



Commercial Scale Funding

Request for Projects

- For both TPO (Third-Party-Ownership) & Direct-ownership Projects
- Renewable Energy Projects over 10kW
- Hardcopies are no longer required
- Please submit a complete electronic copy for all sections
- Submit applications to: REF@commerceri.com
- Block Deadlines can be found at:
<http://commerceri.com/finance-business/renewable-energy-fund/commercial-scale-projects/>

Commercial Scale Solar Funding:

Items highlighted in **green** indicate changes since Block 16.

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:

- Those technologies consistent with [RIGL § 39-26-5](#).
- All projects must have the ability to generate electricity or aid in electricity usage.

* Incentives are only available for systems that have not been installed (partially or completely) prior to REF approval of an incentive application submitted.

ELIGIBLE SECTORS:

- Businesses
- Institutions
- Non-profits
- Municipalities
- State Facilities

PROJECT FUNDING:

Commerce RI will award grants based on the rated DC capacity of a renewable energy project. There are two different small-scale applications available. Please choose between the Direct Ownership (D.O) and Third-Party Ownership (TPO) applications. Please refer to the table below for instructions. Incentive levels for this solicitation are as follows:

Commercial Scale Projects		
Valid through Block #17		
D.O	TPO	System Size
\$0.85/W	\$0.40/W	For the first 0-50kW
\$0.40/W	\$0.30/W	For the 2 nd 50kW (up to 100kW)
\$0.30/W	\$0.20/W	For the 3 rd 50kW (up to 150 kW)
\$0.20/W	\$0.20/W	For the 4 th 50kW (151 kW and up)
Maximum \$80,000/project	Maximum \$40,000/project	
\$200,000 cap/per block/per installer company	\$80,000 cap/per block/per installer company	Unused funds will go to pending Small Scale applications or general funds. Subject to change.

*D. O: Direct Ownership

**TPO: Third Party Ownership

- 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."
<http://commerceri.com/finance-business/renewable-energy-fund/>

QUALIFICATIONS:

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION	
Registered in Rhode Island:	Applicant/Installer registered to do business in RI (http://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/business-portal)
Registered with the State of Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board	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. http://www.crb.state.ri.us/ Please provide a scanned copy of the registration card.
Rhode Island Renewable Energy Professional License (REP):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a sub-license of an electrical license. A master electrician can do everything under the REP. One of the 2 are sufficient. • All sub-contractors are under the responsibility of the developer/installer • This license is required if you plan to advertise or respond to state RFPs for solar installations. • Please read the description and FAQ section for clarity. You can apply through the link provided: http://www.energy.ri.gov/renewable/REP/
Master Electrician License:	The Electrical Contractor's License already includes the work allowed by the REP limited license. 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. Please provide this information in the application.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

REQUIRED ITEMS	DESCRIPTIONS
1. Application	Fill out all fields within the Commercial Scale application. There are two different Commercial scale applications available. Please choose between the Direct Ownership (D.O) and Third-Party Ownership (TPO) applications.
2. Energy Audit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project site owners must have conducted an energy audit prior to application submittal. Proof must be included with application. If new construction or a major renovation causes the energy audit to be unavailable or inaccurate, please submit a detailed prediction of onsite electricity demand. This “energy use model” should include a list of all major equipment to be installed and associated estimates of electrical consumption. For new buildings or buildings with no energy history: Those properties built on and after 10/1/13 will be exempt from an energy audit. What we would ask for is any documented proof of when the property was built (property tax document, house design document, ownership document, building permit etc.). For no energy history, we would only ask for the next/first billing cycle.
3. A signed turnkey contract	Between the project site owner and a renewable energy installer or developer must be included with the application. The contract should be contingent upon receiving funding from Commerce RI’s Renewable Energy Fund. (Applicable to D.O projects.)
4. 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)
5. Electrical drawing	System one-line or three-line electrical drawing
6. ROI/simple payback	Project Financial Analysis illustrating Simple Payback Calculation, Cash Flows, and Return on Investment (ROI). This could also include a financial analysis or a proposed savings document.
7. Proof of Funds	<p>Proof of project funds must be provided to verify that the project will be constructed upon REF grant application approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable options: 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.
8. Electricity Bill	<p>A complete copy of most recent electricity bill (if new construction, please include a request for service from National Grid)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. https://www9.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/construction/forms/work_request.asp

9. Layout Drawing	Drawing of the project showing location of all major components. Including evidence that a revenue grade meter is installed at the project.
10. One (1) aerial image	Image of the site from Microsoft Virtual Earth, Google Earth, or similar source with the building or site clearly identified
11. A minimum 3-year workmanship	A minimum 3-year workmanship warranty on labor associated with the installation. Include a copy of workmanship warranty (if not included with turnkey contract) (Applicable to D.O projects)
12. W-9	Completed W-9 Form for the system owner. Form can be found here: http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf
13. Final Inspection:	Commerce RI reserves the right to inspect all projects before final funding is released.
14. Project Completion:	Projects must be completed within eighteen (18) months of contract signing.
15. For Projects 500 kW or greater:	According to National Grid: 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. Please Provide a copy at application. https://www9.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/business/energyeff/4_interconnection-process.asp#Pre-Application_Report_Request
16. Land Owner proof of documentation	(if applicable) Letter of intent that is binding for the use of the property, a lease agreement, or any related document of proof.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO SOLAR PROJECTS:

ITEMS	DESCRIPTIONS
1. Shade analysis or diagram	Please refer to the REF Minimum Technical Requirements Document posted on the REF webpage for full details: http://commerceri.com/finance-business/renewable-energy-fund/
2. System Output:	An estimate of annual system output in kWh taking into account the tilt, orientation, and shading of the system must be submitted. This can be submitted in PVWatts, PVSYS, or other similar program. Calculator can be found here: http://pwwatts.nrel.gov/



3. Layout drawing	Of the project which shows location of all major equipment and possible roof obstructions
4. Manufacturer's specifications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) For panels to be installed 2) For inverter(s) to be installed 3) For the revenue grade meter to be installed
5. North facing photo	One (1) photo of the project location taken from the south looking northward toward the building or site.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO **WIND PROJECTS**:

FUNDING:	
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.	
ITEMS	DESCRIPTIONS
1. FAA Approval	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Provide a copy
2. 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)
3. Project location site plan/Layout Drawing	Which shows location of all major equipment, laydown zone of turbine, and shadow flicker predictions
4. Manufacturer's specifications	Manufacturer's specifications for all major equipment.
5. Detailed system output	Forecasted for the project including an explanation of all assumptions

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO HYDRO PROJECTS, ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS:

FUNDING:

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

Questions?

Please contact REF staff at REF@commerceri.com