

# BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT



*A series of storms leading up to the holidays caused flooding in several areas of the island. This picture was taken in front of BIMU looking towards Payne's Dock where BIUD has underground electric facilities. High winds caused scattered outages and the storm was enough of a threat that we held contractors back over the holidays. Their wives joined them to support them over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.*

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

**JANUARY 26, 2023**

**4:00 PM**

**Block Island Utility District  
Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners**

**Thursday, January 26, 2023 @ 4:00 PM**

**THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HARBOR CHURCH**

1. Public Input
2. Commissioner's Report
3. Approve Meeting Minutes: December 20, 2022
4. Review Strategic Plan Measures
5. Approve the 2023 Board of Utility Commissioners Annual Calendar
6. Treasurer's Report
7. President's Update
8. Review and Approve Gravel Put III Final PPA Pricing
9. Appoint NRECA Voting Delegate for the 2023 Annual Meeting
10. Review and Discuss EV Level II and Level III Charging Program Options
11. Review and Discuss 2023 State and Federal Grant Opportunities

Individuals requesting services for the deaf and hard of hearing must call (401) 466-5851 forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting date.

Posted: January 22, 2023 @ 2:00 PM

Secretary of State Website

BIBB

Town Hall

BIUD Website [www.blockislandpowercompany.com](http://www.blockislandpowercompany.com)

**AGENDA ITEM 1**  
**PUBLIC INPUT**

**AGENDA ITEM 2**  
**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

(THIS PAGE INCLUDED FOR NOTES)

## Tracy Fredericks

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**From:** Christopher Warfel <cwarfel@entech-engineering.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023 3:59 PM  
**To:** Barbara MacMullan; maryjanelogan@aol.com; Tom Risom; Elliot Taubman; John Warfel; Elliot Taubman; Barbara MacMullan; Tracy Fredericks  
**Subject:** Equipment that may be of use/interest  
**Attachments:** SSL-TSV-ESR-025 x-17.pdf; cwarfel.vcf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up **CORRESPONDENCE - PUBLIC INPUT**  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This is communication as to be received as such at your next meeting.

It has troubled many of us that management and the Board majority says or do not refute the concept that solar can cause problems on BIPCo's system. No evidence has been provided despite repeated requests, which of course is also troubling. In some work I am doing I thought equipment such as the attached could be of some interest. Obviously the scale is a question, but there is much out there for this industry that you may not be aware. These are certainly exciting times for the industry when it is incorporated with good analysis and philosophy. Leveraging the benefits is in everyone's inters. Hopefully you will realize that solar on Block Island has not been very well understood or presented and you will rethink your policies.

Sincerely, Christopher Warfel, PE

On 1/1/2023 9:51 AM, Christopher Warfel wrote:

I have not received a reply in two weeks. Therefore, please consider this formal communication to be entered under correspondence. Thank you, Christopher Warfel

On 12/17/2022 9:41 AM, Christopher Warfel wrote:

I am requesting a copy of the contract that is currently in effect with the President of Block Island Power Company, and any contracts that will be in force or may be in force at the end of the contract currently in effect. Thank you, Christopher Warfel

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Christopher Warfel  
ENTECH Engineering, Inc.  
PO Box 871, Block Island, RI 02807  
401-466-8978



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Christopher Warfel  
ENTECH Engineering, Inc.  
PO Box 871, Block Island, RI 02807  
401-466-8978



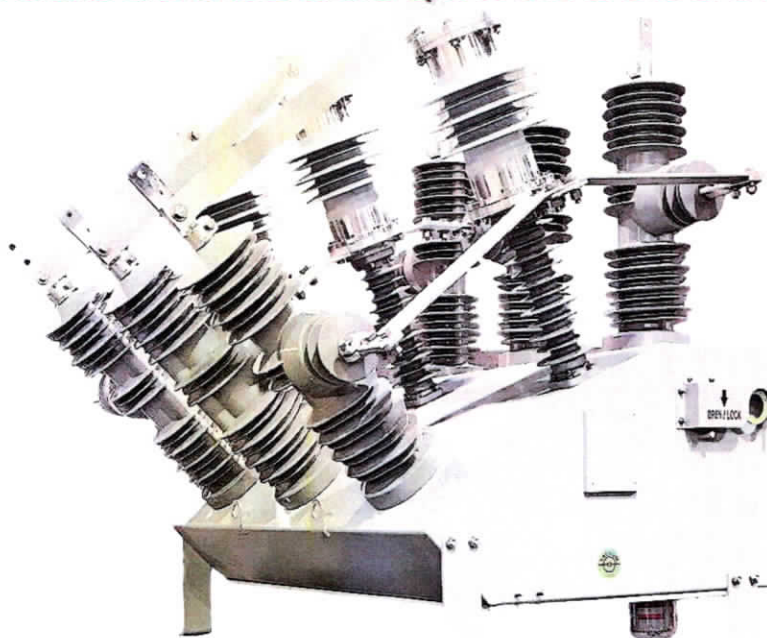
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Christopher Warfel  
ENTECH Engineering, Inc.  
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Report	SSL-TSV-ESR-025-R1
Publish Date	November 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022



## Introduction

High inrush currents can be generated by energization of transformers. These transients may result in significant voltage drops on local circuits. This issue is especially important for solar farm transformers that are connected to a weak system. This problem can be resolved by significantly reducing the inrush current using the Southern States TranSwitcher. This switching device utilizes a pre-insertion resistor to limit inrush currents and the resulting system voltage drop to acceptable levels.

## Results

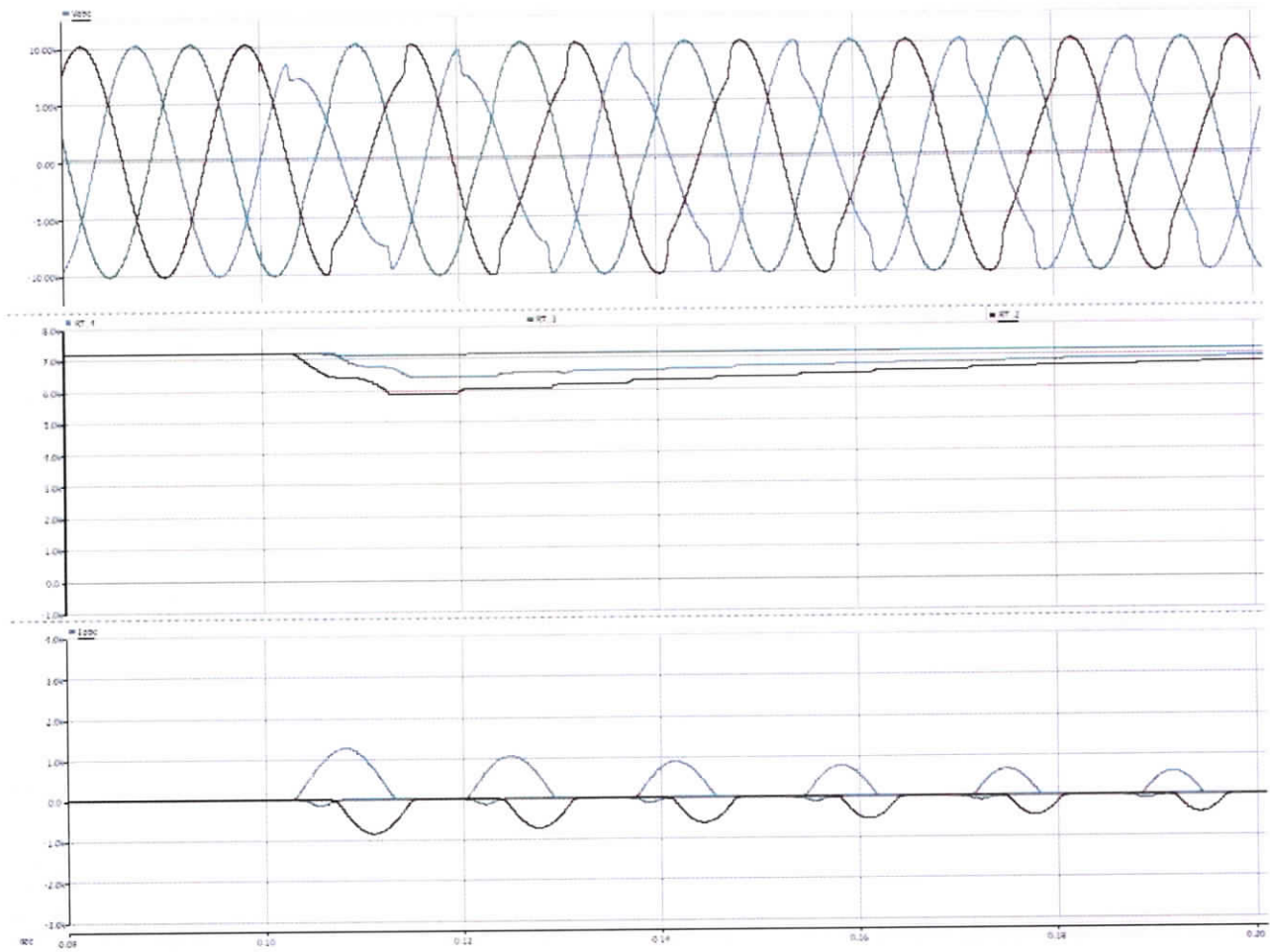
Based on the power system data provided in Table 1, an electromagnetic transient simulation has been performed, and a pre-insertion resistor size of  $500\Omega$  was found to be sufficient to reduce the system voltage drop to less than 1 percent. Table 2 details the performance of the TranSwitcher on inrush current mitigation and the expected corresponding voltage drop during the energization.

