

# Strategic Energy Investment Advisory Board Meeting

**Maryland Energy Administration**



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## Process Improvement

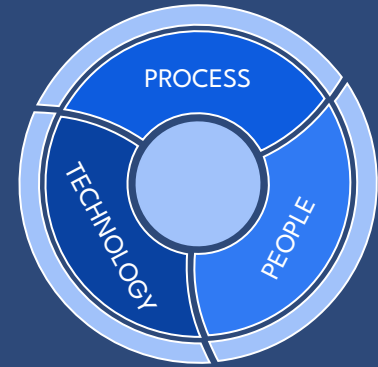


# Grants & Rebates Modernization

*As MEA's budget and programmatic offerings have grown, so has the need to ensure operational efficiencies which enable MEA to better meet our goals.*

Staff dedicated to agency performance improvement & operational excellence:

- Chief Performance Officer
- Process Improvement Manager
- On-site Salesforce Administrator
- Data Manager Analyst (hiring)

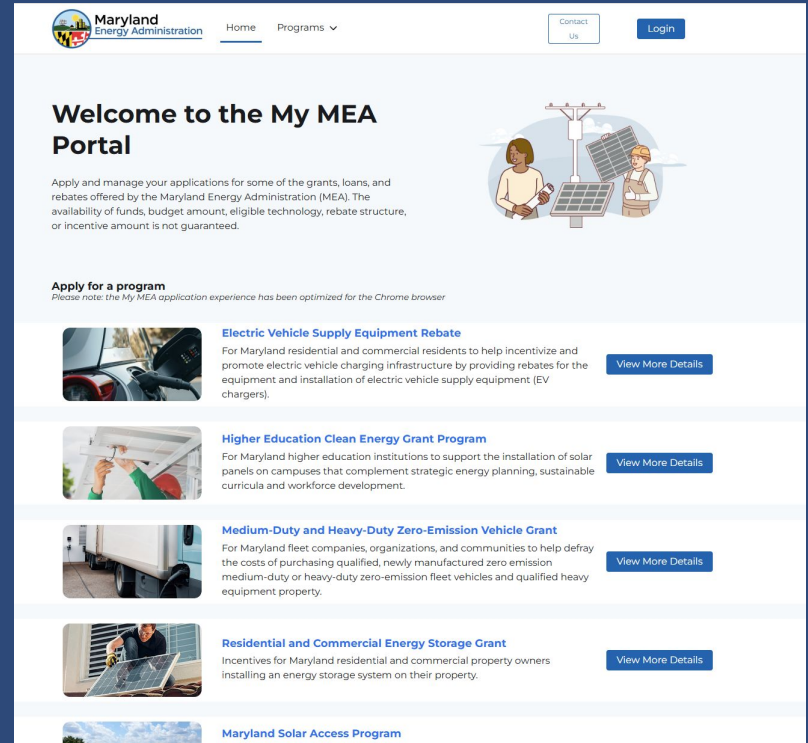


# Introducing “MyMEA”

A streamlined **online portal** allows applicants to apply online, track all applications in one place, communicate with programs teams, and receive status updates. The portal also allows faster and more streamlined processing and payment.

## Goals:

- Reduced Administrative Burden on Staff
- Faster Delivery of Grants & Rebates
- Better Customer Service



The screenshot shows the MyMEA portal homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Maryland Energy Administration logo, a "Home" link, a "Programs" dropdown menu, a "Contact Us" button, and a "Login" button. The main heading is "Welcome to the My MEA Portal". Below this, a paragraph explains that the portal is used to apply and manage applications for grants, loans, and rebates offered by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). To the right of this text is an illustration of two people, one holding a tablet and the other holding a clipboard, standing next to solar panels. Below the welcome message is a section titled "Apply for a program" with a note that the application experience is optimized for the Chrome browser. This section lists four programs, each with a small image, a title, a brief description, and a "View More Details" button: 1. "Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Rebate" (image of a car interior) for residential and commercial residents to incentivize EV charging infrastructure. 2. "Higher Education Clean Energy Grant Program" (image of solar panels) for higher education institutions to support solar panel installation on campuses. 3. "Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Grant" (image of a white van) for fleet companies to defray costs of zero-emission vehicles. 4. "Residential and Commercial Energy Storage Grant" (image of a person installing solar panels) for incentives on energy storage systems. A fifth program, "Maryland Solar Access Program", is partially visible at the bottom.

