



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
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Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) FY25 Geothermal Rebate Program

NOTE: The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Commercial Clean Energy Rebate Program (C-CERP) ended in June 2024, and the Residential Clean Energy Rebate Program (R-CERP) ended in November 2024. This program continues the residential and commercial rebates for geothermal heating and cooling projects in one offering through the end of the 2025 Fiscal Year. For more information on this new MEA funding opportunity, visit the [Maryland Geothermal Rebate Program webpage](#)¹.

Program Description:	The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Geothermal Rebate Program (“Program”) provides geothermal heating and cooling system (“GHC system”) rebates for Maryland residents and commercial-scale organizations, under two Areas of Interest (AOIs): (1) Maryland Residential Properties, and (2) Maryland Commercial, Nonprofit, and Government (State and Local) Properties. Each AOI is described in more detail in the “Eligible Applicants” section below.
Type of Rebate Program:	Rebates are awarded on a non-competitive, first-come, first-served basis for complete and eligible applications.
Application Deadline:	Each complete and eligible Geothermal Rebate Program application must be submitted to MEA no later than 3:00 P.M. ET, Friday, June 13, 2025. No exceptions. Issuance of a rebate by MEA cannot be assured if the Program Budget has been exhausted.
Eligible Applicants:	AOI 1: Maryland Residential Properties: A Maryland resident who has installed an eligible GHC system at a single-family home (including townhouses) in Maryland. Multifamily properties do not qualify. The applicant does not have to be the homeowner. If the applicant is not the homeowner, they must have an active and current residential lease agreement with the homeowner and must have explicit written, signed, and notarized permission from the homeowner to install the system.

¹ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Geothermal-Rebate-Program.aspx>

AOI 2: Maryland Commercial, Nonprofit, and Government (State and Local) Properties: A Maryland business, nonprofit organization, local government, or State of Maryland government agency that has purchased and installed a GHC system at its Maryland facility.

Eligible GHC Systems:

An electrically-powered ground-source heat pump system, inclusive of necessary HVAC equipment and ground loops, pond loops, or vertically-drilled wells, that serves as the primary heating and cooling system for the property. Must include the installation of **new** ground loops or wells. A GHC system that is installed as a replacement for a prior GHC system, which makes use of existing ground loops or wells, does not qualify for this Program.

Note 1: A project will only receive one rebate per installation address. A rebate for a second GHC system installation on the property will not be approved. If the capacity of a GHC system that has already received a rebate is increased, an additional rebate will not be issued to the system for the increase in capacity.

Note 2: A property that has received a geothermal heating and cooling rebate through the prior MEA R-CERP or C-CERP, as applicable, is not eligible to receive a geothermal rebate from the FY25 Geothermal Rebate Program.

Minimum System Size Requirements

New Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems must exceed 1.00 refrigerant ton (approximately 12,000 BTU/hr or 3.51 kW).

Anticipated Program Budget:

MEA anticipates a budget of **\$300,000** from the [Strategic Energy Investment Fund](#)² for rebates under this Program. The total amount awarded may be more or less, depending on the number of eligible applications received.

Eligibility Criteria:

The following criteria **must be met** for a GHC system to qualify for a rebate. No exceptions.

- 1. Project Location:** The GHC system **must be installed on a property in the State of Maryland**.

² [https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Strategic-Energy-Investment-Fund-\(SEIF\)-.aspx](https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Strategic-Energy-Investment-Fund-(SEIF)-.aspx)

2. Maryland Authorized Business (Installation Contractors):

Any contractor installing a GHC system for which a rebate is sought under this Program must be incorporated or registered to do business in the State of Maryland; possess all licenses and certifications required by all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations for the work being performed; and be in good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

- 3. Maryland Historical Trust (MHT):** A geothermal heating and cooling rebate will not be awarded for a project that creates an adverse impact on the historical significance of a historical property or district, as determined by the Maryland Historical Trust. Digging wells for geothermal heating and cooling systems has the potential to impact below-ground archaeological resources at historic properties or properties within historic areas. Applicants can visit [Maryland's Cultural Resource Information System \(MEDUSA\)](#)³ to see if a property is recorded in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, the National Register of Historic Places, or has a Maryland Historical Trust Preservation Easement. For a property that falls within these boundaries, pre-coordination with the Maryland Historical Trust (phone: 410-697-9591) or MEA's Historic Preservation Specialist, Fred Shoken (phone: 410-537-4083) or email to fred.shoken@maryland.gov, should be conducted before installing a geothermal heating and cooling system. For properties within historic areas, a diagram showing the location of the well field is required.

4. Property Ownership OR Permission to Install:

- a. AOI 1:** The residential structure and any associated land, if applicable, where the GHC system is installed must be owned by the applicant; **OR**, if not owned by the applicant, the applicant must have an active and current lease with the property owner, and **must provide a signed and notarized letter from property owner** that authorizes the applicant to install the GHC system on the property.