*Table 1: System data used for simulation*

Parameter	Customer Application
Maximum System Voltage	12.47 kV
Total MVA of Transformer(s)	4.218 MVA
Fault Current at site (L-G)	2430 A
Allowable Rapid Voltage Change	<1%

*Table 2: TranSwitcher performance comparison*

Resistor Size ( $\Omega$ )	Peak Inrush Current (A)	System Voltage Drop (%)
0 (without TranSwitcher)	1250	19
500	20	0.22



*Figure 1: RVC & Inrush Current during Transformer Energization without TranSwitcher*

**AGENDA ITEM 3**  
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2022**

**Block Island Utility District**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 20, 2022 @ 4:00 PM**

**THE MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON**  
**AT THE HARBOR CHURCH**

Participating BOD Members present: Barbara MacMullan, Tom Risom, Mary Jane Balser, John Warfel, Eliot Taubman

Others present: Jeff Wright, Tracy Fredericks, David Lewis, and Rene Meyers.

Board Chair Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

**1. Public Input**

- There was no public input.

**2. Commissioner's Report**

- Board Chair Barbara MacMullan had nothing to report.

**3. Approve Meeting Minutes: July 28, 2022, August 27, 2022, September 19, 2022, September 22, 2022, October 12/13, 2022, November 1, 2022, and December 13, 2022.**

- Tom Risom made a motion to approve all meeting minutes, seconded by John Warfel, motion passed unanimously.

**4. President's Update**

**i. ISO-NE 2023 Winter Reliability Concerns**

- Jeff reported that for the first time in his career, the ISO is warning of rolling blackouts. The ISO held a meeting run by emergency management. RI Energy went through the rolling blackout rules, OP-7 event, never done this before. The good news for us (Block Island), none of our load will be shed. BI is not included. If OP -7 doesn't work, we all go down. There is a concern, the weather is going to drive everything. We will have some advance notice on this, but we need to use less energy.
- Eliot Taubman commented that we should investigate a grant to have the wind turbines power the island when the cable goes down. Jeff reported that this would require a 300k engineering study. Jeff said he had suggested this in the initial meetings before the turbines were turned on. Jeff said he would reach out to Orsted and RI Energy to see if they were willing to study this.

**ii. Cable Outage "What-Ifs" and Lessons Learned**

- Jeff reported that we had done some unrelated testing in the morning and around 2:00 pm the power went out. We called RI Energy to find out that we tripped. We started the generators and restored power to the island. RI Energy said they didn't know what the issue was. They eventually reported that they thought the cable was down 5 miles out to sea. We realized that the inevitable could happen. If the cable goes down, we are back to the generators. We would have to stop all the capital work and focus on keeping the generators going. Cost, and



fuel are expensive, need to bring trucks over at \$60,000 per truck. There was a big economic concern, possibly \$1 per kWh.

- Jeff reported that he called ENE, and discussed reselling the energy we already purchased to help pay for the fuel. We burned 22,000 gallons, we were off for 22 hrs. We need to consider this if we ever have a cable outage.
- Coordination with RI Energy was great, had crews come over to the island later that day and asked for our help. This was vastly different from working with National Grid. Our contractors worked with them throughout the night to help identify where the fault may be. They reported at 2:00 am that it wasn't the cable, eventually, the fault was found to be a broken insulator near the substation.
- Jeff reported that a high impedance fault can trick the relays, which is why it was mistakenly reported to be a cable fault 5 miles out. RI Energy has agreed to meet to discuss any repairs or replacements necessary.
- Barbara asked if there is a type of insurance we could purchase if this type of fault happens again.
- Jeff reported that it is important that the public understand what the consequences could be if there is a cable fault. There will be substantial costs associated with running the generators, which could stop other work being done to the infrastructure.
- David Lewis asked for the BIUD BOD to set a policy on an OP-7 type process. Jeff reported that we should have a plan in place where we could shut off certain areas of the island if necessary. Jeff suggested this should be a priority and added to the Strategic Plan. This emergency plan should also be made public.
- There was discussion suggesting that we need to have two types of Strategic Plans, one focusing on the cost associated with the cable outage, and another focusing on the inability to supply power to the island, in the event the cable goes down and there is a storm preventing the boats from running for several days, preventing adequate fuel deliveries.
- There was discussion regarding adding the FAC tariff to the bills when we go on generation. Jeff reported that we can do this, but we have to get this approved.
- There was a discussion encouraging members to have backup generation. EVs are not currently set up for this type of backup generation.

### iii. Power Supply Sub-Committee Discussion

- Jeff began a discussion pertaining to integrating more renewables into the BIUD portfolio. He explained that we went through a strategic plan and are creating a subcommittee to work on power supply and develop community-supported strategies.
- Barbara suggested John and Barbara be the subcommittee for now, Eliot will be the backup. May add more as they move forward.
- Jeff reported that it was suggested to get some members of the community involved and to work on the community survey.

Mary Jane made a motion to have Barbara and John serve as the power supply sub-committee, motion was seconded by Tom Risom, the motion passed unanimously.

- Barbara made a motion to approve the 2023 Strategic Plan, seconded by John, the motion was passed unanimously.

**6. Review and Act Upon 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets**

- Motion was made to approve the 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets, motion was seconded by Tom, the motion was passed unanimously.

**7. Discuss a complaint filed re: Fire at the Gothic Inn on October 10, 2019. \***

At 5:25 PM, Barbara made a motion to go into closed session, the motion was seconded by John, the motion was passed unanimously.

At 5:40PM, Barbara made a motion to come out of closed session and close the minutes, motion was seconded by Tom, the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Tom, motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:43pm.



**AGENDA ITEM 4**  
**STRATEGIC PLAN METRICS**

# Block Island Power Company

## Strategic Plan 2023

### Mission Statement

To serve Block Island with safe, reasonably priced and reliable energy.

### Vision Statement

Our vision is to serve Block Island in a way that enhances our members' lives.

#### Safety

Empower and support a workplace culture that promotes the safety of our employees and members.

#### Financial Balance

Embrace policies that ensure financial stability, reasonable rates and innovative rate making

#### Member Engagement

Promote understanding of the cooperative model and transparency

#### Sustainable Workforce

Invest in workforce stability

#### Capital Planning

Embrace a sustainable and robust planning process for capital projects that focus on priority, funding, and impacts.

#### Power Supply

Continuously evaluate future power supply opportunities and develop renewable goals.

### GOALS/TARGETS

Employee Lost Time Incident Rate

Goal 0

Public Incident Rate

Goal 0

Comply with Quarterly Safety Training and Monthly Truck/Equipment Inspections - Goals 4 and 12

Modified Debt Service > 1.50%

Develop Time of Use Pilot EV Charging Rate

Set Timeline for Next Rate Case (COS)

Conduct Annual Member Satisfaction Survey

Review and update Mission/Vision Statements

Develop Succession Plans

Create Ad-Hoc BOD Sub-Committee to Review Benefits Packages

Create Ad-Hoc BOD Sub-Committee to work on this.

Develop 5-10 Year Capital Plan.

Create Standing Power Supply Sub-Committee

Develop Power Supply Questions for Member Survey

### STRATEGIES

Conduct Daily Safety Meetings/Field Visits

Host external training (fire/rescue/excavators)

Publish public safety messages (paper/bill stuffers/social media)

Continue to grow Equity:Debt Ratio (Q3 2022 20%)

Produce Timely Quarterly Financials for Review

Develop Equipment Rotation Schedule

Promote the Seven Cooperative Principals

Solicit member participation to determine BIUD's branding

Enhance cross-training efforts, recruit future BOD candidates, and develop recruitment strategies for future President

Conduct review of the benefits package – specifically retirement plans.

Review existing projects, facilities, housing and engineering plans.

Investigate external funding opportunities to support project plans.

Continuously evaluate power supply opportunities and tailor BIUD power supply to long-term goals.

Survey the BIUD membership to aid in developing long-range renewable goals.

