

Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) FY26 Maryland Residential and Commercial Energy Storage Grant Program

Introduction:

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is pleased to announce the Maryland Residential and Commercial Energy Storage (“RCES”) Grant Program for the first time. The RCES Program was established in statute and replaces the prior Maryland Energy Storage Income Tax Credit Program that sunset at the end of 2024.

Program Description:

The RCES Program provides grants to Maryland residents and commercial entities to offset the cost of purchasing and installing a battery energy storage system on their property that is grid connected.

A **“battery energy storage system”** (“BESS”) means a system used to store electrical energy, or mechanical, chemical, or thermal energy that was once electrical energy, for use as electrical energy at a later date or in a process that offsets electricity use at peak times.

“Grid connected” means there is a physical linkage between the energy storage system and the utility grid.

Eligible Applicant

1. The owner of a residential property who purchases and installs an energy storage system on the residential property;
2. The owner of a commercial property who purchases and installs an energy storage system on the commercial property; **or**,
3. A “Third Party owner” of an energy storage system installed on a residential or commercial property. Third



Party ownership is defined as an “Individual or a business entity that owns or pays for the installation of an energy storage system that supplies electrical energy intended for use on the residential or commercial property on which the energy storage system is installed.”

Type of Grant Program:

Non-competitive (i.e., first-come, first-served), with a **two-step** application process.

Note: An application must be submitted and a Reservation Certificate issued by MEA before the BESS is installed.

Application Deadline:

3:00 P.M. ET, June 5, 2026¹

Anticipated Program Budget:

\$2,000,000.00 is available from the Regional Renewable Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) proceeds allocation for renewable energy and clean energy programs (“RGGI-RE”) through the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (“SEIF”)

Areas of Interest:

There will be 2 Areas of Interest (“AOI”) under the Program:

1. AOI 1 – Residential property, and
2. AOI 2 – Commercial property.

Grant Amount:

BESS grant awards are calculated differently depending if the BESS is installed on a residential or commercial property.

Under the RCES Program, a grant award for an eligible application is calculated as the lower amount of:

- 30 percent of the total installed costs of the battery energy storage system,
- \$5,000 for a battery energy storage system installed on a residential property, or;
- \$150,000 for a battery energy storage system installed on a commercial property.

¹ Or until budgeted funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.



Missing Information Policy:

An application that is missing, or has incorrect, information or documentation will be placed on standby. The applicant, and their authorized third-party agent (as applicable), will be notified and asked to provide the missing information or documentation.

- **Missing or clarifying information or documentation must be submitted within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date the applicant is notified by MEA.**
- An application initially submitted with missing or incomplete information will be considered for funding based on the date the missing or incomplete information was submitted to MEA.
- If the requested information or documentation is not received within **fourteen (14) calendar days** the application will be rejected. An applicant whose application is canceled for this reason is free to reapply, subject to funding availability at the time of the new application.

Review Process:

Each **complete** application package will be reviewed for eligibility by MEA. Subject to funding availability:

An application that **passes** the review will be approved for payment processing and the applicant will be notified. An application **that does not pass** the review will be rejected and the applicant will be notified.

Partial Grants:

Partial grants are possible under this Program, depending on the number of complete and eligible applications received and associated grant funds requested. Full grants will be made for approved projects, based on the order of eligible applications received. As the program budget is depleted and sufficient grant funds are not available to fully fund an eligible application, the applicant will be given an option to accept a reservation certificate for partial funding. If the applicant declines, MEA will offer partial grant funding under this same structure to the next qualified applicant until all funding has been committed via reservation certificates or all remaining eligible projects have rejected the offer.



Program General Provisions:

MEA grant programs are covered by general requirements (“General Provisions”). A copy of the General Provisions is available on MEA’s website [here](#).² Sections 1B-1E, 1G, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19B-19C, 20-25, and 27-29 pertain to RCES grants, as applicable.

In addition, the following additional provisions also apply to this program:

- **“Project”** refers to the energy storage installation which MEA is providing funding for through the RCES.
- **“Grant agreement”** refers to the terms and conditions that the applicant agrees to through the RCES, as well as the documents listed and the conditions outlined in this FOA.
- When requested by MEA, the Project Site shall be made available to MEA for monitoring, evaluation, and verification purposes.
- All participating businesses and contractors shall comply with all applicable Environmental Standards.

In addition to the General Provisions, the following funding qualifications apply to this Program:

- MEA may obligate all or none of the Program budget, based on the eligibility of applications submitted to MEA

Grant Funding and Payment:

The following requirements apply to each grantee:

Electronic Payments: Participation in MEA grant programs is voluntary. To ensure the secure transmission of grant funds, each grantee receiving MEA grant funding is encouraged to receive electronic payments from the State of Maryland, particularly if an applicant has previously had mail delivery issues. Electronic payments are set up through the State of

² <https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf>



Maryland's Comptroller's Office. To set up direct deposit, each grantee must fill out and submit the "[ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization for Vendor Payments Form X-10](#)" to the Comptroller's Office via the submission methods outlined in the X-10 form. **ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization for Vendor Payment Form X-10 cannot be sent to MEA**, it must instead go to the appropriate location specified by the Comptroller's Office. Failure to submit ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization Form X-10 may result in grant reimbursement being delayed.

