documents and should be read along with the Company's RE Growth Program Tariff for Residential Customers and the RE Growth Program Tariff for Non-Residential Customers (together, the Tariffs). Any term not defined in the Rules is defined in the Tariffs.

A Small-Scale Solar Project is a solar project with a nameplate generating capacity up to and including twenty-five kilowatts (25 kW). A Small-Scale Solar DG Project's nameplate capacity is the total rated power output of all solar panels measured in direct current (DC).

Under the RE Growth Program, National Grid will not execute contracts with Applicants.

### **1.2 Enrollment Framework**

National Grid is operating the RE Growth Program, as guided by the Distributed Generation Board (Board) in consultation with the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER). The RE Growth Program is subject to the approval of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (Commission). National Grid may also consult with the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division).

For each program year, there will be a target amount of megawatts (MW) to be enrolled for the year (annual MW target), which will be based on the projects' aggregate nameplate capacity. The nameplate capacity of a solar project is the total rated power output of all solar panels measured in DC. A "program year" means a year beginning April 1 and ending March 31.

A total of at least 3 MW of capacity shall be carved out exclusively for Small-Scale Solar Projects in each of the first four (4) program years. The Board may recommend and/or the Commission may adopt a new annual MW class target for Small-Scale Solar Projects. Please see Schedule 1 for the currently approved annual MW target for Small-Scale Solar Projects.

For each program year, the Board will recommend the Standard Performance-Based Incentive (PBI) for each renewable energy class, subject to Commission approval. Small-scale solar projects will receive a Standard PBI under the tariff, further described in Section 2.1. See Schedule 2 for the approved Standard PBIs for the current program year.

### **1.2.1 Applications**

During each program year, Applicants can enroll at any time until the annual MW target for the Small-Scale Solar Project class has been met, including the possible availability of additional capacity under the annual MW target. Applicants may elect to participate in the RE Growth Program within their application for interconnection, pursuant to the Company's Standards for Connecting Distributed Generation tariff. There is no separate enrollment application for Small-Scale Solar Projects.

To be eligible to receive approval for the current program year's tariff rates and capacity allocations, Small-Scale Solar Applicants must submit and the Company must receive all required forms and documentation, as listed on the RE Growth application checklist, and all must be filled out and signed with no deficiencies of information, by 4 p.m. Eastern Prevailing Time on March 31, 2019. Any application which is found to be missing required forms or information that is supplied after that time and date will be considered for participation in the following program year at that year's tariff rates and class allocations.

Applicants will be selected for the RE Growth Program in accordance with the provisions below.

## **1.2.2 Eligibility Requirements**

### 1.2.2.1 Introduction

To be eligible, a Small-Scale Solar Project must meet certain requirements, and National Grid will review the interconnection application to determine whether the project meets these requirements. Projects that do not meet eligibility requirements will be disqualified from the RE Growth Program.

### 1.2.2.2 Eligible Applicant

An Applicant must be in good standing with regard to obligations to National Grid. Such obligations include but are not limited to being current with amounts due on the electric service account(s) or fulfilling the requirements of an approved payment plan.

Self-installers, and new installers who have not installed an RE Growth Small-Scale project prior to the 2019 Program Year will be 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, will be a recorded webinar that discusses the Minimum Technical Requirements and the unique interconnection requirements of the RE Growth Program. A Certificate of Completion, indicating that the installer has completed the training, must be submitted with the interconnection application.

### 1.2.2.3 Eligible Facilities

To be eligible as a Small-Scale Solar Project, a project must: (1) be a Small-Scale Solar renewable energy resource; (2) have a nameplate capacity equal to or less than 25 kW; and (3) interconnect with the Company's electric power system. A Small-Scale Solar Project's nameplate capacity is the total rated power output of all solar panels measured in DC.

Before applying to the RE Growth Program, a project must not be: (1) already operating; or (2) under construction, except for preparatory site work that is less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the estimated total project cost.

#### Residential

To be eligible as a Residential Small-Scale Solar Project, a project must be located at a National Grid customer's residence where the residential customer receives electric service under either Basic Residential Rate A-16 or Low Income Rate A-60. The project must meet the sizing requirements as defined in the Residential RE Growth Tariff.

#### Non-Residential

Any Small-Scale Solar Project that is not eligible to enroll as a Residential Small-Scale Solar Project will be enrolled as a Non-Residential Small-Scale Solar Project. Note that these projects

may also be configured to receive Bill Credits under this program if they are sized as defined in Section 8.c. of the Non-Residential RE Growth Tariff, but are not required to do so. These projects will receive electric service pursuant to the appropriate general service retail delivery service tariff.