### MEASURE

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- 0 -

0 & 1

2.47%

ON TRACK

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**AGENDA ITEM 5**  
**2023 BIUD BOARD CALENDAR**

**BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS  
2023 CALENDAR**

JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

FEBRUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

MARCH						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

APRIL						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

NOVEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

DECEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

- REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS
- ANNUAL MEETING - ASUGUST 26 @ 4:00 PM
- BLACK OUT HOLIDAYS
- NRECA MEETINGS/EVENTS
- FEBRUARY 4-7 NRECA DIRECTORS CONFERENCE
- MARCH 5-8 - NRECA ANNUAL MEETING/NASHVILLE
- SEPTEMBER 6-8 NRECA REGION 1 MEETING
- OCTOBER 10-13 NORTHEAST COOP ASSOCIATION (NEWPORT)

- ELECTION MILESTONES (2 SEATS)
- JUNE 1** - MAIL FORMS TO DESIGNATE QUALIFIED ELECTORS TO ALL ACCOUNT HOLDERS
- JULY 3** - QUALIFIED ELECTOR FORMS DUE BACK TO BIUD
- AUGUST 30** - MAIL BALLOTS
- OCTOBER 2** - BALLOTS DUE BACK TO BIUD
- OCTOBER 4** - ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED
- OCTOBER 26** - TRANSITION OF BOARD SEATS (LAST/FIRST MEETINGS)

# 2023 NRECA Conferences & Meetings

Schedule and Estimated Registration Fees and Hotel Rates. Fees and rates are subject to change.

As of Nov. 2022

We offer a variety of conferences and meetings throughout the country designed to keep you up-to-date with the latest trends, issues, challenges and opportunities in your segment of the industry.

## Looking for airfare estimates?

You can find estimates on online travel sites such as [www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com) (<http://www.travelocity.com/>), [www.Orbitz.com](http://www.Orbitz.com) (<http://www.orbitz.com/>), or [www.Kayak.com](http://www.Kayak.com) (<http://www.kayak.com/>)

## Your Safety Is Our Focus

While in attendance, please follow [NRECA's Event Code of Conduct \(/Pages/event-policies.aspx\)](/Pages/event-policies.aspx), including health and safety protocols.

Event Name	2023 Date	Location	Hotel	Average Hotel Rate*	Estimated Registration Fee (Subject to change)
CEO Close-Up Conference & Good Government Golf Tournament	Jan. 8-10	Marco Island, Fla.	JW Marriott Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort	\$359/night plus \$10 resort fee and applicable taxes	\$1,050
Directors Conference	Feb. 4-7	Kansas City, Mo.	Loews Kansas City	\$219/night plus applicable taxes	\$1,050
Touchstone Energy® NEXT Conference	Feb. 6-8	Bonita Springs, Fla.	Hyatt Coconut Point	\$309/night plus \$25 resort fee and applicable taxes	\$1,095
Directors Education Training at PowerXchange	March 3-5	Nashville, Tenn.	Multiple Hotels Meeting Location - Music City Center	\$280/night plus applicable taxes	\$690/course
NRECA PowerXchange	March 5-8	Nashville, Tenn.	Multiple Hotels Meeting Location - Music City Center	\$280/night plus applicable taxes	\$700 Early bird \$650
TechAdvantage® Experience	March 5-8	Nashville, Tenn.	Multiple Hotels Meeting Location - Music City Center	\$280/night plus applicable taxes	\$875
New Co-op Communicators Orientation	March 21-24	Arlington, Va.	Westin Arlington Gateway	\$TBD/night plus applicable taxes	\$450
New CFO Orientation	March 28-31	Dulles, Va.	TBD	\$TBD/night plus applicable taxes	No Fee



Event Name	2023 Date	Location	Hotel	Average Hotel Rate*	Estimated Registration Fee (Subject to change)
Legislative Conference	April 16-19	Washington, D.C.	Marriott Marquis Washington DC Hotel	\$385/night plus applicable taxes	No Fee
New Director Orientation	April 25-28	Arlington, Va.	Westin Arlington Gateway	\$TBD/night plus applicable taxes	No Fee
Connect Conference	May 2-4	Jacksonville, Fla.	Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront	\$185/night plus applicable taxes	\$935
Basic Benefits Training Courses (BBTC)	May 9-11	Arlington, Va.	Westin Arlington Gateway	\$TBD/night plus applicable taxes	No Fee
Co-op Cyber Tech	May 16-18	Kansas City, Mo.	Kansas City Marriott Downtown	\$189/night plus applicable taxes	\$980
New CEO Orientation	May 16-19	Arlington, Va.	Westin Arlington Gateway	\$TBD/night plus applicable taxes	No Fee
Summer School for Directors (East)	June 9-13	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel	\$189/night plus applicable taxes	\$690/course
Interact Conference	July 17-19	Omaha, Neb.	Hilton Omaha	\$169/night plus applicable taxes	No Fee
Legal Seminar East	July 17-19	Charleston, S.C.	Belmond Charleston Place Hotel	\$229/night plus applicable taxes	\$995
Summer School for Directors (Central/West)	July 21-25	Santa Fe, N.M.	Eldorado Hotel	\$235/night plus applicable taxes	\$690/course
TFACC - Collaboration Among Communities	July 23-26	Portland, Ore.	Hilton Portland	\$215/night plus applicable taxes	\$795
Legal Seminar West	Aug. 7-9	Spokane, Wash.	The Davenport Hotel	\$165/night plus applicable taxes	\$995
Interact Conference	Aug. 7-9	Tampa, Fla.	Tampa Marriott Water Street	\$169/night plus applicable taxes	No Fee
Regional Meetings 1&4	Sept. 6-8	Richmond, Va.	Greater Richmond Convention Center (Meeting Location)	\$179/night plus applicable taxes	\$599 Early bird \$549
Regional Meetings 5&6	Sept. 12-14	Des Moines, Iowa	Iowa Convention Center (Meeting Location)	\$180/night plus applicable taxes	\$599 Early bird \$549
PowerUp	Sept. 17-19	Orlando, Fla.	Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes	\$234/night plus applicable taxes	\$915
Cooperative University	Sept. 25-29	Charleston, S.C.	Charleston Marriott	\$205/night plus applicable taxes	\$690/course
Regional Meetings 7&9	Sept. 26-28	Omaha, Neb.	Omaha Hilton & CHI Health Convention Center (HQ Hotel and Meeting Location)	\$190/night plus applicable taxes	\$599 Early bird \$549
New Co-op Communicators Orientation	Sept. 26-28	Arlington, Va.	Westin Arlington Gateway	\$TBD/night plus applicable taxes	\$450

Event Name	2023 Date	Location	Hotel	Average Hotel Rate*	Estimated Registration Fee (Subject to change)
Regional Meetings 2&3	Oct. 11-13	Louisville, Ky.	The Galt House	\$TBD/night plus applicable taxes	\$599 Early bird \$549
Regional Meetings 8&10	Oct. 18-20	New Orleans, La.	Hilton New Orleans Riverside	\$259/night plus applicable taxes	\$599 Early bird \$549
G&T Legal Seminar	Nov. 2-3	San Diego, Calif.	The U.S. Grant Hotel	\$249/night plus applicable taxes	\$1,250 Early bird \$1,100
Winter School for Directors	Dec. 8-12	Nashville, Tenn.	Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center	\$229/night plus applicable taxes	\$690/course

*\*All guestroom rates are subject to applicable taxes and surcharges.*

The quoted taxes and surcharges are based on current rates and are subject to change.

For information about any of the conferences and meetings above, please visit our [Conferences & Meetings section \(/conferences-education/meetings/Pages/default.aspx\)](/conferences-education/meetings/Pages/default.aspx).

**AGENDA ITEM 6**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**



**AGENDA ITEM 7**  
**PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE  
JANUARY 25, 2023

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRIC COOP EVENTS

Please save the dates of October 10, 11, 12 and 13 for the Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives meeting. It is being held in Newport at the Wyndham Newport Hotel. Tracy is helping to organize the event along with some volunteers from other member coops. It is intended for directors and staff, and we should have a good lineup of speakers and trainers. NRECA will be doing one director training on Wednesday (I believe). We have NRECA President Tony Anderson scheduled to come, along with Jeffrey Conners, the VP/COO of NRECA. Other representatives of NRECA will be there as well. Attendees will come from Eastern Maine EC, New Hampshire EC, VT Electric EC, Washington Electric EC, and four NY cooperatives. It will be a great opportunity to build relationships with the other regional directors. We are also planning a fast ferry charter on Friday to tour the wind farm and make a short stop on the island. If you can't make all of the days, please try and make the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup>, the day of the 11<sup>th</sup> and join us for the fast ferry tour of the windfarm and island.

CABLE OUTAGE

I will provide a short verbal update on the cable outage and the cause of the outage. Tom Risom and I will also explain what we are thinking with a FAC charge to recover our net fuel/energy costs.

