

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™



DIVISION OF CLEAN ENERGY

Comprehensive Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Resource Analysis

Funding Levels – Fiscal Year 2024

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DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

- ADI: Administratively Determined Incentive
- AEG: Applied Energy Group
- Board or BPU: New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
- C&I: Commercial & Industrial
- CEA: Clean Energy Act of 2018
- CHP-FC: Combined Heat and Power – Fuel Cells
- CSI: Competitive Solar Incentive
- CUNJ: Charge Up New Jersey Program
- CRA: Comprehensive Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Resource Analysis
- DCE: Division of Clean Energy
- DEP: Department of Environmental Protection
- DPMC: Division of Property Management and Construction
- ECC: Energy Capital Committee
- EDA: Economic Development Authority
- EDECA: Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act
- EE: Energy Efficiency
- EMP: Energy Master Plan
- EM&V: Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification
- ES: Energy Storage
- ESIP: Energy Savings Improvement Program
- EO: Executive Order
- FC: Fuel Cell
- FY: Fiscal Year
- HVAC: Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
- LEUP: Large Energy Users Program
- LGEA: Local Government Energy Audits
- MUDs: Multi-Unit Dwellings
- MHD: Medium and Heavy Duty
- MOU: Memoranda of Understanding
- NJCEP: New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program
- NJIT: New Jersey Institute of Technology
- OMB: Office of Management and Budget
- OSW: Offshore Wind
- OWEDA: Offshore Wind Economic Development Act
- Pilot Program: Community Solar Pilot Program
- RCGB: Rutgers University’s Center for Green Buildings

- RE: Renewable Energy
- RFP: Request for Proposal
- SAA: State Agreement Approach
- SBC: Societal Benefits Charge
- SES: Division of State Energy Services
- SFI: State Facilities Initiative
- SREC: Solar Renewable Energy Certificate
- TI: Transition Incentive
- TRC: TRC Energy Solutions
- USDOE: United States Department of Energy

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 9, 1999, the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq. (“EDECA”), was signed into law. Among other things, EDECA created the societal benefits charge to fund programs for the advancement of energy efficiency and Class I renewable energy technologies and markets in New Jersey. EDECA also charged the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities with initiating proceedings and undertaking a comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy resource analysis (“Comprehensive Resource Analysis” or “CRA”) in New Jersey. The Comprehensive Resource Analysis would be used to determine the level of funding for EE and Class I RE programs statewide. Collectively, these programs form New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program.[™] Over the past 20 years, the programs have significantly reduced energy usage, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, delivered clean, local sources of renewable energy, and resulted in billions of dollars of energy cost savings to New Jersey ratepayers.

From 2001 through 2011 (“FY12”), the Board established four-year funding levels as envisioned in the Act. Since 2012, the CRA has provided a single year funding level in order to advance the goals of the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (“NJCEP”).¹

On January 31, 2018, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 8 (“EO8”), which directed the BPU and all agencies with responsibility under the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act (“OWEDA”) to “take all necessary action” to fully implement OWEDA and begin the process of moving New Jersey towards a goal of 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy generation by the year 2030. On November 19, 2019, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 92 (“EO92”), which increased the goals for offshore wind energy generation to 7,500 megawatts by 2035. In September 2022, Executive Order 307 further increased the OSW goal to 11,000 megawatts (“MW”) by 2040. In November 2022, a solicitation schedule was announced laying out how New Jersey expects to meet the new goal.

On May 23, 2018, Governor Murphy signed the Clean Energy Act, L. 2018, c. 17, which takes several critical steps to improve and expand New Jersey’s renewable energy programs and establishes ambitious energy reduction targets. The CEA requires 21% of the electricity sold in the State to be from Class I renewable energy sources by 2020, 35% by 2025, and 50% by 2030. Additionally, the CEA provides a platform to reform the State’s solar program by making near-term structural changes to ensure that the program is sustainable over the long term and establishes a community solar energy program to allow low-income New Jersey residents to benefit from solar energy. Importantly, the CEA also established new energy savings targets of at least 2% annually for electric distribution companies and at least 0.75% for gas distribution companies, to be achieved in the prior three years within five years of implementation of their programs.

¹ In the early years, the budgets and programs were based on calendar years, but in 2012, the Board approved the budgets and programs on fiscal years to align with the overall State budget cycle.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

The Board initiated its first CRA proceeding in 1999 and issued the first CRA Order in 2001. The 2001 Order set funding levels, the programs to be funded, and the budgets for each of those programs for the years 2001 through 2003. Since then, the Board has issued numerous orders setting the funding levels, related programs, and program budgets for the years 2004 – Fiscal Year 2022.

From 2001 to 2006, the State’s electric and natural gas utilities managed the programs. In 2004, the Board determined that it would manage NJCEP going forward, and in 2005-2006, the Board issued a request for proposal (“RFP”) to contract the necessary administrative services to assist in oversight. In 2006, the Board engaged Honeywell, Inc. to manage the RE and residential EE programs and TRC to manage the C&I EE programs. In 2007, the Board engaged AEG as the NJCEP Program Coordinator. Following multiple extensions, these contracts terminated on March 31, 2016.

In April 2015, the Board, through the Department of the Treasury, Division of Purchase and Property (“Treasury”), issued RFP 16-X-23938 seeking proposals for a single Program Administrator to provide the services then being provided by Honeywell, TRC, and AEG (“2015 RFP”). On December 1, 2015, Treasury awarded the Program Administrator contract to AEG. Subsequently, on January 13, 2017, TRC Environmental Corporation acquired AEG’s New Jersey operation, including the NJCEP Program Administrator contract, and assumed AEG’s rights and obligations thereunder. TRC subcontracted portions of the work under its contract to CLEAResult Consulting, Inc. and Energy Futures Group, Inc. TRC has managed the programs since March 1, 2016, which marked the conclusion of the transition period set out in the RFP. Since October 2021, TRC has managed the programs without subcontractors.