³ <https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/medusa/>

- b. **AOI 2:** If the rebate applicant is a Maryland businesses, nonprofit organization, local government, or State of Maryland government agency, the property on which the GHC system is installed must either (1) be owned by the applicant, or (2) if the property is not owned by the applicant, the applicant must have an active and current lease with the property owner, and **must provide a signed and notarized letter from the property owner** that authorizes the applicant to install the GHC system on the property.
5. **GHC System Ownership:** The applicant must own the GHC system. A GHC system that is purchased using a loan is permissible under this program.
6. **Complete Installation:** The GHC system must be fully installed, have received all necessary permits and inspections required by all applicable authorities having jurisdiction, and be operational. **Each rebate applicant, or their installation contractor, if the installation contractor is filling out the application on behalf of the rebate applicant, is responsible for ensuring that any applicable permits and final inspections are obtained and completed.** Each rebate applicant must contact their local permitting office for information on requirements. MEA does not regulate or enforce local permits, and we cannot provide assistance in obtaining them or information on requirements.
7. **Paid-in-Full Balance:** The GHC system must be paid-in-full at the time of application for a geothermal heating and cooling rebate. For this rebate program, “paid-in-full” means that there is no outstanding balance due to the vendor from the rebate applicant. This includes the GHC system being paid off, or financed with a loan.
8. **Submission Time Limit: Complete and eligible** applications for a GHC system must be submitted to MEA **within twelve (12) months** of the geothermal heating and cooling system installation; GHC system installations from more than twelve (12) months ago will not be accepted. All applications need to

be submitted to MEA by the FY25 Geothermal Rebate Program deadline of **3:00 P.M. ET, Friday, June 13, 2025.**

9. Complete Application: A complete, accurate, and signed Geothermal Rebate Program application form, with all required supporting documents defined in section 10, "Required Application Supporting Documents", below must be submitted to MEA to constitute a formal application submission.

a. Taxpayer Identification Number / Social Security Number Requirement: Each Applicant **must** provide their taxpayer identification number / social security number in the designated place on the application signature sheet (AOI 1), OR application form (AOI 2).
MEA IS NOT ABLE TO PROCESS ANY REBATE WITHOUT A CURRENT AND CORRECT TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER / SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. NO EXCEPTIONS.

10. Required Application Supporting Documents: The following supporting documents **must be submitted** as part of an eligible Geothermal Rebate Program application:

a. Proof of Geothermal System Ownership: A copy of a paid-in-full invoice reflecting that the balance of the GHC system has been paid-in-full (cash payoff), OR a copy of a fully-executed financing agreement (signed by the rebate applicant and the financing provider) for the total balance of the GHC system.

b. Photos: An application for a GHC system rebate must include the following photos that demonstrate the GHC system has been fully installed:

i. HVAC equipment (indoor and outdoor, as applicable);

ii. Outdoor location of the new geothermal wells, horizontal loop fields, or pond loops, as

applicable; and

- iii. The property, including the building structure (residential single-family home/townhome (AOI 1), or nonresidential facility (AOI 2), as applicable) from a sidewalk or street, as applicable. **These photos help reduce the amount of time it takes to conduct the historic preservation review. Do not forget to include them.**
- c. **Final Inspection Documentation:** Documentation of passed final inspection for all permits required by the County or Municipality (your local permitting office) must be provided. **Additionally, the State of Maryland Well Permit (issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment) number and Well Completion Report, as applicable, must be provided.** Acceptable documentation includes photos or copies of final inspection stickers, copies of inspection reports, copies of certificates of use and occupancy, and printouts from online permit inquiry systems provided by County or local permitting authorities. **Rebate applicants are responsible for contacting the local permitting office for the jurisdiction where the project will be built to understand permitting requirements. MEA does not enforce local permitting, and we do not gather this information on behalf of rebate applicants.**
- d. **For a property leased by the applicant: Signed AND notarized** letter from the property owner that gives the applicant explicit, written permission to install the GHC system at the property.
- e. **For Residential Geothermal Projects Only:** A completed signature sheet is required for every residential application. The applicant will receive a copy of the signature sheet to fill out and send back to MEA as part of completing the online application. A blank

copy of the signature sheet can also be found in the “Program Documents” section of the [Geothermal Rebate Program webpage](#)⁴. Each applicant **must** provide their taxpayer identification number / social security number in the designated place on the FY25 Geothermal Program signature sheet. *MEA is not able to process any rebate without a current and correct taxpayer identification number / social security number. No exceptions.*

Award Formula: **AOI 1 (Maryland Residential Properties):** **\$3,000** for a new GHC system.

AOI 2 (Maryland Commercial, Nonprofit, or Government (State and Local) Properties):

GHC System Capacity	Rebate Amount
1-10 tons	\$3,000 Total
10.1-50.0 tons	\$3,000 + \$400*(capacity – 10 tons), \$12,000 maximum

Partial Rebates: Partial rebates will not be awarded under the Program.