CAPITAL UPGRADES

Work is going well with the 2022/2023 capital upgrades. We are rebuilding the 1A circuit along Lakeside Drive and converting another 4-5 miles of distribution line to 4,160 wye. Those areas include CT Avenue, Old Town Rd, Amy Dodge, Spring Street (and all laterals) from Amy Dodge Lane to Pilot Hill and Pilot Hill to Seaweed Lane. Additionally, we will convert the section of Corn Neck from the existing step transformers to Adrian Mitchell's house. We will finish up our 2023 work in the spring by finishing the Coast Guard rebuild.

TREE TRIMMING

Crews arrived on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and will work on the island for at least 6-8 weeks. Our program is in full maintenance mode now which means we are retrimming our next cycle, as opposed to reclaiming rights of way, which is a lot lighter work and less visible to members. We are allowing the tree crew to do private work one week a month. There is an overwhelming demand for their services and freeing them up to do this has been very well received. They will pay for their own rooms/meals while they are doing private work. The advantage for us is they will be on the island longer (at a lesser cost) in case we need them for storm work.

POWER SUPPLY SUB-COMMITTEE WORK

I plan to convene this group in the next couple of weeks. I would like to discuss our process for soliciting and selecting member volunteers to participate.

ROUND UP PROGRAM

I would like to propose a program that many cops use to support local charities. It is referred to as a roundup program where members can donate (round-up) while paying their bills with the intent of the

funds being used for community-related (like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July flags, etc) causes and charities. I will explain more in the meeting and if we have your support, we will seek approval in February.

#### E-BILL/AUTOPAY AND SMARTHUB

Subject to check with legal, we plan to initiate an E-Bill enrollment campaign by advertising a \$20 bill credit for new enrollees. In 2022, we received nearly \$700,000 electronic payments, or roughly 20% of our electric revenues. Approximately 30% of our members are enrolled currently. It costs roughly \$1 to print and mail each bill which would quickly pay for the bill credit. If we can reach a 40-50% enrollment rate, we will prioritize rolling out SmartHub Messenger which is a great communications platform using SMS text messaging and e-mail.

#### COORDINATION WITH SERTEX

We are currently discussing service agreements with Sertex to provide underground locates for Digsafes and pole transfers. They have also asked to rent space from BIUD for their operations. I am meeting with Amy Land tomorrow to discuss further, and I will report out on our discussions at our meeting.

#### MEMBER SURVEY

I will have a process proposal to discuss at our next BOD meeting. NRECA is in the process of providing BIUD with a quote to do the work. The process of developing the questions, and what questions BIUD commissioners feel are important will be discussed. A final draft of the survey will be presented for your approval prior to initiating the survey, which will probably be in early spring.

#### LEVEL III CHARGER AT POWER COMPANY

The level II EV charger that was donated to BI Solar Initiative by Will Young and several other donors is scheduled to arrive Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. I will be submitting the HDC application soon. In April, we plan to install the charger to the left of our "Block Island Power Company" sign on the left of the office parking lot. If anyone has an opinion on the location, please raise your questions/concerns at the meeting.

#### EV BUS

The EV bus charger is working and has back fed into the grid. We were told that this is the first time for any Rhombus charger/NUVEE bus to perform this function. The cost to the school under the GS Demand rate is roughly \$100/month to charge the bus. Previously, the fuel cost for the year would run between \$3,500-\$5,000 per year. Despite some growing pains and technical issues to work out, all involved are encouraged with this progress.

#### NRECA CEO CLOSEUP CONFERENCE

I was asked to speak at the conference about federal grant opportunities and the application process. I represented the "small coop" segment of the NRECA members and the NRECA Business Technologies and Strategies Committee. NRECA is prioritizing their federal grant program to deliver as much grant funding to their members as possible. There were 750 attendees which included 450 coop CEOs. One thing for sure, Rhode Island is still the latest news when it comes to NRECA membership news! I felt a bit like a celebrity! I also had the privilege to peak privately with CFC's recently retired CEO, Sheldon Peterson. He lives close by to where we were meeting, and he visited us. He flagged me down and I caught him up on everything we were doing. Its conversations like that remind me of what we have

accomplished in such a short period of time and the advantage of being supported by the cooperative network.

**INSERT PRESIDENT'S UPDATE HERE**

**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**GRAVEL PIT III PPA**

GRAVEL PIT III UPDATE

DESRI has set the price final at \$57.95/MWH – at a fixed price for 25 years.

Permitting is complete. Construction has commenced.

Guaranteed Commercial Operation Date: June 30, 2024

I have included their last proposal as a refresher.

I am asking the BIUD BOD to authorize me to execute the revised PPA.



# Gravel Pit Solar

EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT



# Agenda

- Background
- Supply Chain Issues
- Department of Commerce
- Options

# Gravel Pit III

- PPA Signed June 2020
- Price of \$51.95/MWh
  - Includes MA Class I RECs
- Commercial – January 1, 2023
- Guarantee – June 30, 2023

# Supply Chain Issues

## Hoshine Withhold Release Order (WRO)

Lack of clear guidance in June '21 order created possibility for detainment of polysilicon modules (~95% of global deployment)

## Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act

While industry is highly supportive of substance, December 2021 act added another layer of guidance and potential delays to clarity for module delivery

## Section 201 Tariff

In Feb. 2022, the Biden administration extended Trump-era tariffs (known as Section 201 tariffs) on imported modules for an additional four years, and changed guidance on which technologies applied

## AD/CVD Petition

U.S. Department of Commerce initiated an anti-dumping and tariff circumvention investigation into imports from Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia following a petition filed by Auxin Solar

- Modules shipped from Asia have been subject to detention – hold or rejections by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
- CBP has not provided clear guidance or standard to demonstrate their models do not involve forced labor.
- Compounding effect – manufacturers no longer manufacturing for US due to uncertainty.

Industry estimates total 2022 projected construction at close to 20% of prior levels (~4 GW vs. 20 GW), well behind production under the Trump Administration owing to petition from 20 MW manufacturer (less than 0.1% of market)

# Department of Commerce

## Anti Dumping Allegations

- Impacts imports from Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia
- Represents ~ 80% of the US module supply
- Inhibiting transactions with tariff risk
- Slow Resolution
  - Even preliminary resolution not due for 150 days
  - Final resolution could take an additional 150 days (to April 2023)
- Retroactivity
  - Possibility that tariffs effect retroactively
  - Potential for deliveries in the interim

# PV Supplier Status

- Gravel Pit contract for panels was threatened to be cancelled by supplier
- Increase in panel costs borne by Gravel Pit
- Shipping costs and risk now with Gravel Pit
  - In the past buyer took title and risk at delivery terminal

Original price - June 2020	<u>\$51.95</u>	Price impacts
<u>Price Adjustments assumed by DESRI (no cost to ENE members)</u>		<b>\$6.64</b>
Balance of System, BOS (7% increase)	\$30.36	\$2.16
Panels (32% increase)	\$9.11	\$2.92
Shipping for Modules (35% increase)	\$3.71	\$1.30
Land, Insurance, Interest, Tax, Development, Permitting (3% increase)	\$8.77	\$0.26
<u>Contingent price adjustments assumed by ENE members (non of the above)</u>		
1. Module DOC Tariff Contingent Cost Increase		\$0.00 - \$6.00
<u>Range of New Price - May 2022</u>		<b><u>\$51.95 - \$57.95</u></b>
† Range of Pricing (had DESRI not assumed costs)		<b><u>\$58.59 - \$64.59</u></b>

# Status Update

- Gravel Pit will not make the Guarantee Commercial Operation Date of June 30, 2023.
- Gravel Pit committed to delivering the Gravel Pit project – however, not without some tariff protection and schedule relief
- Gravel Pit needs commitment in order to secure panels and maintain their place in line for production
- Project will be built with or without Buying Group

# What DESRI is looking for



# Tariff Protection Math

- Panel Cost increase of \$0.01 per W dc (equates to \$10,000 per MW dc)
- PPA Price increase of \$0.40 per MWh
- Annual Solar production of 86,600 MWh for a 50 MW
  - Equates to 1,732 MWh per MW of array
- Term of the agreement 25 years.
- Increase annual revenue per MW is \$693.
- To come up with a NPV of \$10,000 (see above)
- **The internal rate of return is approximately 4.25%.**

