

Community Renewable Energy Program For Low-Income

Responses to the PSD's Request for Information sent on 7/18/21 and received on 8/18/21

7/20/21 -- Ben Gordesky
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1. It is important that the community scale renewable energy projects be dispersed throughout the state to distribute the economic benefits of construction more equally. However, this should be a weighted distribution based on population. This would mean that there would be more capacity constructed in the more populated parts of the state. This would provide more economic benefits where there are more people. It would keep the energy production closer to the demands for energy. And, it would avoid having the less populated parts of the state dealing with any aesthetic impacts out of proportion to their usage of the energy.
 2. The income qualifications should be more than just income. Income and energy burden should be compiled in one formula to rank those who would qualify. The benefits should be variable and go up and down depending on how the utility customer ranks on the qualification scale. A factor should also be included to give a higher qualification score to both black, indigenous and people of color as well as low income white people.
 3. The RFP should be geared to have more, smaller community-scale projects, rather than just a few very large ones. For example, if the projects are solar generation, there could be 10 or 20 1MW or 500KW systems as opposed to one 10MW system. Many Vermonters prefer this kind of construction and it also allows more contractors, especially smaller companies, to participate in the construction.
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Commenter: Stowe Electric.
From: Michael Lazorchak
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:29 AM
Subject: RE: Clean Energy Development Fund.

Andrew:

Some quick points for your consideration as you continue to think about the clean energy development fund. Stowe Electric would like to pursue the following projects:

- A behind the meter solar project that can be offered to low and moderate income customers as a community solar project. Stowe is analyzing the addition of 50kW-100kW solar at our operations facility that would provide a good option for this project.
- The modernization of Stowe Electric's small hydro generation plan at Moscow Mill. Stowe is undergoing a feasibility study to determine how much electricity could be generated at the location. Initial reports suggest 500kW to 1MW of generation from this facility. This project could also be rolled into a community solar/renewable generation project to allow low to moderate customers or renters to purchase renewable generation.

If you have any questions or need anything from Stowe to support your work, please let me know.



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