ENERGY MASTER PLAN

On May 23, 2018, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 28 (“EO28”), directing the BPU to spearhead the committee to develop and deliver the new Energy Master Plan. The committee was comprised of senior staff designees from the following state agencies: Board of Public Utilities, Department of Community Affairs, Economic Development Authority, Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”), Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and Department of the Treasury. The committee was tasked with developing a blueprint for the conversion of the State’s energy production profile to 100% clean energy by January 1, 2050, with specific proposals to be implemented over the next 10 years.

On January 27, 2020, following months of research, review, and stakeholder input, the 2019 EMP was unveiled. The EMP outlines seven key strategies to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050: reduce energy consumption and emissions from the transportation sector; accelerate

deployment of renewable energy and distributed energy resources; maximize energy efficiency and conservation and reduce peak demand; reduce energy consumption and emissions from the building sector; decarbonize and modernize New Jersey’s energy system; support community energy planning and action in underserved communities; and expand the clean energy innovation economy.

On January 20, 2023, Governor Murphy announced that the State would begin planning for the development of a new Energy Master Plan for release in 2024 that will update and expand on the pathway to achieving a 100% clean energy economy by 2050 set forth in the 2019 Energy Master Plan.

On February 14, 2023, through E0315, Governor Murphy declared that the policy of the State is to advance clean energy market mechanisms and other programs in order to provide for 100% of the electricity sold in the state to be derived from clean sources of electricity by January 1, 2035.

BPU, with guidance from other State agencies, will coordinate the State’s efforts to develop a 2024 Energy Master Plan that make updates to the State’s roadmap to 100% clean energy by 2035 and that provides specific proposals to be implemented both in the short-term and longer-term to achieve this goal. This process will include public hearings and allow for ample opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback.

FUNDING LEVELS

The funding recommendations for FY24 considered NJCEP’s historic results and forecasts for the year. BPU Staff (“Staff”) is recommending that the Board maintain an SBC funding level of \$344,665,000 for FY24. The following table summarizes the appropriate funding levels for NJCEP’s FY24 budget.

Proposed FY24 Funding Levels*		
CEP Budget Category	FY24 New SBC Funding	Total FY24 Funding
Total NJCEP + State Initiatives	344,665,000	660,108,841
State Energy Initiatives	71,200,000	71,200,000
Total NJCEP	273,465,000	588,908,841
Energy Efficiency Programs	140,926,128	296,222,053
Res Low-Income (Comfort Partners)	56,978,000	56,978,000
C&I EE Programs	40,123,730	83,217,851
New Construction Programs	40,204,398	60,571,612
Energy Efficiency Transition	20,000	14,588,263
State Facilities Initiative	3,600,000	61,597,550
Acoustical Testing Pilot	0	3,281,880

LED Streetlights Replacement	0	15,986,898
Distributed Energy Resources	7,517,135	20,180,161
CHP - FC	7,017,135	17,992,661
Microgrids	500,000	2,187,500
RE Programs	12,538,670	23,895,254
Offshore Wind	9,050,000	20,406,584
Solar Registration	3,488,670	3,488,670
EDA Programs	16,000,000	37,912,044
Clean Energy Manufacturing Fund	0	17,228
NJ Wind	10,000,000	25,400,942
R&D Energy Tech Hub	6,000,000	12,493,874
Planning and Administration	24,983,066	68,093,398
BPU Program Administration	5,585,000	5,585,000
Marketing	4,242,519	12,262,234
CEP Website	1,000,000	1,500,000
Program Evaluation/Analysis	8,825,547	42,354,552
Outreach and Education	5,200,000	6,224,889
Memberships	130,000	166,723
BPU Initiatives	71,500,000	142,605,931
Community Energy Plan Grants	3,000,000	5,574,034
Energy Storage	2,000,000	24,000,000
Heat Island Pilot	0	2,500,000
Electric Vehicle Programs	66,500,000	84,200,000
Energy Bill Assistance	0	21,831,897
Workforce Development	0	4,500,000

*Numbers presented in the above table may not add up precisely to totals provided due to rounding.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The CEA directs both the Board and the State's investor-owned electric and gas utilities to take action regarding EE. The CEA requires the Board to adopt an electric and gas EE program in order to ensure investment in cost-effective EE measures, ensure universal access to EE measures, and serve the needs of low-income communities. The CEA requires each electric public utility to achieve annual reductions in the use of electricity of at least 2% and each natural gas public utility to achieve annual reductions in the use of natural gas of at least 0.75% of the average annual usage in the prior three years within five years of implementation of its EE program.

On June 10, 2020, the Board approved an expansive EE program which highlighted an enhanced role for utilities and addressed issues such as utility-specific energy usage and peak demand reduction targets, program structure, cost recovery, utility filing requirements, program timeframes, evaluation, and reporting requirements. Staff worked with New Jersey’s investor-owned utilities, Rate Counsel, and other stakeholders to ensure that the new framework was put into place fully, properly, and with minimal ratepayer impact. The utilities started the programs on July 1, 2021. Staff is continuing to work with stakeholders to develop recommendations on the policies and programs for the next three-year cycle of utility programs, which begin on July 1, ~~2024~~2025.