Panel Price Pre-Tariff (\$/WattDC)	Tariff Percentage	Panel Price Post-Tariff (\$/WattDC)	Increase in Price \$/Watt DC	Increase in PPA \$/MWh	New PPA Price \$/MWh
0.35	15%	\$ 0.4025	\$ 0.0525	\$ 2.10	\$ 54.05
0.35	20%	\$ 0.4200	\$ 0.0700	\$ 2.80	\$ 54.75
0.35	25%	\$ 0.4375	\$ 0.0875	\$ 3.50	\$ 55.45
0.35	30%	\$ 0.4550	\$ 0.1050	\$ 4.20	\$ 56.15
0.35	35%	\$ 0.4725	\$ 0.1225	\$ 4.90	\$ 56.85
0.35	40%	\$ 0.4900	\$ 0.1400	\$ 5.60	\$ 57.55
0.35	45%	\$ 0.5075	\$ 0.1575	\$ 6.00	\$ 57.95
0.35	50%	\$ 0.5250	\$ 0.1750	\$ 6.00	\$ 57.95



# Options

- Stay in the buying group
  - PPA price unknown but will be between \$51.95 - \$57.95/MWh
    - Depends on tariff percentage
  - Guarantee COD is now December 31, 2024
    - Eighteen months later than the original
  - Pre COD Developmental Security increases 87.5%
    - Block Island's share of Gravel Pit III is 0.3% or 150 kW (0.15 MW). The increased security would go from \$3,600 to \$6,750.
- Leave buying group
  - Collect your share of the pre COD Development security

**AGENDA ITEM 9**  
**NRECA VOTING DELEGATE – ANNUAL MEETING**



## NRECA Annual and Regional Meeting Voting Delegate Certification and Credentialing Process



Please fill out the form below. Indicate who will be your Voting Delegate and Alternate at the Business Meeting. The Alternate will serve only if the Delegate is unable to attend the Business Meeting.

Please return this form to NRECA using the following email address: [VotingDelegates@nreca.coop](mailto:VotingDelegates@nreca.coop) or this fax number: (703) 907-5512.

Block Island Utility District

Region: 1

CEO/GM: Jeffery M Wright

State: Rhode Island

### MEETING AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

- Please return signed, dated and completed form to [VotingDelegates@nreca.coop](mailto:VotingDelegates@nreca.coop)
- **Make sure you are selecting a delegate that is registered for and will be attending the meeting.**
- At the meeting, the delegate must first pick up their badge, then proceed to the Delegate Check-in station located near registration.
- At the Delegate Check-in station, the delegate will confirm their certification and pick up all voting credentials, including badge and ribbon.
- At the Business Meeting, delegates will be asked to present their badge and credentials in order to vote. **Delegates must be present at the Business Meeting to have their vote counted.** No individual may represent more than one system. Proxy voting is prohibited.
- Each voting member is permitted one vote on each of the resolutions and other business properly brought before the Business Session.

### NRECA VOTING DELEGATE CERTIFICATION

NRECA Bylaws Article V, Section 2(B) and 2(C) provide that "...each voting member shall be entitled to select, either by vote of its membership or its board of directors, one of its members, directors, or employees to act as the voting delegate, and one such person to act as the alternate delegate, at the meeting...each voting delegate must submit a certification signed by the director who is president of the member or is chair of the member's board of directors, and by the director who is secretary of the member, stating that such delegate is duly authorized to cast the vote of the member."

Please indicate below who will be your delegate at the Business Meeting. **Only those delegates who have been properly documented as authorized by their cooperatives shall be credentialed to act during the NRECA Annual and Regional Meeting Business Sessions. This form must be dated, signed by the board President and board Secretary (board of directors/trustees), and returned to NRECA by the deadline provided in the accompanying instructions.**

**Please note:** Delegates chosen for the NRECA Annual Meeting are certified for the year. If there is no change for the **Regional Business Meeting**, there is no need to send in this form. If new delegates have been selected, please provide the new information requested.

The following are hereby certified as official voting delegate and alternate and are duly authorized to cast the vote of this member.

Voting Delegate

Title

Alternate Voting Delegate

Title

Signed

Board President (of Member System)

DATE

Board Secretary (of Member System)

DATE

Prepared by Jeffery Wright (1/17/2023 6:34:24 AM)

If you have any questions concerning the above procedure, please contact the Membership Department at (703) 907-5868.

**AGENDA ITEM 10**  
**EV CHARGING PROGRAM OPTIONS**

## EV Charging Discussion

I have been talking EV programs with several coop CEOs that I trust and respect. Each has its own approach to EV charging.

At least in New England, coops tend to target avoidance of EV charging during peaks.

There are varying levels of incentive to fuel switch compared to a desire to manage the EV load.

The advantages of any program are:

- The ability to avoid on-peak charging activities.
- Obtain knowledge of where chargers are located to ensure infrastructure can supply the load.
- Engage your members with programs that are important to them.

Included in the next few pages are examples of the programs at Roanoke EC, NHEC and VEC. Below is a matrix of what program components each offers.

On the subsequent pages, there are excerpts from each coop's website that explain their programs.

The common warning I have heard from these CEOs is to be careful not to rely too much on broadband for communications for control or gathering usage data.

Electric Cooperative	State	Free Install	Install Rebate	Monthly Credit	Special Rate	Coop Controls Charger	Prescribed Charger
Roanoke Electric Cooperative	North Carolina	Yes	Free Install	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
NH Electric Cooperative	New Hampshire	No	\$300	No	Yes	No	No
VT Electric Cooperative	Vermont	No	\$250 +	Yes	No	Yes	Yes/No

The purpose of this agenda item is to start a conversation regarding a program on Block Island.

My first thoughts for developing a program include any program that targets off-peak charging, controls chargers using TNS broadband subscribers, limits our reliance on broadband for billing data (at least at this point), and leverages our AMI data to track program compliance. I would also like to avoid offering an "install" service, rather I prefer to suggest a list of recommended installers.

## Electric Vehicle Program

As your local energy partner, Roanoke Electric Co-op is proud to join electric cooperatives across the state in working towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030. Electric Vehicles (EVs) are becoming an important part of this mission.

If you own an EV or are considering the option, the co-op's pilot program offers member-owners a discounted rate for charging their electric vehicles. Member-owners can also choose their rate package and a new home charging station, valued at \$1,700, will be professionally installed at no upfront cost. Learn more by using the following links:



**Savings**



**EV Subscription Rate**



**Service Agreement (PDF)**

## EV Subscriber Rate packages

Posted: February 23, 2022 at 9:38 am

Roanoke Electric Cooperative's Electric Vehicle Pilot Program now offers member-owners the option to choose their rate based on the anticipated monthly mileage. Member-owners can choose from the following service levels:

MONTHLY CHARGE	KWH/MONTH	RECOMMENDED FOR	MILES PER DAY
\$31	UP TO 275*	BATTERY EV	~ 25
\$39	UP TO 350*	BATTERY EV	~ 35
\$50	UP TO 450*	BATTERY EV	~ 50

"We recognize that our member-owners have different driving needs," said Marshall Cherry, the co-op's president and CEO. "And we're always thinking of ways to give them options and services that best fit their individual needs." The co-op still offers special incentives to electric vehicle owners wishing to participate in our EV Pilot Program. Participants can now choose from one of three service levels, each of which comes with a free charging station and free installation.

Those interested in learning more about the cost savings and other benefits of owning an electric vehicle are encouraged to contact the co-op. REC staff will share more detailed information about how EV's work and the cost-savings potential. Member-owners may also schedule a test drive in the co-op's electric vehicle.

For more information about the co-op's EV Pilot Program, call (252) 209-2236.





## Charge and Save at Home!

We are rolling out rebates of up to **\$300** combined with low off-peak rates for residential members who install qualified Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at their homes.

### Charging Station Rebate

NHEC will provide rebates of up to **\$300** to residential members who install Level 2 EV charging stations (240 volts) in our service territory. Rebates will help offset the cost of installing a second electric meter that will record your EV charging usage AND let you take advantage of a low off-peak rate when charging your EV.

### Off-Peak Rate

When you participate in this program, you'll be able to charge your EV during off-peak hours at a rate that is lower than the basic residential rate. (See accompanying chart)

### How Much Can I Save?

Your potential savings will vary depending on the type of EV you drive, how many miles you drive and when you charge, but the owner of an EV like the Chevrolet Bolt who drives 16,000 miles a year can save about \$20 a month by charging during off-peak times.

### Already Have a Level 2 Charger?

Members who already have a Level 2 EV charger installed in Co-op service territory are also eligible for the \$300 rebate if they sign up for off-peak charging!

## Already Have a Level 2 Charger?

Members who already have a Level 2 EV charger installed in Co-op service territory are also eligible for the \$300 rebate if they sign up for off-peak charging!