#### 1.2.2.3.1 Prohibition on Project Segmentation

Project segmentation occurs when one distributed generation project is divided or segregated into multiple projects on a single parcel or on contiguous parcels in order to qualify under smaller size project classifications. The Company may also require additional property information to verify that the project is eligible for participation in the program.

Under the RE Growth Program, project segmentation is not allowed. However, a project developer may designate an additional distributed generation unit or portion of a unit on the same parcel or on a contiguous parcel for net metering or for other means of participating in electricity markets, as long as any such unit or portion of such unit: (1) is not receiving Performance-Based Incentives through the RE Growth Program; (2) is segregated electrically; and (3) is separately metered.

A distributed generation project is not considered segmented if: (1) at least twenty-four (24) months elapse between the operating start-date of the distributed generation project and the start of construction of new distributed generation unit(s) on the same parcel or a contiguous parcel; or (2) the distributed generation projects use different renewable resources. In addition, DG projects installed on contiguous parcels or a single parcel will not be considered segmented if they serve different customers and both customers opt to receive Bill Credits under Option 2 as described in Section 8.c. of the Non-Residential RE Growth Tariff.

#### 1.2.2.3.2 Compliance with Sizing Limitations to Receive Bill Credits

In accordance with the Tariffs, Non-Residential Applicants for Small-Scale Solar Projects that have on-site load may receive a credit on their electric bill based upon the value of the on-site use, provided that the DG Project meets the sizing requirements as defined in the Non-Residential RE Growth Tariff. All Residential customers will receive Bill Credits and must meet the sizing limitations defined in the Residential RE Growth Tariff. The Project must be reasonably designed and sized to produce electricity at an annual level equal to or less than 1) the Residential Customer's On-Site Use as measured over the previous three (3) years at the electric service account located at the Residential Customer's service location; 2) the annualized On-Site Use over the period of service to the Residential Customer's service location if such service has been provided for less than three years; or 3) a reasonable estimate of annual On-Site Use if the Project is located at a new service location.

## II. Interconnection Application, Selection, and Enrollment Process

### 2.1 Performance-Based Incentive (PBI) Payments for Small-Scale Solar Projects

Applicants may elect to enroll in the RE Growth Program within their interconnection applications.

#### Residential

The PBI is a price per kilowatt-hour for all of the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and any other environmental attributes or market products that are created or produced by the facility for as long as the facility is enrolled in the RE Growth Program, less the value of Bill Credits for the energy and capacity value that is deemed to be used on site by the customer and must be deducted from the value listed in the Supplements.

#### Non-Residential

The PBI is a price per kilowatt-hour that will be paid for all of the energy, capacity, RECs, and other environmental attributes and market products that are created or produced by the facility for as long as the facility is enrolled in the RE Growth Program.

### 2.2 Interconnection Application Prior to Enrollment

To apply, a prospective participant must submit an application for interconnection and elect to participate in the RE Growth Program. All interconnection costs must be paid by the Applicant of the distributed generation (DG) project.

For information regarding the interconnection process and the standards for the interconnection of generators in Rhode Island, please see:

[https://www.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/business/energyeff/4\\_interconnection-process.asp](https://www.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/business/energyeff/4_interconnection-process.asp)

#### **2.2.1 Site Control**

The Applicant must show actual control of the site where the Small-Scale Solar Project is to be located, or show it has exercised its right to acquire control of the site. To meet this requirement, the Applicant must represent that it owns or leases (or has an executed, exclusive, unconditional option to own or lease) the site (or residence in the case of a Residential Small-Scale Solar Project) on which the project will be located, and that it has any additional rights required to develop and operate the project at the site.

### 2.2.2 Total Project Cost

Applications must include the estimated total project development costs. Applications that do not include the estimated total project development costs will be rejected. Total project development cost is defined as: “The total cost of the solar equipment, design, development, construction, interconnection, permitting, financing (if known), and labor necessary to install the solar PV project. This figure should not account for any tax incentives, grants, or other cash incentives. Additional costs, indirectly related to the solar project, such as roofing work, should not be included.”

## 2.3 Issuance of Certificates of Eligibility

National Grid shall award Certificates of Eligibility to the selected Small-Scale Solar Projects. National Grid is not required to obtain Commission confirmation or approval in awarding Certificates of Eligibility to Small-Scale Solar Projects. Certificates of Eligibility given to Small-Scale Solar Projects are subject to the review and consent of the OER. National Grid files a list of all awarded certificates with the Commission. Certificates of Eligibility will be awarded to eligible Small-Scale Solar Projects on a “first come, first served” basis until the annual MW target for the Small-Scale Solar class is fully subscribed.