The FY24 NJCEP proposal provides continuation of EE funding for new construction programs for residential, governmental, commercial, and industrial markets, as well as the Comfort Partners Program for low-income residents (which is co-managed by the BPU and utility companies); the Local Government Energy Audits (“LGEA”) Program; Energy Savings Improvement Program (“ESIP”); Large Energy Users Program (“LEUP”); Combined Heat and Power – Fuel Cells Program (“CHP-FC”). Whenever possible, NJCEP EE programs include a particular focus on outreach and education to ensure equity in access to EE and development of a diverse EE workforce.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Solar Transition

Pursuant to the CEA, the Board ~~is finalizing the transition~~has transitioned from its legacy solar incentive program (SREC registration program or SRP) to a new Successor Solar Incentive (“SuSI”) Program. The Board initiated a proceeding in 2018 to gather stakeholder input on the transition and conducted a public rulemaking process for SREC registration program closure upon a determination that 5.1% of the kilowatt hours sold in the state comes from solar electric power generators connected to the state’s electric distribution system (5.1% milestone).

In December 2019, the Board approved a Transition Incentive (“TI”) Program designed to provide a bridge between the legacy SREC program and a successor incentive program. The adopted rules for the TI Program were published in the New Jersey Register on October 5, 2020.

At the April 6, 2020 agenda meeting, the Board announced that the attainment of the 5.1% milestone was imminent and directed Staff to close the SREC market to new entrants on April 30, 2020.

On May 1, 2020, the ~~Transition Incentive~~TI Program opened to new projects and projects with a valid SRP registration that did not energize prior to the 5.1% milestone (with some exceptions for projects that were granted a waiver due to COVID-19). The ~~Transition Incentive~~TI Program remained open to new registrants until the launch of the Successor Solar -Incentive Program.

On January 7, 2021, the Board fulfilled the CEA mandate to study “how to modify or replace the SREC program to encourage the continued efficient and orderly development of solar renewable energy generating sources throughout the State.” The Board delivered to the Governor and Legislature the New Jersey Solar Transition Final Capstone Report, which summarized the findings of an extensive stakeholder process and provided recommendations based on these findings and solar market modeling specific to New Jersey.

On April 7, 2021, drawing from the Capstone Report findings, Staff issued a straw proposal which presented specific recommendations for the design of the ~~Successor Solar Incentive Program (“Successor Program” or “SuSi Program”)~~. The initial straw proposal recommended that the Board employ two programs to provide incentives to solar electric generation facilities: an administratively determined incentive for behind-the-meter projects sized 5 MW or less as well as all community solar projects, and a competitive solicitation program for grid supply projects and non-residential net metered projects over 5 MW. Details concerning the closure of the ~~Transition Incentive TI p~~Program were also addressed in Staff’s straw proposal and the subject of public input.

On July 28, 2021, the Board approved the framework for the ~~Successor Solar Incentive~~SuSI Program, which included eligibility details and incentive levels for the Administratively Determined Incentive (“ADI”) Program and an outline for the Competitive Solar Incentive (“CSI”) Program. The Board also approved the closure of the TI Program to new registrations effective on August 27, 2021. The ADI Program opened to new registrations on August 28, 2021. The Board subsequently procured the services of a competitive solicitation program administrator and initiated additional stakeholder outreach to finalize the CSI ~~P~~program design.

On December 7, 2022, the Board announced the new CSI Program, which offers incentives to qualifying grid supply solar facilities and net metered solar installations over facilities greater than 5 MW in size. All CSI-eligible facilities, regardless of whether a project chooses to pursue an incentive or not, are subject to solar siting restrictions. On the same date, the Board approved for publication in the New Jersey Register a rule proposal that amended the SuSI Rules to establish the CSI Program and a proposal for siting rules for grid supply and large net metered solar facilities. On September 18, 2023, the proposed Siting Rules for Grid Supply and Large Net Metered Solar Facilities were adopted and published, with nonsubstantial changes, in the New Jersey Register at 55 N.J.R. 2015(a). On December 18, 2023, proposed rules establishing the CSI Program were adopted and published in the New Jersey Register at 55 N.J.R. 2555(a). ~~S~~ubstantial changes proposed upon adoption were also published in the New Jersey Register at 55 N.J.R. 2461(a) for a 60-day public comment period.

The CSI Program awards SREC-IIs through a competitive solicitation, with separate solicitations for four market tranches: basic grid supply projects; ~~grid supply projects sited on the built environment; grid supply projects sited on contaminated sites and landfills; and net metered non-residential projects greater than five (5) MW. A fifth tranche allows for storage in combination with a grid supply solar award from tranche 1, 2 or 3.~~ Following a pre-qualification review of eligibility criteria, projects submit a bid for an SREC-II award in

their tranche, specified in dollars per MWh of solar electricity production; pre-qualified projects compete on bid price only. Megawatt procurement targets, totaling 300 MW, are as follows:

Tranche	Target (MW)
1. Basic Grid Supply	140
2. Grid Supply on the Built Environment	80
3. Grid Supply on Contaminated Sites or Landfills	40
4. Net Metered Non-residential above 5 MW	40
TOTAL	300
5. Storage paired with Grid Supply Solar (Tranche 1, 2, or 3)	160 MWh

The first solicitation under the CSI was opened on February 1, 2023, and closed to bids on March 31, 2023. The Board declined to make any awards in the first solicitation, as all bid prices were above confidential price caps set by the Board. Following an in-depth analysis of the specific financial assumptions and external factors that inform setting the price caps for a given solicitation, the Board directed that the second solicitation in the CSI Program open on an expedited timeline. The solicitation window opened November 27, 2023, and closes on February 29, 2024. The total procurement for the second solicitation remained at 300 MW. Solicitations will take place on an annual basis going forward.