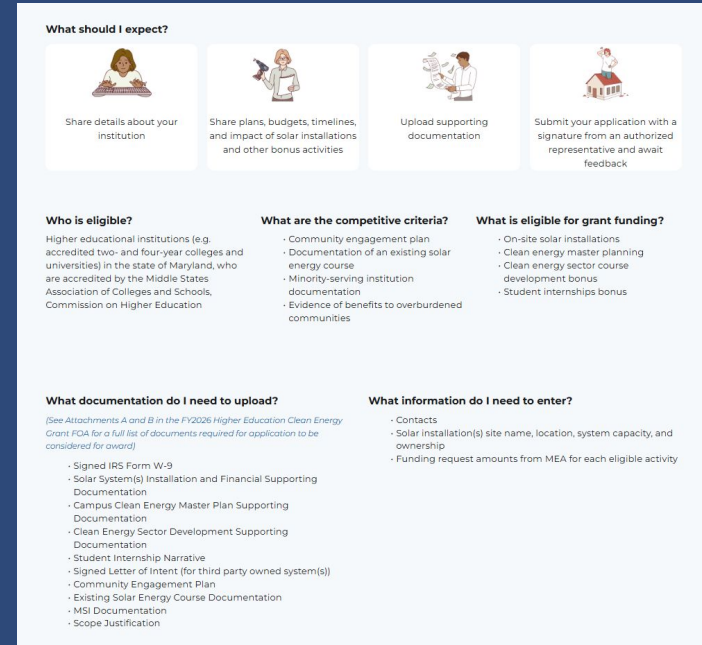


# MyMEA Programs

Five FY26 MEA programs in MyMEA:

- **Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Rebates** (nearing full subscription)
- **Residential & Commercial Energy Storage Grants** (fully subscribed)
- **Maryland Solar Access Program**
- **Medium & Heavy Duty Zero Emission Vehicles Program** (application window closed 11/2025)
- **Higher Education Clean Energy Grants** (application window closed 11/2025)

[mea.maryland.gov](https://mea.maryland.gov)



**What should I expect?**

- Share details about your institution
- Share plans, budgets, timelines, and impact of solar installations and other bonus activities
- Upload supporting documentation
- Submit your application with a signature from an authorized representative and await feedback

**Who is eligible?**  
Higher educational institutions (e.g. accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities) in the state of Maryland, who are accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education

**What are the competitive criteria?**

- Community engagement plan
- Documentation of an existing solar energy course
- Minority-serving institution documentation
- Evidence of benefits to overburdened communities

**What is eligible for grant funding?**

- On-site solar installations
- Clean energy master planning
- Clean energy sector course development bonus
- Student internships bonus

**What documentation do I need to upload?**  
*(See Attachments A and B in the FY2026 Higher Education Clean Energy Grant FOA for a full list of documents required for application to be considered for award)*

- Signed IRS Form W-9
- Solar System(s) Installation and Financial Supporting Documentation
- Campus Clean Energy Master Plan Supporting Documentation
- Clean Energy Sector Development Supporting Documentation
- Student Internship Narrative
- Signed Letter of Intent (for third party owned system(s))
- Community Engagement Plan
- Existing Solar Energy Course Documentation
- MSI Documentation
- Scope Justification