## Charge Off-Peak and Save!\*

BASIC RESIDENTIAL RATE	OFF-PEAK EV CHARGING RATE	ON-PEAK EV CHARGING RATE
All hours, all days	9 p.m. – 7 a.m. Monday – Friday; all hours on weekends and holidays	7 a.m. – 9 p.m. non-holiday weekdays only
\$\$.24539 per kWh	\$.18207 per kWh	\$.29017 per kWh

*\*EV rates do not include monthly meter charge of \$3.10. On-Peak and Off-Peak EV charging rates will change with the regular seasonal rate adjustments that occur in August and February. For current rates, see [Billing & Rates](#).*

For more information about our Electric Vehicle programs, please contact us at [melansona@nhec.com](mailto:melansona@nhec.com)





## Electric Vehicles

Both All Electric Vehicles (AEVs) and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) offer opportunities to cut fuel costs and reduce carbon emissions. In addition, technology continues to improve with ever-better range and cold-weather performance. VEC offers the following bill credits for the purchase or lease of new or used AEVs or PHEVs:

	Purchase	Lease
AEV	\$500	\$100/year
PHEV	\$250	\$50/year

- Is an electric vehicle right for you? [Click here to learn more from Drive Electric Vermont.](#)
- To get the bill credit, complete this [online form](#) or this [fillable PDF](#).

**Note:** The State of Vermont is also offering an incentive for the purchase of new AEVs and PHEVs to income-qualified Vermonters. **If you qualify for the higher state incentive, you will receive an additional \$250 VEC incentive.** Details are [here](#).

## Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment



### Level II EV Chargers

VEC offers level II EV chargers to members at no charge.

To take advantage of this offer members must:

- Enroll their charger in a communications platform so that VEC can request that the charger not operate during peak events (five to six times per month for three to four hours each). You can opt out of individual events if needed. You will receive an \$8/month incentive if you do not opt out of events.
- Enroll in VEC's Beat the Peak Program to receive alerts during the summer (approximately three to four events) when VEC expects high demand for electricity. During these events, VEC requests that members voluntarily take steps to decrease their electric use, such as shutting lights off, turning up the thermostat, and delaying use of major appliances.

To request a charger, [please fill out this form](#). To read the Member Participation Agreement, [click here](#).

If you purchase your own level II charger, you can receive a \$250 incentive if you either 1) set a schedule to not charge from 5-9pm Monday through Friday, or 2) if it is a Flo or ChargePoint, enroll it in VEC's communications platform to receive another \$50 upfront incentive and \$8/month as long as you do not opt out of events. To receive the \$250 incentive, [complete and submit this form](#).

### Public Charging Stations

VEC offers a bill credit for the installation of Level II and Level III public charging stations. Eligible applicants are businesses and public entities (schools, municipalities, etc) provided the charging station is available to the public and was operational after July 1, 2017. The bill credit is \$500 per connection (\$500 for a 1-head charger, \$1,000 for a 2-head charger).

- Read more about the [different types of public charging stations](#).
- To get the bill credit, [complete and submit this form](#).

**AGENDA ITEM 11**  
**STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

### State and Federal Grant Opportunities

BIUD has several grant opportunities that are “shovel ready” and will provide infrastructure funding which will improve resiliency, and increase grid efficiency while improving our financial position by adding assets to our balance sheet at a 50% borrowing ratio. Those grants are listed below:

- 1) DOE Grid Resilience (Pole Replacements/Storm Guying) – Awards announced in June 2023. (Submitted by NRECA) (\$6M)
- 2) DOE ERA – Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (for small municipalities and coops) (Voltage Conversion) – Concept Paper Due April 2023. (Will be Submitted by NRECA) (\$6M)
- 3) Rhode Island Office of Energy (Voltage Conversion or Storage) (\$250K)

All of these grants would need to be matched 50/50. We have discussed this potential funding need with CFC. They have been encouraging all cooperatives to reach out for necessary funding due to the financial benefits it provides each awardee.

An additional grant being offered by the Island Institute is available to BIDU as well. John Warfel will help describe that opportunity and articulate the benefits.

There are several state opportunities as well that are listed on the following pages.

This agenda item is to provide a start to a conversation about the different opportunities and benefits of each grant that BIUD is eligible for.

The information on the following pages is for discussion purposes. I will bring a copy of the GRIP Concept Paper to review. I have been asked to treat it with confidence. Please do not distribute it.



## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

# Infrastructure Resource Hub

## ABOUT THIS SECTION

Learn more about the programs funded by the 2021 infrastructure package and stay on top of important application deadlines

## Introduction

The bipartisan infrastructure law includes significant investment and funding opportunities for co-ops and the communities they serve. NRECA continues to work with co-ops, Congress and federal agencies as these programs are developed to ensure our members have access to these crucial funds. This hub provides resources to help co-op leaders stay informed, evaluate opportunities, and be ready to apply for funding opportunities as soon as the application windows open.

## Featured Resources

### Next Funding Opportunity Opening Soon

DOE is administering a \$1 billion Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas program. Learn more and apply to join NRECA Research's Consortium Proposal for ERA.

[SEE QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

### Grant Writing Assistance Request

NRECA has coordinated grant writing resources that members may use in support of their applications for federal infrastructure funding opportunities.

[SEE QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



**Department of Energy (DOE)  
Grid Deployment Office (GDO)  
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED)**

## **BIL – Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP)**

**Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0002740**

**FOA Type: Initial**

**Assistance Listing Number: 81.254**

<b>FOA Issue Date:</b>	11/18/2022
<b>Informational Webinar:</b>	11/29/2022 2:00pm ET
<b>Submission Deadline for Concept Papers (Topic Area 1):</b>	12/16/2022 5:00pm ET
<b>Submission Deadline for Concept Papers (Topic Area 2):</b>	12/16/2022 5:00pm ET
<b>Submission Deadline for Concept Papers (Topic Area 3):</b>	01/13/2023 5:00pm ET
<b>Submission Deadline for Full Applications (Topic Area 1):</b>	04/06/2023 5:00pm ET
<b>Submission Deadline for Full Applications (Topic Area 2):</b>	03/17/2023 5:00pm ET
<b>Submission Deadline for Full Applications (Topic Area 3):</b>	05/19/2023 5:00pm ET
<b>Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications (Topic Area 1):</b>	Summer 2023
<b>Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications (Topic Area 2):</b>	Summer 2023
<b>Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications (Topic Area 3):</b>	Fall 2023
<b>Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations (Topic Area 1):</b>	Fall 2023
<b>Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations (Topic Area 2):</b>	Fall 2023
<b>Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations (Topic Area 3):</b>	Winter 2023

- Applicants must submit a Concept Paper by 5:00pm ET on the due date listed above to be eligible to submit a Full Application.



Concept Paper

**Storm Assessment and Benefits Estimator for Resilience [SABER]**

US Department of Energy (DOE)  
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED)  
Grid Deployment Office (GDO)  
BIL – Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP)  
Funding Opportunity Announcement: DE-FOA-0002740  
Assistance Listing Number: 81.254

**Topic Area 1: Grid Resilience Grants (40101(c))**

**Business Point of Contact (POC)**

Belvin Williamson  
CEO, A&N Electric Cooperative  
bwilliamson@anec.com  
757-787-9750 ext. 330  
P.O. Box 290  
Tasley, VA 23441-0290

**Technical Point of Contact (POC)**

Dr. Emma Stewart  
Chief Scientist, NRECA Research  
Emma.stewart@nreca.coop  
703-907-5801  
4301 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22203

**Team Member Organizations**

Prime (distribution provider): A&N Electric Cooperative  
Sub-recipients (all non-profit) NRECA Research, Grid Forward  
Sub-recipients (all non-profit, grid asset owning entities): Block Island Utility District, Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative, Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, Jackson Electric Cooperative, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, Magnolia Electric Power Association, Morgan County REA, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, Pee Dee EMC, People's Electric Cooperative, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Inc., Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc., Western Farmers Electric Cooperative

Estimated Budget: Federal Share: \$60 million / Cost Share: \$20 million (33%)

Project Duration: 60 months

Project Location: CO, FL, HI, MS, NC, ND, OK, RI, TX, VA, VT, WI

**December 16, 2022**

**Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data:** Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with a financial assistance agreement between the submitter and the Government. The Government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source.

# Directory of Clean Energy Technical Assistance Opportunities for States

Sam Schacht | Clean Energy States Alliance

CESA has compiled a searchable list of clean energy technical assistance opportunities available to states. The list is available below as an interactive table or downloadable excel document, and it will be regularly updated when new opportunities become available to states.

The US Department of Energy and several other agencies in the federal government offer a wide range of technical assistance programs and opportunities, many of which states can take advantage of. While these programs can be tremendously helpful, information about them is spread across many pages on many different US government and national laboratory websites. This makes it difficult for states to find critical information regarding eligibility, funding, and deadlines. Additionally, not all technical assistance opportunities and programs are available to state governments, which can add an extra layer of confusion to those seeking help.

## Using this Database

In the interactive table, users can click on the “view” button on the right side to see more detailed information about a program, including any applicable deadlines. Additionally, users can search the entire table or filter columns using keywords such as “building,” or “solar.”