The Siting Rules for Grid Supply and Large Net Metered Solar Facilities provide a mechanism to allow siting of CSI-eligible facilities on otherwise restricted land uses if the developer petitions for and receives a waiver of the siting prohibition upon demonstrating that a CSI-eligible project on a prohibited land use is in the public interest. The Board has established a process through which, in consultation with its sister agencies, it determines whether the project is in the public interest such that the Petitioner may be granted a waiver, before a project may participate in a CSI Program solicitation.

Community Solar

The New Jersey Community Solar Energy Pilot Program was launched on February 19, 2019, pursuant to the CEA (L. 2018, c. 17). The Pilot Program specifically aims to increase access to solar energy by enabling electric utility customers to participate in a solar generating facility that could be remotely located from their own residence or place of business.

³ In re Competitive Solar Incentive (“CSI”) Program pursuant to P.L. 2021 c.169, Order launching the CSI Program

On December 20, 2019, the Board granted conditional approval to 45 projects representing almost 78 MW in the first solicitation [in the Pilot Program](#), and, on October 28, 2021, the Board granted conditional approval to 105 projects representing 165 MW in the second solicitation. All 150 projects selected to participate in the Pilot Program have committed to allocating at least 51% of project capacity to low- and moderate-income subscribers. [As of November 30, 2023, 101 community solar projects with 137 MW capacity have come online, and they serve more than 16,000 subscribers.](#)

Following the end of the second solicitation, the Board announced that the Pilot Program would be transitioning to a permanent program. Staff issued a straw proposal on the permanent Community Solar Energy Program on March 30, 2023, and conducted a stakeholder meeting on April 24, 2023.

[The Board established the permanent Community Solar Energy Program on August 16, 2023. The program uses a first-come, first-served registration process similar to the ADI Program, but with a tiebreaker based on subscriber savings should capacity fill quickly. A 225 MW capacity block opened on November 15, 2023. The tranche for PSE&G exceeded capacity during the initial registration period and projects were accepted based on the guaranteed bill credit discount for subscribers until the tranche was full. As of January 11, 2024, the tranches for JCP&L, ACE, and RECO remained open to new registrations. Pursuant to P.L.2023, c.200, signed by Governor Murphy on January 4, 2024, the Board will open an additional 275 MW of capacity during EY24.](#)

[Dual-Use \(Agrivoltaics\)](#)

[In July 2021, Governor Murphy, pursuant to EMP Goal 2.1.8, signed the Dual-Use Solar Energy Act of 2021 \(L. 2021, c. 170, "Dual-Use Act"\), which directs the Board to adopt rules establishing a Dual-Use Solar Energy Pilot Program \("Pilot Program"\) for the development of dual-use solar projects on productive farmland \(also known as "agrivoltaics"\). The Pilot Program is designed to encourage the development of dual-use solar facilities and the creation of a new segment of the solar industry in New Jersey that is compatible with the State's rich agricultural heritage. Specifically, the Pilot Program seeks to demonstrate and study the compatibility of active agricultural or horticultural production and solar photovoltaic infrastructure on the same land/property. Staff engaged the Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program \("RAP"\) at Rutgers University \("RU"\) for providing crucial input into the design of the Pilot Program; on May 1, 2023, the Board approved and executed a three-year grant agreement with RAP to facilitate the development and implementation of a Pilot Program.](#)

[Throughout 2023, and in close collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection \("DEP"\), and other interested stakeholders, the Board conducted robust public engagement to gather input on the implementation of this law.](#)

[On November 9, 2023, a Straw Proposal was issued for public comment, with a corrected version issued on November 21, 2023. Written comments were due on December 13, 2023.](#)

On November 14, 2023, Staff, in conjunction with RAP, presented an overview of the Straw Proposal at the New Jersey Farm Bureau's annual conference, with approximately 80 attendees including stakeholders primarily from the agricultural community, academia, and federal, state, and local government.

On November 29, 2023, Staff held and led a stakeholder meeting, with approximately 129 attendees and 14 participants who provided public comment during the meeting. Staff received 16 written comments, representing 22 entities.

In 2024, the Board will conduct a rulemaking for the Pilot Program and run the first solicitation to select dual-use projects.

Offshore Wind

Governor Phil Murphy signed EO8 on January 31, 2018. The purpose of EO8 was to reinvigorate the implementation of the State's OWEDA. EO8 directed the BPU and all agencies with responsibility under OWEDA to "take all necessary action" to fully implement OWEDA and begin the process of moving New Jersey towards a goal of 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy generation by the year 2030. EO8 also required an initial solicitation of 1,100 MW as the first step towards achieving the goal and required the development of an Offshore Wind Strategic Plan ("OSWSP").

In 2018, the Interagency Agency Taskforce on Offshore Wind was developed to assist in the development of the OSWSP. A consultant for the OSWSP was retained and work began in 2018. In September 2018, the BPU issued a solicitation for 1,100 MW of offshore wind energy generation, and in June 2019, the BPU approved an application for a 1,100 MW offshore wind generation project submitted by Ocean Wind.

On November 19, 2019, Governor Murphy signed EO92, increasing the State's offshore wind energy generation goal to 7,500 MW by 2035. Governor Murphy found that, as a result of efforts by the State following EO8, "offshore wind development is a growing economic sector in the State with increases in supply chain presence, private investment in ports, workforce development efforts, and research and development for offshore wind industry and labor." Governor Murphy found that expanding the offshore wind goal will ensure that the State can "meet the State's goals of 50 percent renewable energy by 2030 and 100 percent clean energy by 2050, in addition to creating a significant number of good-paying jobs."

The OSWSP was released for public comment in July 2020 and was approved by the BPU in September 2020.