**What information do I need to enter?**

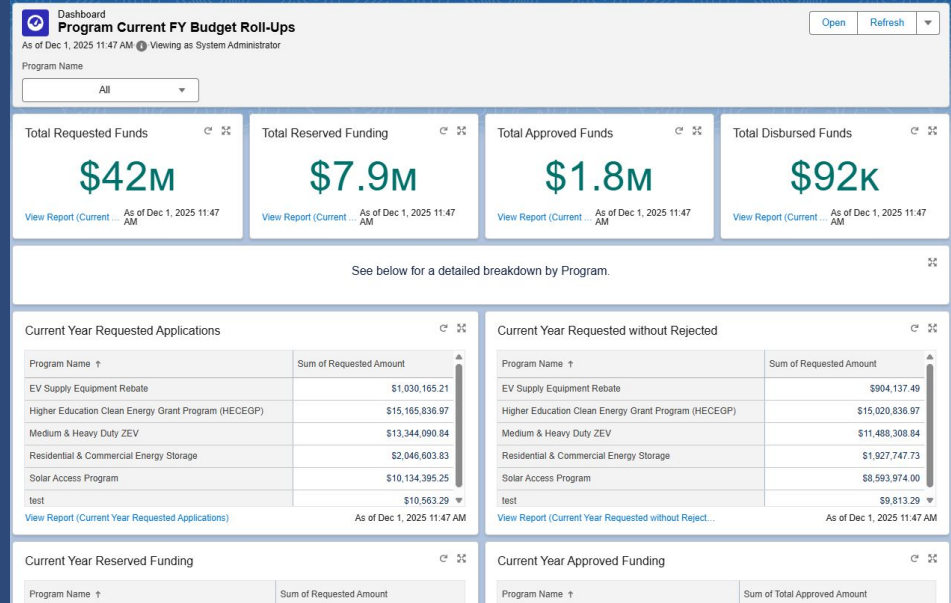
- Contacts
- Solar installation(s) site name, location, system capacity, and ownership
- Funding request amounts from MEA for each eligible activity



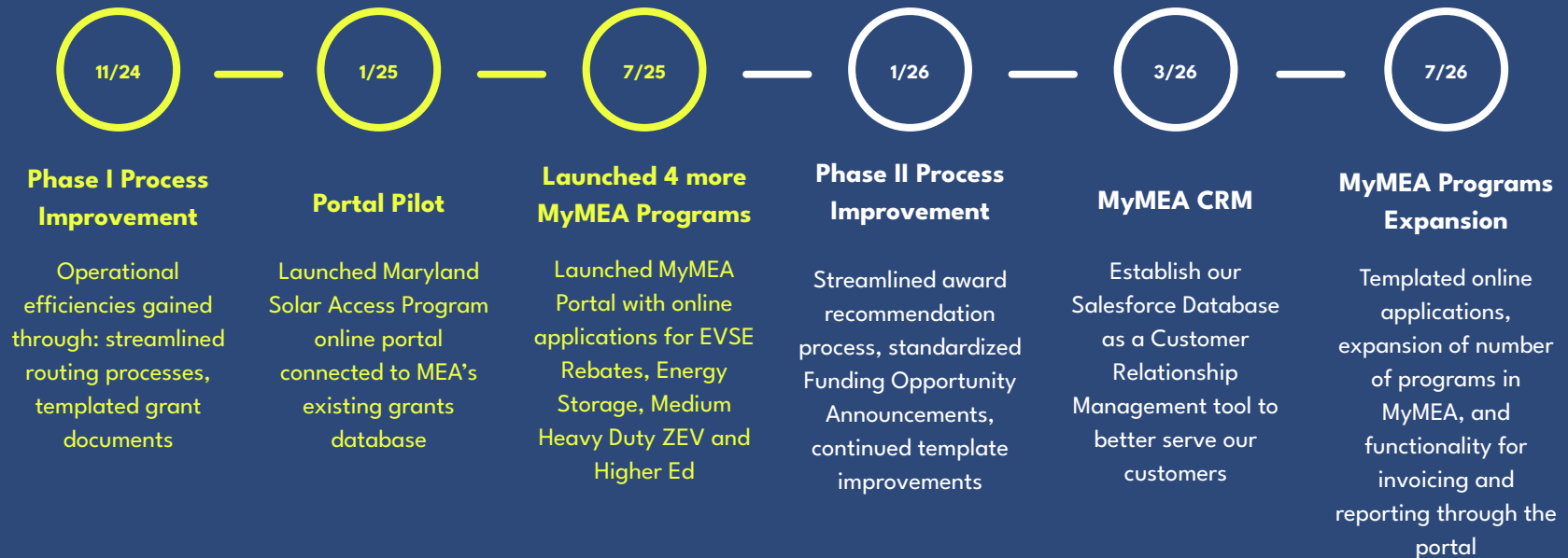
# Systems Buildout

MyMEA is a portion of a larger strategic grants modernization initiative to strategically build out our internal database to:

