2017 Washington State Solar Summit

New Renewable Energy System Incentive Program

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WSU Energy Program
History: The Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Program

- In 2005, a production incentive was established in the State of Washington for homeowners, businesses and local governments that install solar electric, wind power or anaerobic digester systems.

- The WSU Energy Program provided technical support to the Department of Revenue (DOR) in the administration of this program.

- In 2009, the program was expanded to include community solar projects.
Program Results
2005 to Present

• PV Systems ........................................ 14,488
• MW_{dc} ............................................. 99
• % Residential / Commercial .......... 88 / 12
• Cities (Aberdeen to Zillah) .......... 379
• Utility Territories ......................... 51
• Manufacturers ............................... 6
• Contractors of Record ................. 374
Growth of Solar Installations

New Systems per Year
Renewable Energy System
Incentive Program

In 2017, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5939 directed the WSU Energy Program to launch and administer a new renewable energy incentive program for citizens and businesses of Washington.
The new program is not the same as the legacy program. New elements include:

- Project types
- Incentive rates & annual limits
- Program term
- Eligibility requirements
- Data requirements
Program Elements
(Continued)

Project types with specific requirements and incentive rates:

• Residential Scale – 12 kW\(_{dc}\) or less, combined
  – Annual incentive limit is $5,000

• Commercial Scale – Greater than 12 kW\(_{dc}\)
  – Annual incentive limit is $25,000

• Community Solar Project – 1,000 kW\(_{dc}\) or less
  – Annual incentive limit is $5,000 per participant

• Shared Commercial Solar Project – 1 to 5 MW\(_{dc}\)
  – Annual incentive limit is $35,000 per participant
Program Elements
(Continued)

The new program term is eight years of incentive payments or 50 percent of system price – whichever comes first.
Program Elements
(Continued)

A customer-owner of a residential or commercial scale system does not need to own the property where the system is installed.
Program Elements
(Continued)

• Additional data requirements
  – Completed Interconnection Agreement
  – System details and operation data: GPS coordinates, tilt, estimated shading, azimuth
  – System price details, including sales tax
WSU Energy Program
Administrative Responsibilities

DOR administrative responsibilities transferred over to the WSU Energy Program October 1, 2017.

• Program management
• Technical review
• Tracking responsibilities
• Reporting responsibilities
The certification process includes determining system and applicant eligibility, such as:

- Technology
- Project
- Incentive rates
- Bonus eligibility
WSU Energy Program
Administrative Responsibilities
(Continued)

• Tracking responsibilities include:
  – $110 million statewide cap on program
  – 1½ percent per utility Public Utility Tax credit
  – Annual and cumulative incentive payments
WSU Energy Program
Administrative Responsibilities
(Continued)

• Work with utilities to coordinate annual incentive payments
• Facilitate the reapplication process for DOR-certified systems
Program Partner Responsibilities

• Participating Utilities
  – Interconnection and incentives
• Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
  – Program evaluation
• Department of Commerce
  – Manufacturing guidelines
• Utilities and Transportation Commission
  – Registration of community solar companies
• Department of Ecology
  – Recycling efforts
Additional Program Partners

- Renewable energy community
  - Citizens of Washington
  - System owners
  - Installers
  - Developers
  - Manufacturers
  - Advocacy groups
Our Recent Activities

• Established staffing for the program
• Worked to procure an online platform (PowerClerk) to streamline application process
  – Slated to deliver an online system soon
Our Recent Activities (Continued)

• Consulting with DOR on the administrative transition
• Working with DOR and other state agencies
Our Recent Activities
(Continued)

• Requested notification of participation from utilities
Our Recent Activities
(Continued)

• Working with our attorney on emergency rulemaking
• Secured temporary financial support from WSU to administer the program
Our Recent Activities
(Continued)

Responding to questions from

• Utilities
• Installers/Developers
• Previous Program Participants
• Potential Participants
Challenges

• Statute language
  - Considering legislative intent with practical implementation
• Short time frame
• Administrative funding
Opportunities

We look forward to working with you to meet the goals of the legislation and contribute to the growth of renewable energy in the State of Washington.
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