## Suggest Additional Entries

If you know of additional programs that should be included in the directory or corrections to any of the entries, please email CESA Research Associate Sam Schacht at [sam.schacht@cleanegroup.org](mailto:sam.schacht@cleanegroup.org) (<mailto:sam.schacht@cleanegroup.org>).

\*\*\*

Click here to download the database as an Excel spreadsheet (<https://www.cesa.org/wp-content/uploads/Clean-Energy-Technical-Assistance-Opportunities-for-State-Agencies-Download.xlsx>). Scroll down to use an interactive version of the database.

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Privacy Policy (<https://www.cesa.org/privacy-policy/>)



## Resource Details.

December 1, 2022

Type: Online Directory

(<https://www.cesa.org/resource-type/online-directory/>)

(<https://www.cesa.org/>)

Topic(s): 100% Clean Energy

(<https://www.cesa.org/resource-topic/100-clean-energy/>)



## Share this resource:



## Associated Project(s):

100% Clean Energy Collaborative

(<https://www.cesa.org/projects/100-clean-energy-collaborative/>)

Clear filters

Search:

Resource Name	Topic(s)	Entity or Entities	Eligible Applicants	Full Details
Filter	Filter	Filter		
Building Energy Codes Program (BECP)	Building Decarbonization, Building Codes	US Department of Energy (DOE)	State and local governments	<b>VIE W</b>
Building Energy Codes Program - Building Performance Standards (BPS) Technical Assistance	Building Decarbonization, Building Performance Standards	US Department of Energy (DOE) Building Technologies Office (BTO)	State and local governments	<b>VIE W</b>
Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land	Clean Energy on Mine Lands	US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	State and local governments, tribes, non-profit community-based organizations in former mining communities, and industry representatives	<b>VIE W</b>

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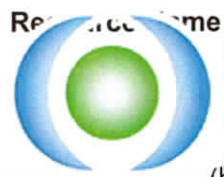


Resource Name	Topic(s)	Entity or Entities	Eligible Applicants	Full Details
Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs)	Combined Heat and Power (CHP)	US Department of Energy (DOE) Better Buildings Initiative	TBD	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program	Electric Vehicles (EVs), Vehicle Charging, Clean Buses, Clean Transit	Joint Office of Energy and Transportation	State governments, K-12 school districts	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
Technical Assistance on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies in the Electric Power Sector	Emissions Reduction Strategies	US Department of Energy (DOE)	State, local, and tribal officials	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE)	Energy Planning	National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	State and local governments	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
Energy Storage Technology Advancement Partnership (ESTAP)	Energy Storage	US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Electricity, Sandia National Laboratories, Clean Energy States Alliance	State and municipal agencies, public utility commissioners, utilities, manufacturers, universities, developers, others	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
Clean Energy Innovator Fellowships	Clean Energy Innovation	US Department of Energy (DOE), Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education	Eligible hosts include electric public utility commissions, municipal utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and grid operators, such as independent system operators or regional transmission organizations. Potential fellow supervisors from host institution must show an interest in mentoring.	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
Technical Support Services	General Technical Support	National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	State, local, and tribal governments	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
State and Local Solution Center	General Technical Support	US Department of Energy (DOE)	State and local governments, K-12 schools, universities	<a href="#">VIEW</a>

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Resource Name	Topic(s)	Entity or Entities	Eligible Applicants	Full Details
General EERE Technical Assistance	General Technical Support	US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)	N/A	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
NASEO-NARUC Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings (GEB) Working Group	Grid Modernization, Buildings, Building Decarbonization, Energy Efficiency, Demand Response	US Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium (GMLC), National Association of State Energy Offices (NASEO), National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)	State energy offices (SEOs)	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
NARUC Center for Partnership and Innovation (CPI) Distribution System Planning (DSP)	Grid, Transmission	US Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium (GMLC), National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory (LBNL)	State Public Utility Commissions (PUCs)	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
i2X: The Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange	Interconnection	US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)	Partners of i2X. To register as a partner, follow the link in the adjacent cell. Registration is free.	<a href="#">VIEW</a>
Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Communities	Resilience, Safety, Reliability, Availability, Rural Communities, Remote Communities	US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	Communities of 10,000 inhabitants or less, states, and nonprofits.	<a href="#">VIEW</a>

Resource Center	Topic(s)	Entity or Entities	Eligible Applicants	Full Details
National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP)	Solar, Community Solar	US Department of Energy (DOE)	NCSP Partners. State agencies and other community solar stakeholders that agree to participate actively in the NCSP can apply to be NCSP partners. To become a NCSP Partner, visit the NCSP website and set up a Mobilize Account ( <a href="https://ncsp.solarinyourcommunity.org/registrations/groups/39758">https://ncsp.solarinyourcommunity.org/registrations/groups/39758</a> ).	<b>VIEW</b>
Solar Energy Innovation Network (SEIN) Early Adopter Assistance	Solar, Solar Deployment, Interconnection	US Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Technologies Office (SETO), National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	Assistance in applying lessons learned from the Innovation Network is open to all U.S.-based stakeholders, including but not limited to government entities, regulatory authorities, utilities, project developers, and community organizations. Individual organizations and teams of stakeholders are eligible for support.	<b>VIEW</b>
State Energy Program Transformation Collaborative	Transmission, Distribution, Grid, Security, Community Energy Planning, Clean Manufacturing	US Department of Energy (DOE) State Energy Program (SEP)	State energy offices (SEOs)	<b>VIEW</b>
Weatherization Assistance Program Training Resources	Weatherization	US Department of Energy (DOE), Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	State and local governments, contractors, WAP professionals, WAP trainers	<b>VIEW</b>



WINDEXchange

Wind, Offshore Wind

US Department of Energy (DOE) Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO), National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Anyone

VIEW

← RESOURCE LIBRARY  
([HTTPS://WWW.CESA.ORG/RESOURCE-LIBRARY/](https://www.cesa.org/resource-library/))

← Energy Storage Benefit-Cost Analysis: A Framework for State Energy Programs (<https://www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/energy-storage-benefit-cost-analysis-a-framework-for-state-energy-programs/>)

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## **Rhode Island Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)**

FOA Number: DE-FOA-0002740

BIL – (GRIP) Topic Area 3: Upgrading Our Electric Grid  
and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency (BIL Sec.  
40103(b))

### **Team Member Organizations**

State of Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources  
Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank  
RI Nature Conservancy

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### **Project Location**

State of Rhode Island



**RHODE ISLAND  
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK**



## Executive Summary

The Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) is an innovative, conceptual partnership between the Office of Energy Resources (OER), the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) and the RI Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) (“Program Partners”) to identify and fund priority resilience improvements for electric infrastructure, including undergrounding, hardening, and microgrids. RIIB and TNC currently offer the Municipal Resiliency Program (MRP) for Rhode Island communities, which provides direct support to cities and towns to complete a municipal-driven workshop process that brings together climate change information and local knowledge to identify top hazards, current challenges, and community strengths. Upon successful completion of a facilitator-led MRP workshop and publication of a Summary of Findings Report, municipalities are designated as “Resilient Rhody Municipalities” which enables communities to apply for dedicated MRP Action Grants to implement identified projects. While funding for MRP Action Grants has been growing each year, the total funding available is still limited and must be shared across a wide variety of project typologies considering both mitigation and adaptation, only some of which are energy focused. The new MERP will utilize the existing MRP pipeline of municipally identified energy resiliency projects to provide dedicated action grant funding and technical assistance for the improvement of electric infrastructure in recognized areas of need, while ensuring the benefits of resilience investments are compliant with Justice40 initiatives.

## Background

In July 2018, Rhode Island published the first Statewide Climate Resilience Action Strategy, “Resilient Rhody”, which responds to changing weather and environmental conditions unique to the state, caused by climate change.<sup>1</sup> This report set forth over 60 resilience actions developed through interagency and stakeholder collaboration, with the objective of coordinating and catalyzing action to protect RI’s robust tourism industry, vibrant coastal resources and culture, and critical community infrastructure.

This proposal directly advances the first action item by proposing an “energy resilience solution [that] could alleviate the impacts of power outages and fuel supply disruptions in energy emergencies”. Additionally, this proposal was developed utilizing all six guiding principles included in the report:

1. Prioritize the actions and investments the state can make today
2. Leverage planning work already being done by state agencies and statewide organizations
3. Identify action and investments ready for implementation in the near term
4. Recognize competencies that are shared among multiple state agencies
5. Provide resources and tools to municipalities across the state

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<sup>1</sup> <https://riib.org/solutions/initiatives/>



6. Equitably reduce the burden of climate change impacts with particular attention to environmental justice communities across the state

These guiding principles, especially related to environmental and energy justice communities, have been at the forefront of how OER and RIIB think when designing programs to help build resiliency across the state. Electric resilience projects are any projects that reduce the risk of power outages caused by climate change, including sea level rise, flood events, storm events, and extreme temperature events. Such projects may include undergrounding of electrical utility equipment; hardening of electrical utility infrastructure; enhanced flood mitigation for electric utility infrastructure; and installation of microgrids for critical municipal infrastructure. Utility infrastructure includes but is not limited to poles and wires, transformers, substations, and switchyards. Reducing risk of power outages not only supports continued operations of critical municipal infrastructure but will have real health value for residents faced with sheltering in place during extremely hot or cold weather.