Evaluation Process: Each application will be evaluated for eligibility **in the order that it is received by MEA**. The evaluation consists of the following steps:

1. **Application Received:** The application is received by MEA.
2. **Completeness and Accuracy Review:** An MEA Rebate Administrator evaluates the application for completeness, accuracy, and eligibility.
3. **Historic Preservation Review:** If found to satisfy the criteria in the Eligibility Review, the application is sent for MEA historical preservation review. In some circumstances, MEA can exempt the project from further historical review; if not, it is sent to the

⁴ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Geothermal-Rebate-Program.aspx>

Maryland Historical Trust for a recommendation. If the project does not have an “adverse effect” on historical property, it is moved forward.

4. **Application Approval:** If deemed complete and eligible by the MEA Rebate Administrator review and the Historic Preservation Review, the application is approved by the MEA program team and submitted for financial processing in the State of Maryland’s payment system, while funding remains available.

Application Denial: If deemed ineligible by the MEA Rebate Administrator review, the Applicant will be notified via email and a physical letter delivered via U.S. Mail that the application is ineligible for a geothermal heating and cooling rebate.

Missing Information Policy:

An application that is missing required information or documentation is not complete and is placed on Standby. The rebate applicant and their installation contractor will be notified and asked to provide the missing information. **The rebate applicant, or their installation contractor, must submit the missing information or documentation within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date they are notified of the missing information or documentation by MEA.** The rebate applicant is responsible for submission of the information within the required time. The application will be canceled by MEA if the requested information or documentation is not received within that time frame. Applicants whose applications are canceled for this reason may reapply, but MEA can only consider such an application if it has been resubmitted before the application deadline.

Note: Applications missing any required information or documentation will be considered based on the date that all necessary information is submitted to MEA.

Regulations:

The Program is regulated by the Strategic Energy Investment Program regulations* (COMAR 14.26.02). All applicants and associated projects funded by MEA must meet all applicable regulations defined by COMAR 14.26.02.

**To access these regulations, click [here](#)⁵ and use the sidebar “Regulations by Title”*

⁵ <https://dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARSearch.aspx>

to navigate to: 14 - Independent Agencies → 26 - MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION → 02 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.

**Application
Submission
Instructions:**

Each GHC system rebate application **must be submitted electronically** through MEA’s online application portal. See **Appendix 1: Application Submission Instructions** for full instructions.

Disclaimer:

The Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) is the sole authority on the Geothermal Rebate Program. Any claims made that are not reflected in this Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) by entities or organizations that are not MEA are not endorsed or enforced by MEA. Questions about Geothermal Rebate Program requirements should **only be directed to** MEA.

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Appendix 1: FY25 Geothermal Program Application Directions

Applicants are encouraged to work with their installation contractor(s) to collect the materials required for the Geothermal Rebate Program application package. **Installation contractors are not permitted to sign on behalf of their customers. The residential homeowner Applicant must sign the application.** Applications found to be signed by installation contractors on behalf of the Applicants will be canceled.

1. Go to the online electronic application portal. A link to the portal is provided below.
2. Carefully read the instructions on each page of the portal. Be sure that you submit all applicable information requested by the portal.

MEA will collect the Resident's Social Security information separately from the online application

- 2a. Please request a secure Vritru Encrypted Email from
geothermal.mea@maryland.gov
 - 2b. Please attach the completed and signed signature sheet to the encrypted email with
3. MEA will process each application in the order it is submitted. *Residential applications are not complete until MEA receives the complete and signed signature sheet. Failure to submit your signature sheet will result in the cancellation of a residential application.*

RESIDENTIAL APPLICANTS CLICK HERE:

[AOI 1: Residential Application Portal](#)⁶

COMMERCIAL, NONPROFIT, AND GOVERNMENTAL APPLICANTS CLICK HERE:

[AOI 2: Commercial Application Portal](#)⁷

⁶ <https://form.jotform.com/250345748362056>

⁷ <https://form.jotform.com/250715182061146>

Appendix 2: FY25 Geothermal Rebate Program Application Signature Sheet

A completed application must include a completed signature sheet. MEA cannot approve an application without an appropriately submitted signature sheet. Please fill in the information below and request a **VIRTRU ENCRYPTED** email from geothermal.mea@maryland.gov for submission.

Award Name (Last Name, First Name – GEO)	MEA Rebate Administrator Use Only
	Reviewer Name:
Application Mailing Address	Date of Review:

I affirm under penalties of law that: (1) A qualified geothermal heating and cooling system has been installed on the installation property specified below; (2) I am a legal resident of the State of Maryland; (3) I own the property for which I am applying, **OR** I have an active residential lease agreement and explicit, written, and notarized permission from the property owner to install the qualified clean energy system; (4) I have complied with all state laws, local ordinances, and other legally binding requirements; (5) the contents of the application corresponding to the application identifying information above are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief; and (6) I have read and agreed to the terms outlined in the FY25 Maryland Energy Administration Residential Clean Energy Rebate Program Funding Opportunity Announcement.

SIGN

Print Name:

Date:

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

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MEA Div. of Programs Approval

OFFICIAL USE ONLY				
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AGENCY	FUND	PCA	SUB-OBJ	FY
SSN			AMOUNT	
MEA				
PM INIT	MEA INVOICE NO.	DATE RECEIVED		
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