The Certificate of Eligibility will contain applicable project information, including renewable technology and class, project capacity and energy output, term length, price, certificate issuance, and certificate effective dates.

## 2.4 Project Schedule

All Small-Scale Solar Projects have twenty-four (24) months to meet all other requirements pursuant to Section 6.a. of the Tariff in order to receive compensation under the RE Growth Program. A project’s proposed construction schedule must allow it to meet the applicable deadline after it has received a Certificate of Eligibility.

If a project does not become operational on or before the twenty-four (24) month deadline, the project’s Certificate of Eligibility will be voided.

## 2.5 Ownership of Products for Small-Scale Solar

### Residential

The Company shall have the rights to and receive title to:

- (1) Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) generated by the project during the applicable term of the supplements to the Tariff supplement; and



- (2) Rights to any other environmental attributes or electricity market services or products that are created or produced by the project.

For Residential Small-Scale Solar Projects, the customer shall retain title to all energy and capacity produced by the project. All energy and capacity are deemed to have been used by the customer on-site during the term of the applicable supplements to the Tariff. The Company is not buying or taking title to energy or capacity under the RE Growth Program.

### Non-Residential

The Company shall have the rights and receive title to:

- (1) RECs generated by the project during the applicable term of the supplements to the Tariff supplement;
- (2) All energy produced by the project; and
- (3) Rights to any other environmental attributes or electricity market products or services that are created or produced by the project; provided, however, that it shall be the Company's choice to acquire the capacity of the DG Project.

#### **2.5.1 Delivery of RECs and Registration in NEPOOL GIS**

The Applicant must take all steps to both enable the Company to obtain the appropriate asset identification for the creation of RECs and the assignment of RECs to the Company through the New England Power Pool Generator Information System (NEPOOL GIS) in accordance with the Tariffs. RECs must be delivered to National Grid in the NEPOOL GIS.

#### **2.5.2 Delivery of Energy into ISO-NE Market (Non-Residential Projects Only)**

Energy must be delivered to National Grid in the ISO-NE Rhode Island load zone.

#### **2.5.3 Participation in ISO-NE Forward Capacity Market (FCM)**

Upon National Grid's election to acquire the capacity from a Project, National Grid will assume the rights to the capacity, pursuant to the Tariff. National Grid reserves the right to be the "Project Sponsor" for the Project, after consultation with the Division and the Board. If and when National Grid participates as Project Sponsor on behalf of any Project, the Applicant must support National Grid, as required, to qualify the Project as an Existing Capacity Resource in the FCM. Applicants are required to take commercially reasonable actions to maximize performance against any FCM Capacity Supply Obligations.

#### **2.5.4 Qualification of RECs**

Small-Scale Solar Projects must qualify as an eligible renewable energy resource pursuant to the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Standard (RES) and the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The Company will obtain such approvals on behalf of all Small-Scale Solar Projects. Applicants must cooperate with the Company, including but not limited to completing the Renewable Energy Certificate Assignment and Aggregation Certification Form, to obtain approval in order to be qualified under the RES and RPS.

## 2.6 Shared Solar

Shared Solar enables customers who own or rent properties unsuitable for installing solar, or where a single system is preferred, to participate in the RE Growth Program with Small-Scale Solar Projects and Medium-Scale Solar Projects (1-25 kW DC and 26-250 kW DC nameplate capacity, respectively).

To be eligible to participate in the Shared Solar program, at the time of enrollment, each account listed as a recipient must be in good standing on applicable electric service, payment plans or agreements, and other obligations to the Company, including but not limited to meeting all obligations under an Interconnection Service Agreement. Shared Solar Projects can only share Bill Credits with Bill Credit Recipients on the same or adjacent parcel of land as the DG Project. Where two properties are separated by a public way, they will not be considered to be adjacent.

The system size for Bill Credit Recipients will be determined by the sum of the three (3)-year average on-site use over the previous three (3) years of all of the indicated Bill Credit Recipients' accounts at the time of the application. For Bill Credit Recipients that have not established a three (3) year on-site usage history, the maximum annual limit will be estimated initially. The customer may request that the Company reset its three (3)-year annual average use once three (3) years of billing history are available.

Shared Solar Projects will receive the same ceiling price and enroll from the same classes of other projects of the same size and ownership as established by the Board for a given program year.

### **2.6.1 Shared Solar Additional Application Material and Provisions**

At the time of application, Shared Solar Applicants must submit a Customer Payment/Credit Transfer Form that notes what billing accounts will be receiving Bill Credits. The system must be sized to not provide output greater than the total of the aggregate three-year average annual usage of all of the Bill Credit recipients, like other on-site systems. Shared Solar Projects must allocate Bill Credits to at least two (2) and no more than fifty (50) accounts in the same customer class and on the same or adjacent parcels of land. Public entities may allocate such Bill Credits to at least two (2) and up to fifty (50) accounts without regard to location so long as the Shared Solar Project and Bill Credit Recipient points of service, which must all belong to the same municipality or public entity, are within the same municipality.