Also in September 2020, a second solicitation was issued for 1,200 to 2,400 MW of OSW. Evaluation of applications received from two developers in December 2020 resulted in awards by the Board to two projects, Ocean Wind 2 at 1,148 MW and Atlantic Shores at 1,510 MW in June 2021.

In November 2020, the Board requested that PJM include the State's OSW goal into its regional transmission expansion planning under a PJM process known as the State Agreement Approach ("SAA"). The Board also issued an RFQ for a consultant to assist Staff with the SAA process, and a contract was awarded to a qualified consultant. A solicitation for OSW transmission solutions was issued by PJM on behalf of the Board in April 2021, with proposals received in September 2021. Evaluation of the proposals by Staff, PJM, and Staff's consultant resulted in the Board awarding, in October 2022, a suite of projects to support interconnection of 6,400 MW of OSW. These projects are expected to save NJ ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

In September 2022, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 307 further increasing the State's OSW goal to 11,000 MW by 2040.

In March 2023, the Board issued its third OSW solicitation for between 1,200 and 4,000 MW. [Evaluation of applications received in August 2023 resulted in awards by the Board to two projects, Leading Light Wind at 2,400 MW and Attentive Energy Project 2 at 1,342 MW in January 2024.](#)

In order to support the coordinated transmission of the additional 3,500 MW, in April 2023, the Board initiated the second use of the SAA.

In FY21, the Board entered into a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") with the South Jersey Port Corporation to provide funding for the development of a monopile manufacturing facility at the Port of Paulsboro.

For each fiscal year, beginning with FY21, the Board has entered into an MOU with the Economic Development Authority ("EDA") to provide funding to the activities of the Wind Innovation and New Development ("WIND") Institute.

Beginning in FY22, Staff, working with DEP, has administered the Research and Monitoring Initiative ("RMI"). The RMI is funded by a fee charged to the awarded projects in OSW solicitations [2](#) and [3](#) and is designed to identify and fund projects to evaluate the potential impact of OSW on New Jersey's natural resources and wildlife.

In FY24, funding is requested for specific activities, including retaining a consultant to assist Staff in the development of a solicitation [four-4](#) guidance document and evaluation of solicitation four proposals; continued funding for the Rutgers University Center for Ocean Observing Leadership work; retaining a consultant to update the OSW Strategic Plan and a consultant to support the second SAA; and continued funding of the Wind Institute activities.

DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES

Microgrids

In FY20, the first phase of the BPU's Town Center Distributed Energy Resources ("TCDER") Microgrid Incentive Program was completed. Phase I consisted of TCDER Microgrid feasibility studies. The BPU funded 13 feasibility studies, which Staff reviewed and accepted. The BPU ~~also~~ launched Phase II (Design Phase) of the TCDER Incentive Program in FY20. All Phase I participants with an approved feasibility study were eligible for Phase II, which consists of incentives for a detailed design of the TCDER Microgrid. After one feasibility study participant voluntarily withdrew from consideration, there were 12 eligible applicants for Phase II incentives, and 11 applications were received in May 2020. In FY21, the BPU awarded incentives to eight projects. One project subsequently withdrew from the program. Phase II (Design Phase) work still remains in progress. After Phase II is complete, applicants will decide whether to move forward with Phase III, which will encompass the construction and implementation of the TCDER microgrid projects. The design work ~~is~~ has proceeded ~~ing~~ to assist towns to advance to Phase III. ~~BPU has not allotted any construction funds. The BPU applied for and received a grant of approximately \$300,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy to conduct a study regarding financing microgrids.~~

Storage

In FY19, the Board retained Rutgers University to conduct an analysis of energy storage ("ES") in New Jersey pursuant to the CEA. The contract for the requested analysis commenced on November 1, 2018, and the Board accepted the final report at the June 12, 2019 Board meeting.

As part of Phase One of the ES approach, a solar+storage program was included in the Solar Successor Program Straw Proposal released for public comment in FY21. The first CSI solicitation, which occurred in January 2023, included solar+storage as one of the five tranches. Phase Two of the energy storage program was launched in September 2022 with the issue of a straw proposal for the New Jersey Storage Incentive Program ("NJ SIP"). ~~Several stakeholder meetings were held and over 60 written comments received. Staff is currently reviewing the comments and determining the appropriate next steps towards finalizing the NJ SIP. Three stakeholder meetings were held and written comments were received on the Straw Proposal. In 2024, Staff, with assistance from a consultant, anticipate releasing a revised Straw Proposal and providing a recommendation to the Board for the final NJ SIP implementation.~~

Grid Modernization

To support the integration of distributed energy resources into the electric transmission and distribution system on New Jersey, in FY22-FY23 the Board initiated a grid modernization proceeding with an initial focus on reforming New Jersey's interconnection process. A

consultant was retained to conduct a study and to organize several stakeholder meetings. A final report was accepted by the Board in FY23 that contained nine recommendations for improving the state's interconnection rules and processes. Draft rule change language was issued for public comment to implement ~~four of four of~~ the recommendations. This was followed by further stakeholder engagement to revise the draft rules, which will be formally proposed soon~~are currently in the process of being formally adopted.~~

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

On January 17, 2020, the Governor signed into law L. 2019, c. 362 (N.J.S.A. 48:25-1 et seq.) (“the Electric Vehicle Act” or “EV Law”), which established the State’s goals for the use of plug-in EVs and the development of supporting plug-in EV charging infrastructure.⁴ In particular, the Act authorized the Board to adopt policies and programs to accomplish the State’s goals and authorized the use of SBC funds to effectuate those policies and programs, which include:

1. There shall be at least 330,000 registered light-duty, plug-in electric vehicles in New Jersey by December 31, 2025, and at least 2 million electric vehicles registered in New Jersey by December 31, 2035.
2. At least 85% of all new light-duty vehicles sold or leased in New Jersey shall be plug-in electric vehicles by December 31, 2040.
3. At least 25% of State-owned non-emergency light duty vehicles shall be plug-in electric vehicles by December 31, 2025.
4. 100% of State-owned non-emergency light-duty vehicles shall be plug-in electric vehicles by December 31, 2035 and thereafter.
5. At least 1,000 Level Two chargers shall be available for public use across the state by December 31, 2025.
6. The DEP, in consultation with the Board, shall establish goals for vehicle electrification and infrastructure development for medium and heavy duty vehicles by December 31, 2020.