- Manage Contacts, Relationships & Partnerships and track the success of our engagement strategies
- Improve Existing Grantee experience for submitting reports and invoices
- Streamline Programs and Financial Approval processes to issue payments faster
- Clean better data and insights on Program Performance & Outcomes
- Create dashboards for improved data transparency and tracking
- Launch additional Programs in MyMEA in FY27



# Grants/Rebates Modernization Timeline



# Strategic Energy Investment Advisory Board Meeting

## Financial Update



# Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF)

Fund comprised of revenue from multiple sources intended to decrease energy demand and increase energy supply

- Revenues from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Auctions
- Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP)
- Public Service Commission (PSC) orders

Each revenue source comes with specific usage directives



# Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF)

- Guiding statute: § 9-20B
- SEIF statute directs the allocation of revenues from RGGI auctions to various sub-accounts
- Annual appropriations direct expenditures from sub-accounts
- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) provides management & oversight of the RGGI auction program of allowances
- MEA administers the SEIF



# Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF)

MEA's 3 Prime Directives in Administering the SEIF per § 9-20B-05

- Ensure SEIF resources are utilized only to carry out the purposes of the Program
- Fund may not be used for the general obligations of government
- Fund expenditures only made by an appropriation or budget amendment



# RGGI Market

## Regional CO<sub>2</sub> allowance auctions

- Quarterly
- Notice and application materials

## Centralized registry platform (RGGI COATS)

- Allowance tracking
- Emissions tracking
- Compliance processing
- Offsets projects

## Independent market monitor

- Regional auctions
- Secondary market



# RGGI Auction Price Mechanics

- **Minimum Reserve Price:** The minimum price that allowances can be sold for at a RGGI auction. As specified in Participating State regulations, the Minimum Reserve Price in calendar year 2024 was \$2.56.
- **Cost Containment Reserve (CCR):** Designed to moderate the price of CO2 Allowances if the demand for allowances exceeds the Initial Offering (i.e., the CO2 Allowances that are offered for sale upon the opening of the auction) and the Interim Clearing Price exceeds the CCR Trigger Price. The CCR consists of 10% of the annual base budgets of the states. The CCR Trigger Price is the price which, if exceeded by the Interim Clearing Price, triggers a release of CO2 allowances from the CCR. The CCR Trigger Price was established at \$17.03 for 2025 and will increase by 7% of the previous year each year thereafter.
- **The Emissions Containment Reserve (ECR):** Designed to secure additional emissions reductions if the demand for allowances is close to the Initial Offering. The ECR consists of 10% of the annual base budgets of the states implementing the ECR. ECR Allowances are withheld, up to the ECR limit, if the Interim Clearing Price is less than the ECR Trigger Price. The ECR Trigger Price was established at \$7.86 for 2025 and will increase by 7% of the previous year each year thereafter.



# RGGI Auction 70 Results

- Auction Date: December 3, 2025
- Total Allowances Sold: 15,230,235
- Clearing Price: \$26.73
- Total Auction Proceeds: \$407,104,182
- Auction Proceeds to Maryland: \$73,813,639
- Cost Containment Reserve (CCR): There were no allowances sold.
  - The CCR is a fixed additional supply of allowances that are made available for sale if an auction interim clearing price exceeds a certain price level (\$17.03 in 2025). There were no allowances available for sale.



# RGGI Revenue, Allowances Sold, and Allowance Price by RGGI Auction

	<u>Allowances Sold</u>	<u>Allowance Price (\$)</u>	<u>RGGI Revenue (\$)</u>
Auction 70	2,761,453	26.73	73,813,639
Auction 69	2,761,452	22.25	61,442,307
Auction 68	2,761,452	19.63	54,207,303
Auction 67	4,344,582	19.76	85,848,940
Auction 66	2,782,327	20.05	55,785,656
Total Auctions 1-70			1,689,225,514



# SEIF Revenues (\$ Millions)

Revenues	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
RGGI Proceeds	267.5	221.6
TIER 1 RE ACP (LMI Solar ACP)	<u>33.3</u>	<u>44.6</u>
Total	300.8	266.2

In FY25 and thereafter fund interest reverts to the General Fund of the State.