Application Process: The application process consists of two (2) steps:

Step 1 - Reserve Grant Funds: The applicant will submit an application with all required supporting documents defined in the Step 1 of "Required Application Documents" via the MyMEA Portal for RCES program applications. Subject to funding availability and upon submission and review of an eligible application, MEA will issue a "Reservation Certificate" confirming the reserved grant funds. A valid, signed BESS installation contract must be in place between the BESS provider and applicant before an application for a Reservation Certificate is submitted to MEA. No installation work can begin until after the Reservation Certificate is issued. A Reservation Certificate is considered "Effective" after it has been signed and dated by MEA.

Step 2 - Complete Installation and Claim Funds: Within 180 days of the effective date of the Reservation Certificate, the applicant must submit a Completion Certificate to MEA indicating BESS installation.

The Completion Certificate consists of all required information and supporting documents defined in Step 2 of "Required Application Documents." Upon receipt, MEA will review the Completion Certificate to confirm eligibility. Eligible projects will be awarded grant funding by processing payment of the applicant's reserved grant funds to the applicant designated in the initial Step 1 application.

Required Application Documents:

Step 1 - Reservation of Funds: The following must be



provided with each application request for a Reservation Certificate to constitute a complete application.

- **Complete Application Data:** The information that is submitted in the MyMEA application portal must be complete, accurate, and up-to-date, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, information, and belief. For residential applicants, this must include the funding recipient's full legal name as it is represented on the government-issued identification.

Note: Providing any name other than that associated with a government-issued ID will severely delay the process of grant payments. If the applicant has processed a legal name change within the past 12 months, please contact the program inbox at CleanEnergy.MEA@Maryland.gov for more information.

- **Note: For a system with third-party ownership, where the applicant owns the BESS and another party owns the real property where the BESS is to be installed:** Applicants must provide a **signed AND notarized** letter from the real property (i.e., land) owner that gives the applicant explicit, written permission to install the BESS on the real property.

Step 2 - Completion Certificate: The following documents must be provided with each Completion Certificate request.

- **Completion Certificate Data:** The Completion Certificate information that is submitted in the MyMEA RCES Online Application Portal must be complete, accurate, and up-to-date, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, information, and belief.
- **Executed BESS Agreement:** A fully-executed BESS installation contract, power purchase agreement, lease agreement, or loan agreement, between the BESS provider or BESS installer and the applicant ("Executed BESS Agreement"). The Executed BESS Agreement must be signed by both parties.



- **Utility Interconnection Agreement and Permission to Operate:** A fully executed copy of the utility interconnection agreement between the utility and applicant, as well as documentation from the utility that gives the BESS permission to operate.
- **Purchased BESS - Paid-in-Full Documentation:** If the BESS is owned by the applicant, documentation that it is paid-in-full must be provided. This is typically in the form of a “zero-balance” invoice from the BESS installer.
- **Financed BESS - Financing Agreement Documentation:** If the system is financed through a third-party financing agreement or financed directly with the vendor, the application must include a fully-executed financing agreement.
- **IRS Form W9:** The applicant **must** provide a complete, accurate, and signed IRS Form W9. **The IRS Form W9 is required for payment processing.** A blank copy of the most recent IRS Form W9, with instructions, can be found on the [IRS Form W9 webpage](#)³.

Please be sure to use the applicant’s legal name as it would be listed on a tax return (i.e., no abbreviations or nicknames), the tax identification number, and the mailing address where grant funds should be sent.

- **Good Standing Documentation:** A commercial applicant, to include any third-party owner, must provide evidence of Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (“DAT”). Acceptable proof includes either (1) a PDF or screenshot from the commercial applicant or contractor’s result from the [DAT Business Entity Search engine](#)⁴ that shows a “Good Standing” status, or (2) a Certificate of Status indicating “Good

³ <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9>

⁴ <https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress/entitysearch>



Standing” status from DAT, the instructions for which are available [here](#)⁵.

**Application
Submission
Instructions:**

Each application for a Reservation of Funds and each Completion Certificate must be submitted through the MyMEA RCES Online Application Portal in the link below. Each applicant must create an account before an application for a Reservation of Funds can be submitted. The Completion Certificate application must be submitted under the same MyMEA account after the system is installed.

>>> [RCES Online Application Portal](#) <<<⁶

Regulations:

SEIF-funded MEA grant programs are regulated by the Strategic Energy Investment Program regulations* (COMAR 14.26.02). All applicants and associated projects funded by the SEIF must meet all applicable regulations defined by COMAR 14.26.02.

**To navigate to [COMAR 14.26.02](#): 14 - Independent Agencies → 26 - MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION → 02 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.*

**MEA Program
Manager:**

The MEA Program Manager for this Program is:

Emma Stoney
emma.stoney@maryland.gov
(410) 382 - 1605

Questions:

Questions not answered by this FOA can be directed to the MEA Clean Energy and Resilience Team by sending an email to energystorage.mea@maryland.gov

⁵ <https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/pages/internet-certificate-of-status.aspx>

⁶ <https://mdmea.my.site.com/MEAPrograms/rces-program-details>