In FY21-FY23, NJCEP continued to advance those goals in a variety of different ways. The Board approved four EDC petitions to launch light-duty EV public charging, and Staff is working with utility staff to ensure the successful implementation of those programs. Staff has also begun the process for seeking stakeholder input on the subject of Medium and Heavy Duty (“MHD”) EV charging and plans to provide multiple opportunities for input on MHD investment and on mechanisms for rate recovery and rate setting for MHD EV charging.

The Electric Vehicle Act also created the Charge Up New Jersey Program (“CUNJ”) within the NJCEP to encourage the purchase or lease of new light-duty plug-in electric vehicles in the State and assist New Jersey residents in making the switch to driving electric vehicles by offering a financial incentive directly linked to a vehicle’s EPA-rated all-electric range. The BPU intends to facilitate the achievement of the State’s EV goals and implement an incentive program which moves the State forward on transportation electrification, while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. Staff launched Phase 1 of the program, the post-purchase

incentive, in May 2020. In the first year of the program, which closed in FY21, CUNJ provided over 7,000 vehicles with over \$36 million in incentives. Staff launched Phase 2, the point-of-

⁴ N.J.S.A. 48:25-3 to -11.

sale incentive, at the beginning of FY22 on July 5, 2021; CUNJ provided over 5,500 vehicles with over \$21.4 million in incentives, and in FY23, over 12,000 vehicles are anticipated to receive over \$37 million in funding. Phase 3, which includes an incentive for residential chargers, was launched on July 25, 2022 and in its first year has provided nearly 2,000 chargers with over \$475,000 in funding.

The EV law also established goals to encourage the State-owned non-emergency light-duty vehicles EV adoption. The law calls for at least 25 percent of the fleet to be plug-in electric vehicles by December 31, 2025, and 100 percent by December 31, 2035. In order to achieve those goals, after a successful pilot program utilizing the United States Department of Energy (“USDOE”) funds in FY22, Staff launched the Clean Fleet Program, to assist in funding the increased up-front costs associated with the adoption of light-duty EVs for the State and municipal fleets.

Additionally, the EV law established goals for public chargers, as well as chargers located at Multi-Unit Dwellings (“MUDs”) and hotels. In FY22, the Board utilized an appropriation from the State’s General Fund to create programs to fund chargers at MUDs, tourism locations, and hotels. The Board’s EV Tourism Program was designed to encourage the building of more corridor and community chargers throughout New Jersey, reducing range anxiety for our residents, and encouraging EV driving tourists to choose New Jersey as their tourism destination. In FY23, the EV Tourism, Clean Fleet, and MUD programs continued and have provided significant funding to hundreds of additional chargers. In FY24, Staff proposes to continue the EV Tourism, Clean Fleet and MUD Programs, as well as adding ~~an~~ E-Mobility Pilot Programs.

[In December 2023, the legislature dedicated \\$15 million from the FY24 Clean Energy Fund to fund the DEP Electric School Bus Program, as established in August 2022. Staff will work with DEP to launch this ~~3-year~~3-year program.](#)

STATE ENERGY SERVICES

The State Facilities Initiative (“SFI”) allows the State to lead by example by identifying and implementing EE projects at governmental and quasi-governmental mandated agencies and facilities. The goal is to implement energy reduction, energy savings, and EE projects with the objective of producing energy and cost savings. The Energy Capital Committee (“ECC”), chaired by BPU’s Division of State Energy Services (“SES”), consists of members from the Department of Treasury, including the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”), Fiscal Administration and the Division of Property Management and Construction (“DPMC”), along with the BPU’s SES and fiscal division. The ECC coordinates and recommends approval of projects based on evaluation of capital costs and anticipated energy savings. SES works with

OMB to review energy related capital requests. The SFI funds are allocated for and spent on projects identified by the SES and the DPMC.

The Board previously entered into two MOUs with DPMC to implement projects, approved by the Board on February 22, 2017⁵ and on November 13, 2019⁶. The 2019 MOU also established roles and responsibilities of the parties, as well as governing SFI funding allocation and spending. The Board has the ability to further allocate funds and/or assign projects funded by the Board to the SFI. In addition, the Board entered into a separate MOU with NJ Transit on February 17, 2021 to upgrade transit garages.⁷

SFI projects may focus on: (a) improvements, upgrades, and replacements of air handling and movement systems; (b) lighting and equipment upgrades and replacements; (c) boiler, chiller, and HVAC replacements; (d) lighting and building controls; (e) RE and EE systems at State facilities; and (f) injection of funding for State facility projects outside of the ECC domain that have an EE or RE component but are stalled due to lack of funding.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

In FY24, outreach and education will continue to play a key role in driving energy savings by educating all customer markets on the benefits and cost savings associated with energy reduction plans.