Shared Solar Applicants will receive PBI payments as a combination of cash payments and Bill Credits (Option 2). The DG Project and Bill Credit Recipients must be in the same customer class (i.e., Residential or Nonresidential). All customer accounts receiving Bill Credits must be in the same customer class (i.e., Residential or Nonresidential) although they may be on different retail delivery service rate classes. The Bill Credit value from the Shared Solar Project shall be determined by the recipients' rate class and not that of the facility owner. The Bill Credit value shall be the distribution, transition, transmission, and standard offer supply rates of the Bill Credit Recipients. Any value of Bill Credits not transferred from the Shared Solar project shall be included in the total Performance Based Incentive. PBI payments and Bill Credits will be calculated as set forth in Section 8.c. of the Tariff.

### **III. Contact Information and Other Provisions**

#### **3.1 Contact Information**

All questions and communications regarding these Rules should be directed via electronic mail to National Grid Environmental Transactions at the following address:

[RenewableContracts@nationalgrid.com](mailto:RenewableContracts@nationalgrid.com)

#### **3.2 Official Website for the Enrollment**

The Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules are posted on the National Grid Rhode Island RE Growth Program website: [ngrid.com/REGrowth](http://ngrid.com/REGrowth)

Interconnection Applications must be submitted to [distributed.generation@nationalgrid.com](mailto:distributed.generation@nationalgrid.com). Information about the interconnection process can be found on the Interconnection Process website:

[https://www.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/business/energyeff/4\\_interconnection-process.asp](https://www.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/business/energyeff/4_interconnection-process.asp)

#### **3.3 Rhode Island State Licensing Requirement**

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65-1, a registered contractor or firm with a contractor's registration shall perform the work associated with the installation of solar energy systems or equipment (i.e. racking systems, inground mounting or anchoring).

Renewable energy firms or their subcontractor or agent conducting installation work must hold a Rhode Island General Contractors License and provide their license registration number on the approved Solar Permit or building permit for the project as a condition of final approval to enroll.

### 3.4 Confidentiality

The Board, the OER, and National Grid shall enter into an agreement regarding the sharing of information and data related to the RE Growth Program, including application information, details regarding project ownership, and pricing. At the request of the Board, the OER, National Grid, or the Division, the Commission shall have the authority to protect from public disclosure individual information for any projects that have not been awarded a Certificate of Eligibility. Information regarding project size, location, owner, and price will be made public for projects awarded a Certificate of Eligibility.

### 3.5 Facility Inspection by Independent Quality Inspector

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.

### 3.6 Modification or Cancellation of an Enrollment

Pursuant to Chapter 26.6 of Title 39 of the Rhode Island General Laws, any dispute involving the performance-based incentive payments, terms, conditions, rights, enforcement, and implementation of the Tariffs and these Rules is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Commission. National Grid may, at any time up to the issuance of Certificates of Eligibility (Section 2.3 above) and without any liability on the part of National Grid, postpone, withdraw and/or cancel an enrollment; alter, extend, or cancel any due date; and/or, alter, amend, withdraw and/or cancel any requirement, term or condition of this enrollment.

**Schedule 1**

**Approved Small-Scale Solar Annual MW Target**

Renewable Energy Class	Annual Enrollment Target (Nameplate MW)
Small-Scale Solar I – Host Owned (15 Year Tariff)	12.23 MW DC
Small-Scale Solar I – Host Owned (20 Year Tariff)	
Small-Scale Solar I – Third Party Owned (15 Year Tariff)	
Small-Scale Solar I – Third Party Owned (20 Year Tariff)	
Small-Scale Solar II	

Note: Schedule 1 will be updated as required for each enrollment year.

## Schedule 2

### Approved Small-Scale Solar Standard PBI Applicable to Current Program Year

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 – Host Owned (1-10 kW)	28.45	15 Year Tariff
Small-Scale Solar I – Host Owned (1-10 kW)	24.95	20 Year Tariff
Small-Scale Solar I – Third Party Owned (1-10 kW)	28.45	15 Year Tariff
Small-Scale Solar I – Third Party Owned (1-10 kW)	24.95	20 Year Tariff
Small-Scale Solar II (11-25 kW)	27.65	20 Year Tariff

Note: The Standard PBI is equivalent to the Ceiling Price that is recommended by the Board and approved by the Commission.