# SEIF FY26 Status of Funds (\$ Millions)

Beginning Available Fund Balance FY2026	682.6
FY2026 Revenue Projection	432.8
FY2026 Appropriations	(671.4)
Projected Funds Available EOY	444.0



# SEIF Uses of Funds (\$ Millions)

		2025 <u>Actual*</u>	2026 <u>Approp</u>
Dept of General Services (DGS)		4.9	5
Medium/Heavy Duty ZEV		10	10
Energy Assistance (DHS)		94	150
MD Dept of Environment (MDE)			
Includes RGGI Inc. Dues		10.8	10.3
Higher Education		9.6	40
MD Energy Administration (MEA)		54.6	63
State Fleet EV Purchase Reimb.		1.25	1.25
EV Excise Tax Rebate		8.25	8.25
MD Energy Innovation Institute (MEII)		2.1	2.1
Tree Solutions Now		7.5	10
Total		203	299.9



# Budget (\$ Millions)

Breakout	FY25	FY26
Administration	\$7.1	\$9.1
Energy Efficiency Low-to-Moderate Income	\$11.5	\$17.2
Energy Efficiency All Other Sectors	\$13.8	\$40.8
Renewable and Clean Energy Programs	\$58.4	\$71.5



# Strategic Energy Investment Advisory Board Meeting

## Programs Update



# FY26 Highlights

- Continued high level of interest in MEA programs
- On target for full or near **full encumbrance of funds** based on results to date
- Expanding outreach funding to support **community level engagement**
- Energy Storage and the Maryland Solar Access Program
- General shift to funding the best of the best as opposed to first come first serve via competitive programs. Early adopters and exemplars



# FY26 Program Highlight - Local Government Energy Modernization (L-GEM)



## \$64 million

### Eligible Activities

- Renewable Energy (Geothermal, Solar, LFGTE)
- Energy Efficiency (Weatherization, Equipment, etc.)
- Electrification (Air Source Heat Pumps)

### Applications Received (Closed 12/5)

- 87 applications
- \$160M+ requested
- 22 of 24 Counties/Baltimore City participating
- 32 applications from municipalities.



# FY26 Decarbonizing Public Schools Program



## \$36 million

### Eligible Activities

- Energy Management Capacity Building
- Energy Efficiency and Electrification
- Solar
- Net Zero Schools

### Applications Received (Closed 12/5)

- 58 applications
- \$58 million requested
- 18 of 24 local education administrations



# Project Successes



- Fairmont Heights Net Zero Homes
- 6 new affordable infill homes for first time home buyers
- MEA funded planning for clean energy integration
- Offered for sale in November 2025



# FY25 - 26 Partnership Highlights

- Continuing to develop partnerships with state agencies and other organizations leveraging our respective unique capabilities
  - MEA has provided funding to Dept of Labor to further incorporate offshore wind training into the EARN program.
  - Solar, EV charging and electrification funding to the Department of Housing and Community Development to support comprehensive energy projects in low to moderate income multi-family
  - Funding to the Maryland Clean Energy Center to expand construction and preconstruction financing options for solar.



# Federal Updates

## Federal Investment Tax Credit, Production Tax Credit Impacts and Mitigations

- Grant flexibility to help projects achieve “safe harbor” for current and future grants.
- Increased grant funding allowances for FY26 grants to backfill a portion of ITC for projects that cannot achieve safe harbor provisions.
- Continuing to engage local governments to adopt SolarApp+ streamlined permitting to reduce soft costs, helping close margins.
- Funding to MCEC, responding to needs expressed by solar industry, to support revolving bridge financing for projects benefiting low to moderate income Marylanders
- Evaluating other options in concert with feedback from impacted sectors.



# Federal Updates

## DOE Reorganization:

- DOE reorganization of key offices involved in energy efficiency and clean energy as well as rebranding of the national labs.
- Long term impacts unclear.

## Existing Grants including IRA Home Appliance Rebates:

- MEA's IRA Home Appliance rebates are still in conditional status, no significant movement from DOE regarding approving the funds.
- MEA proceeding with IRA rebate administrator procurement to help be in position for when and if approval is received.
- MEA is proceeding with multiple SEP grant projects including several studies.



# Learn More About **MEA Programs**

MEA offers expertise and advice to match your needs to electrify with available programs and financial support.