The BPU, led by the Chief of Staff's Office and the Division of Clean Energy ("DCE"), in partnership with Rutgers University, planned, coordinated, and held the highly successful 2022 Clean Energy Conference: Achieving Our Clean Energy Future. On October 3-4, 2022, at Harrah's in Atlantic City, over 720 registrants attended the conference. Among the speakers were Governor Phil Murphy; Federal Energy Regulator Commissioner, Willie Phillips; Princeton University's Jessie Jenkins; EDA CEO, Tim Sullivan; DEP Commissioner, Shawn LaTourette; Governor's Office on Climate Action and the Green Economy's Jane Cohen; BPU Commissioners Mary-Anna Holden, Bob Gordon, and Zenon Christodoulou; as well as over 25 other Staff, industry, state, and policy experts. This was the first Clean Energy Conference in a decade. The conference improved the visibility and exposure of the NJCEP and advanced the State's clean energy goals by helping to educate the public about the benefits derived from the NJCEP and the opportunities available through the program, thereby, increasing program participation. The conference delivered a platform that informed industry, nonprofit, and other public stakeholders about progress made on a number of clean energy topics and program areas, as well as upcoming changes and enhancements to New Jersey's clean energy initiatives. Thus, it increased New Jersey's national recognition as a leader in clean energy.

⁵ In re a Memorandum of Understanding between the New Jersey Division of Property Management and Construction and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, BPU Docket No. Q017010075, Order Dated February 22, 2017.

⁶ In re the Memorandum of Understanding Between the New Jersey Division of Property Management and Construction, Department of Treasury and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Regarding the State Facilities Initiatives Program Budget, BPU Docket No. Q019101423, Order Dated November 13, 2019 ("2019 MOU").

⁷ In re the Memorandum of Understanding Between the New Jersey Transit Corporation and the New Jersey

Board of Public Utilities Regarding the Use of Funds Generated by SBC to Support the Development of Infrastructure Related to Battery Electric Buses, BPU Docket No. E021020265, Order Dated February 17, 2021.

~~The BPU is still in the process of determining whether a conference will be held in 2023 and will provide more details once final decisions are made.~~

The DCE anticipates improving the visibility and exposure of NJCEP and advancing the State's clean energy goals through a variety of educational efforts, including outreach through its program administrator as well as strategic partnerships with academic and non-profit partners, such as the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Sustainable Jersey.

EVALUATION

Evaluation and related research provide crucial insights into and analysis of clean energy markets and programs. The BPU is the lead agency tasked with the development and implementation of the EMP and NJCEP. As such, the BPU is required to track and report on progress in meeting the EMP goals, as well as to evaluate current and proposed utility and NJCEP programs in terms of their achievement of energy savings, rate impact, and costs versus benefits of specific programs operated through ratepayer funds. The BPU is also required to establish baselines related to EE, RE generating sources, and emerging technologies and to evaluate the market potential for current and emerging clean energy technologies.

Per the CEA, the Board established an Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (“EM&V”) Working Group in FY22 to develop the evaluation, measurement, and verification process for EE and peak demand reduction programs. As required by the Board on June 10, 2020, Staff procured a statewide evaluator to manage the working group. Through the EM&V Working Group, the statewide evaluator, Staff, Rate Counsel, and utility representatives prioritized and designed evaluation studies to evaluate both utility and NJCEP EE programs.

The evaluation studies are managed by the Statewide Evaluator, and conducted by three entities.

~~First, in FY24, the Rutgers University’s Center for Green Building will continue to support the BPU’s DCE by performing and managing several program evaluations and studies in support of the EM&V Working Group,~~ as well as by performing cost-benefit analyses of NJCEP programs and other related research activities.

~~Second, the Evaluation Study Team—TeamAn independent statewide evaluation team,~~ contracted in FY23 for three years, will conduct additional research and evaluation studies in FY24, including those with statewide applicability.

Third, independent program evaluators contracted by the utilities conduct annual impact and process studies to evaluate EE programs specific to each utility.

Additionally, New Jersey’s interconnection rules and processes require updating in order to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050. In FY22, Staff engaged a contractor to assist with updating New Jersey’s interconnection rules so that they reflect national best practices and better enable the State to achieve its clean energy goals. Necessary updates to the State’s interconnection rules could include but are not limited to: updates to the interconnection process, modernization of utility processes for studying interconnection requests, updates to technical interconnection study standards, updates necessary to coordinate interconnection requests with the regional transmission system, incorporation of updated Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers or other standards, and other changes that will facilitate New Jersey meeting its ambitious clean energy targets. To date, three stakeholder meetings have been held regarding the interconnection process. The consultant’s final report was accepted by the Board in November 2022, with the next steps being implementation of rule changes to update New Jersey’s interconnection process.

Funding in FY24 is requested to continue the grid modernization proceeding, conduct a study of the potential to use renewable natural gas and/or green hydrogen as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for additional new clean energy technology initiatives that may arise.

SBC COLLECTION SCHEDULE

For FY24, the allocation of the funding to utilities is based on the statewide Universal Service Fund proceeding that forecasts electric and natural gas operating jurisdictional revenues and normalized monthly sales, which are provided below.

