



R-CERP to MSAP Transition Overview

Important Information for Applicants and Stakeholders

Effective Date: November 14, 2024

This overview document provides important information for applicants and related solar industry stakeholders on the conclusion of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) [Residential Clean Energy Rebate Program \(R-CERP\)](#)¹ and the upcoming launch of the [Maryland Solar Access Program \(MSAP\)](#)² in 2025. MSAP is a statutorily-enabled program resulting from the passage of the Brighter Tomorrow Act of 2024 (Chapter 595, 2024 Acts of Maryland). Full information regarding MSAP eligibility, application procedures, and related information will be available when the MSAP Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is posted in the coming weeks.

R-CERP Phase-Out

- All applications to the FY25 R-CERP must be received by MEA, or postmarked to MEA, by no later than **November 30, 2024**. No exceptions will be made.
- MEA will continue to process eligible R-CERP applications that are received or postmarked by November 30 until all are processed, or the funding is exhausted, whichever comes first. Funding for any application is subject to funding availability and not guaranteed.
- MEA will post information regarding geothermal heating and cooling system incentives in December 2024.
- Questions about R-CERP and how to apply should be directed via email to the R-CERP Administration Team at CERP.MEA@Maryland.gov.

Continues on next page.

¹ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/CleanEnergyGrants.aspx>

² <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program.aspx>

Maryland Solar Access Program Consumer Protections Policy and Disclosure Form

- MEA is asking the solar industry and public at large for input that will inform the MSAP consumer protections policy and customer disclosure form, which are required per the Brighter Tomorrow Act. Please see the [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#)³ for specific questions of interest. The RFI is also available on the [MSAP webpage](#)⁴.
- RFI Responses are due by **November 26, 2024**, to best inform the consumer protections policy and disclosure form that will be published. However, MEA will continue to accept responses after this deadline.
- Anyone can respond to the RFI. MEA is particularly interested in feedback from the public at large and the consumer solar industry.

Maryland Solar Access Program Participating Contractor List

- As part of MEA's commitment to success for the MSAP, each solar PV contractor that wants to participate in the MSAP is required to register and be approved for inclusion on a participating contractor list.
- The Participating Contractor List will ensure that only the contractors that agree to abide by the MSAP consumer protections policy and are registered to operate in Maryland participate in MSAP.
- MEA is committed to providing a fast, easy application and approval process. The application to get on the Participating Contractor List will remain open past the program launch so that MEA can ensure all eligible participating contractors have the opportunity.

3

<https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/SiteAssets/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program/RFI%20-%20MSAP%20Consumer%20Protections.pdf>

⁴ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program.aspx>

- The Participating Contractor List application will be available on the MSAP webpage in December 2024.

Maryland Solar Access Program - Next Steps and How to Apply

- The MSAP will open for applications in early **January 2025**, in accordance with the requirements of the Brighter Tomorrow Act.
- **There will be no MEA rebates or grants available during December 2024 for residential solar PV systems.** MEA requires this blackout period to successfully transition systems, administrative processes, and related activities from R-CERP to MSAP.
- The application process will consist of two (2) steps:
 - Reservation Certificate: This is step one (1) of two (2). The applicant applies for a Reservation Certificate prior to the installation of the solar PV system to reserve grant funds for the system that will be paid out after it is installed. A **valid, signed solar PV installation contract must be in place** between the installer and Maryland resident **before an application** for a Reservation Certificate can be submitted to MEA, and no work on the project can begin prior to the Reservation Certificate being issued.
 - Completion Certificate: This is step two (2) of two (2). **Within 180 days of receiving a Reservation Certificate**, the solar PV system must be installed. The applicant submits a completion certificate with documentation that demonstrates the system is complete and operational. MEA will review the completion certificate information, and upon verifying that the installation meets all requirements, will pay out the grant funds to the applicant.
- Grants will be available for customer-owned systems and third-party owned systems. Residents will have the option, but not the obligation, to reassign the grant funds to the solar PV installation contractor⁵, per the requirements of the Brighter Tomorrow Act.

⁵ Must be listed on the Participating Contractor List.

- Grants are calculated at **\$750 per kW** of installed solar PV capacity, up to a maximum individual grant amount of **\$7,500**, subject to funding availability.
- Grants are income-qualified, per the requirements of the Brighter Tomorrow Act. Please see the [MSAP FAQ Document](#)⁶ for more information on how income requirements are calculated.

MEA understands that consumers and stakeholders have many questions regarding the transition from R-CERP to MSAP. Please contact the MSAP Team at SolarAccess.MEA@Maryland.gov for any questions that cannot be answered by this document, or the [FAQ Document](#)⁷ on the [MSAP webpage](#)⁸.

THE REST OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.
END OF DOCUMENT.

⁶

<https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/SiteAssets/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program/FY25%20MSAP%20FAQ%20%2814.Nov.24%20Update%29.pdf>

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ <https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/incentives/Maryland-Solar-Access-Program.aspx>