

State of New Jersey
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Christine Guhl-Sadovy
Marian Abdou
Commissioners

Board of Public Utilities



www.nj.gov/bpu/

NOTICE¹

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (GGRF): SOLAR FOR ALL FUNDING PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C.S. § 7434

DOCKET NO. [QO23070470](#)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) intends to apply for a 5- year grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) Solar for All Grant in the amount of up to \$400,000,000 to more fully access the benefits of community solar and rooftop solar for low-income and disadvantaged communities within NJ.

Under the direction of Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey is spearheading action against the global climate crisis by committing our State’s energy sector to be 100% clean energy by 2035. The State has reached major milestones in making this goal a reality, by fostering a thriving solar industry and ensuring that those who do not have a roof to put solar on, still have opportunities to reap the considerable benefits.

An award under the **Solar for All** grant opportunity would be used to complement New Jersey’s existing Solar Energy Programs, primarily the Community Solar Energy Program, which aims to equitably distribute the benefits of clean energy to all residents, with particular emphasis on low- to middle income residents and historically underserved communities. This is critical as over half our residents live in municipalities that qualify as overburdened. Not only would funding from the Solar for All Program help more New Jersey residents reach the benefits of solar energy, an award would also spur innovation for the plethora of energy solutions our state and agency are working hard to advance, including grid resilience investments such as solar plus storage enhancements, working to ensure renewable energy projects can be integrated seamlessly into our energy grid, and catalyzing more private capital investment into our energy system.

Solar for All seeks to advance three overarching Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) program objectives:

- **Reduce emissions** of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants.
- **Deliver benefits** of greenhouse gas- and air pollution-reducing projects to American communities, particularly low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- **Mobilize financing and private capital** to stimulate additional deployment of greenhouse gas- and air pollution-reducing projects.

This Grant could advance the State’s clean energy and equity goals as outlined by the 2019 New Jersey Energy Master Plan, the 80x50 Report and the 2018 Clean Energy Act. The Board intends to apply for the Solar for All Grant, on behalf of the State, to invest in the most beneficial and highest impact solutions relative to the above objectives, and seeks input from stakeholders on prospective solution paths.

¹ Not a paid legal advertisement.

Specific areas that could benefit from funding include, but are not limited to:

1. Expansion of the Community Solar Energy Program, which is expected to launch soon;
2. Low- or zero-interest loan opportunities for solar benefitting low-income and disadvantaged residents;
3. Competitive re-grant opportunities to reach targeted populations that are difficult to reach, e.g. multi-family affordable housing units, or community solar in areas with currently closed circuits; and
4. Competitive re-grant opportunities to further enhance solar in New Jersey, including workforce training and development.

The minimum demonstrated savings to community participants must be 20% of current electric bills, and there are restrictions on the percent amount of funding may be used for enablers, including utility infrastructure upgrades. Key questions that will help shape the State's proposal and ultimately the program design that is funded through the grant proceeds include:

RFI Questions

1. Given that SREC-IIs under the Successor Solar Incentive Program will still be available, what is the most effective approach to achieve the Solar for All objectives?
2. The funds need to be paid in five years from the start of the program. What are the most effective funding mechanisms for New Jersey to allocate Solar for All funds, grants, loans, or other financing mechanisms?
3. How can the deployed solution be best integrated with the distribution grid?
4. Should the program support generation only or allow for load/generation/storage combinations?
5. The funds that may be spent on enablers, including infrastructure upgrades, are constrained to 20% of the financial assistance under the program. What would be the most effective use of those funds within those constraints?
6. Would allowing operation of Microgrids help achieve the stated objectives? Particularly with regard to mobilizing private capital?
7. What would be the most effective way of integrating workforce development into New Jersey's deployment of a Solar for All grant?
8. Would your organization be interested in signing a letter of support for New Jersey's application?

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5 p.m. on August 15, 2023. Please submit comments directly to the specific docket listed above using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's [Public Document Search tool](#). Comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act and any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain rules requiring paper submissions have been temporarily waived. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board's e-filing system or by email to the Acting Secretary of the Board. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage. <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

Written comments may also be submitted to:

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Dated: 08-01-2023

Sherri L. Golden

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Secretary of the Board