Proposed Allocation to Electric and Natural Gas Ratepayers

	2021-22 Estimated Retail Revenues (000)*	% of Total Revenues
Electric	\$7,211,169	67.53%
Natural Gas	\$3,467,698	32.47%
Total	\$10,678,867	100.00%

Year	Total Funding Level	Electric	Natural Gas
Allocation %		67.53%	32.47%
FY24	\$344,665,000	\$232,743,564	\$111,921,436

* Retail revenues from PSE&G USF filing Attachment A dated June 27, 2022

Projected Sales Volumes														
Estimates of Normalized Jurisdictional Sales														
Units in (000s)														
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	Total
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June		
Gas Therms*														
NJNG	20,579	20,076	20,355	32,448	67,115	109,652	138,549	115,251	91,843	48,444	27,464	20,868	712,643	16%
SJG	19,351	17,670	19,687	21,261	36,907	62,526	91,594	86,142	78,969	51,975	29,842	22,075	538,000	12%
PSE&G	74,831	67,479	74,624	102,845	224,650	379,572	491,652	482,478	401,148	259,465	140,280	101,537	2,800,561	61%
ETG	19,495	18,861	19,265	21,524	37,645	64,397	78,690	80,477	66,763	51,401	31,472	22,189	512,179	11%
Total	134,256	124,086	133,931	178,078	366,317	616,148	800,485	764,347	638,723	411,286	229,058	166,669	4,563,383	100%
Electric MWH														
PSE&G	3,941,267	4,015,584	3,651,329	2,927,996	2,752,654	3,228,944	3,499,311	3,291,452	3,104,721	2,855,768	2,824,968	3,286,134	39,380,128	57%
JCP&L	1,978,537	2,106,711	1,889,754	1,481,156	1,389,842	1,533,320	1,665,601	1,615,308	1,519,980	1,414,697	1,343,741	1,562,260	19,500,907	28%
ACE	898,830	969,074	855,115	701,323	627,821	674,944	710,856	685,067	655,623	549,412	561,659	702,069	8,591,792	12%
RECO	156,291	156,729	144,919	115,827	102,730	114,181	127,908	111,460	108,601	103,958	98,802	122,754	1,464,160	2%
Total	6,974,925	7,248,097	6,541,117	5,226,302	4,873,047	5,551,389	6,003,676	5,703,287	5,388,926	4,923,835	4,829,170	5,673,217	68,936,987	100%
*Gas sales exclude wholesale therms														
source: 6/27/22 PSE&G USF filing Attachment A														

Staff utilized the revenue and sales projection from the tables above to develop the proposed monthly utility payments. The table on the next page sets out the proposed monthly payments to the Clean Energy Trust Fund due from each utility. This fund accounts for revenues collected from the SBC on monthly utility bills. Funds generated from this charge are used to support clean energy initiatives.

Monthly Utility Funding Levels													
FY24	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
PS-Electric	\$13,306,421.01	\$13,557,327.68	\$12,327,536.85	\$9,885,436.47	\$9,293,451.52	\$10,901,489.67	\$11,814,297.51	\$11,112,528.54	\$10,482,093.58	\$9,641,583.01	\$9,537,597.09	\$11,094,572.90	\$132,954,335.83
JCP&L	\$6,679,893.85	\$7,112,632.13	\$6,380,146.60	\$5,000,646.87	\$4,692,354.51	\$5,176,761.84	\$5,623,366.09	\$5,453,567.95	\$5,131,723.62	\$4,776,269.43	\$4,536,709.31	\$5,274,468.44	\$65,838,540.64
ACE	\$3,034,609.18	\$3,271,765.15	\$2,887,020.91	\$2,367,792.09	\$2,119,635.52	\$2,278,731.46	\$2,399,976.96	\$2,312,907.25	\$2,213,500.56	\$1,854,912.44	\$1,896,259.41	\$2,370,311.13	\$29,007,422.06
RECO	\$527,666.30	\$529,145.06	\$489,272.39	\$391,052.61	\$346,834.81	\$385,495.42	\$431,840.22	\$376,308.84	\$366,656.35	\$350,980.75	\$333,573.18	\$414,439.40	\$4,943,265.33
NJN	\$504,717.77	\$492,378.24	\$499,216.75	\$795,829.61	\$1,646,054.21	\$2,689,327.13	\$3,398,060.03	\$2,826,635.38	\$2,252,527.54	\$1,188,136.95	\$673,583.59	\$511,806.53	\$17,478,273.73
SJG	\$474,600.96	\$433,367.48	\$482,844.25	\$521,434.86	\$905,189.81	\$1,533,520.65	\$2,246,441.69	\$2,112,706.52	\$1,936,801.87	\$1,274,743.85	\$731,894.61	\$541,420.77	\$13,194,967.32
PS-Gas	\$1,835,298.97	\$1,654,991.74	\$1,830,238.74	\$2,522,373.12	\$5,509,757.12	\$9,309,376.70	\$12,058,235.50	\$11,833,240.31	\$9,838,553.31	\$6,363,641.61	\$3,440,502.43	\$2,490,293.83	\$68,686,503.38
ETG	\$478,133.97	\$462,584.50	\$472,493.00	\$527,897.18	\$923,280.50	\$1,579,399.51	\$1,929,949.34	\$1,973,777.26	\$1,637,427.98	\$1,260,659.88	\$771,881.63	\$544,206.96	\$12,561,691.71
Total	\$26,841,342.01	\$27,514,191.98	\$25,368,769.49	\$22,012,462.81	\$25,436,558.00	\$33,854,102.38	\$39,902,167.34	\$38,001,672.05	\$33,859,284.81	\$26,710,927.92	\$21,922,001.25	\$23,241,519.96	\$344,665,000.00

CONCLUSION

In February 2023, Governor Murphy's EO315⁸ directed the State to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035. Staff's FY24 CRA straw proposal is intended to advance the State toward that goal and to recognize the value of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and distributed energy resources as foundational energy resources that, when delivered cost-effectively, reduce the cost of energy for all ratepayers while providing additional benefits. These benefits include the health benefits associated with improved air quality, lower environmental compliance costs, increased grid reliability, as well as economic development opportunities in the form of jobs and a more competitive business environment. This proposal recommends that the State continue to make the investments necessary to keep New Jersey on the path toward achieving the Governor's clean energy goals.

⁸ Executive Order No. 315.