In November 2021, RIIB released the Resilient Rhody 3 Year Impact report, which details progress made by state agency and municipal partners in turning the original recommendations into firm action. Some energy resiliency projects were completed, including dam repair and Rhode Island's first utility-scale battery installation, which prevented a multi-million dollar electrical infrastructure upgrade using non-wires alternatives. Despite the considerable progress achieved in the past four years since the original report was published, there is a significant amount of work, especially in the electric resilience sector, that is necessary for Rhode Island to meet its ambitious climate goals. This concept, if approved, will provide additional resources to help Rhode Island meet its climate goals, which would not be possible otherwise without dedicated federal funding.

RI leads the nation in its climate and clean energy mandates. The landmark 2021 Act on Climate (AOC) mandates a statewide, economy-wide 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2030, 80% by 2040, and net-zero emissions by 2050. This law and its 2014 precursor specifically contemplate the importance of climate resilience as well by tasking RI's cabinet-level coordinating group, the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council, with "Identify[ing] strategies to prepare for these effects and communicate them to Rhode Islanders, including strategies that incentivize businesses, institutions, and industry to adapt to climate change; Work[ing] with municipalities to support the development of sustainable and resilient communities; Identify[ing] and leverage[ing] federal, state, and private funding opportunities for emission reduction and climate change preparedness and adaption work in Rhode Island."<sup>2</sup>

In helping meet one of the Resilient Rhody Strategy, RIIB launched the Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) in 2019. This program helps provide clearer pathways to implement the shared priorities of Resilient Rhody with participating municipalities. The MRP provides support to RI cities and towns to complete a municipal-driven workshop process that brings together climate

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<sup>2</sup> Chapter 6.2 2021 Act of Climate <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE42/42-6.2/42-6.2-2.htm>



change information and local knowledge to identify community strengths and vulnerabilities. This workshop process, led by TNC, identifies priority actions to improve municipalities' resilience to natural and climate-related hazards, resulting in the development of local resilience action plans. After the workshop process, MRP participating municipalities (known as "Resilient Rhody Municipalities") are then eligible to apply to the RIIB for MRP Action Grants in order to construct shovel-ready capital projects that will achieve resilience goals. Projects incorporating clean energy, green infrastructure, and/or nature-based solutions are prioritized for these MRP Action Grant awards. Participating communities are required to hold an annual resilience update meeting with RIIB to maintain their status as a Resilient Rhody Municipality.

The MRP framework has proven highly successful in engaging municipalities. As of the end of 2022, 32 of 39 municipalities have participated in the program.<sup>3</sup>

To date, 19 of the 32 participating communities have completed a Summary of Findings Report which are publicly available.<sup>4</sup> These reports are detailed and include the following topics:

- list of top hazards and vulnerable areas for the community
- current concerns and challenges presented by hazards
- current strengths and assets
- recommendations to improve resilience (broken down by high, medium, and low designations) through policy, specific projects, and plans/preparedness/studies/outreach

As a result of these reports, the program has advanced several projects, issuing over \$7 million in grants for 28 projects between 2019-2021.<sup>5</sup> RIIB's program goal for 2023 is to have the remaining seven communities participate in the program.

Power outages have been commonly identified as a priority concern for municipalities (see for example: [Tiverton](#), [Little Compton](#), and [Newport](#)). However, there has yet to be the integrated technical support required to further explore specific electric utility infrastructure projects to mitigate risk of outages. That may change with Rhode Island Energy's STRONG proposal to DOE

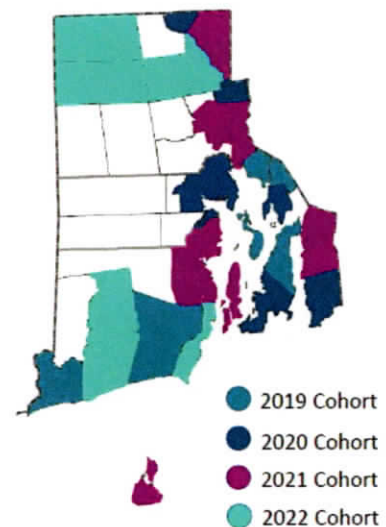


Figure 1: Participating MRP Municipalities

<sup>3</sup> Of the 32 participating communities, Woonsocket, Pawtucket/Central Falls, Newport, Providence, West Warwick and sections of East Providence and Cranston are considered Disadvantaged Communities. Five additional municipalities were awarded in December 2022 and are not reflected in the map below.

<sup>4</sup> Five additional communities will have summary of findings reports published in Q1 2023.

<sup>5</sup> [https://riib.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/RIIB\\_20220902\\_MRP-2019-2021-Funded-Project-Descriptions.pdf](https://riib.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/RIIB_20220902_MRP-2019-2021-Funded-Project-Descriptions.pdf)

regarding their proposed investments 6 and 7.<sup>6</sup> Other projects such as microgrids and backup power generation have been identified as well.

Year	Municipality	Priority Action	Project Type	Location
2019				
	Barrington	Portable generators for all sewer pump stations	Backup Power	Townwide
	Barrington	Bury power lines	Utility Improvement	Townwide
	Portsmouth	Bury power lines	Utility Improvement	Route 24 and 138
	Portsmouth	Installation of backup generator at Senior Center and activate as a cooling center	Backup Power	Portsmouth Senior Center
	South Kingstown	Install backup generator at Recreation Center	Backup Power	Recreation Center
	Warren	Backup power at town wide schools	Backup Power	Townwide
	Warren	Install telecommunications and backup generator at Government Center	Backup Power	Government Center
	Westerly	Install backup generator at library and park	Backup Power	Library and Park
	Westerly	Install backup generator at Senior Center	Backup Power	Senior Center
2020				
	Central Falls / Pawtucket	Construct new and retrofitted heating and cooling centers with backup power in areas that will maximize the benefits to vulnerable communities	Backup Power	Citywide
	Central Falls / Pawtucket	Combine heating/cooling centers with evacuation shelters	Infrastructure Upgrade	Citywide
	Little Compton	Install backup generator at community center and all emergency shelters in conjunction with renewable installations	Utility Improvement	Community Center and emergency shelters
	Newport	Emergency Generator @ Innovate Newport	Backup Power	Innovate Newport

<sup>6</sup> Rhode Island Energy Proposal to FOA DE-FOA-0002740, Topic Area 1 "Strategic Resilience of Northeast Grids (STRONG)"



	Newport	Emergency Generators at shelters	Backup Power	Rec center or Pell School
	Warwick	Provide generators to address backup power needs at emergency facilities	Backup Power	warming station, pump stations, etc.
	Woonsocket	Look for opportunities to reduce the potential impacts to and protect above ground power lines across the municipality	Utility Improvement	Citywide
	Woonsocket	Expand the use of microgrids and generators to make the local electrical grid more resilient during major events that knock out power to critical facilities	Backup Power	Citywide
	Woonsocket	Increase generator capacity for emergency use at critical facilities	Backup Power	Critical facilities
2021				
	East Providence	Improve the reliability of the utility infrastructure by addressing root causes of short- and long-term power outages	Utility Improvement	Citywide; Roma Ave
	New Shoreham	Create a study group to consider options to relocate or flood proof the Power Company Substation which is currently in a low lying area	Infrastructure Upgrade	Power Company Substation
	North Kingstown	Continue to explore needs and opportunities related to long term solutions such as placing electrical power lines underground in high risk areas	Utility Improvement	Townwide
	Providence	Cooling centers at libraries; backup power at these locations	Backup Power	Libraries
	Providence	Community wide electrification to include not only electric transportation but electric heat, municipal capacity to charge, store, and distribute electricity, and an	Utility Improvement	Citywide

		equitable, accessible, and resilient grid system		
	Providence	Proactive, large scale grid modernization which complements renewable energy development	Utility Improvement	Citywide
	Tiverton	Identify, prioritize, and seek opportunities to place above ground power lines and wires below ground in high risk areas	Utility Improvement	Townwide

Chart 1: Abridged List of Identified Energy Projects from Resilient Rhody Communities

In 2017, OER published a report on Resilient Microgrids for Rhode Island Critical Services which proposed several policy and program actions<sup>7</sup>. Some of the actions have been completed, including an update to Rhode Island Energy's interconnection tariff with more microgrid friendly language<sup>8</sup> and dedicated funding for a microgrids program for both construction and feasibility studies. The report also recommended prioritizing critical facilities for microgrids based on municipal engagement through solicitation of projects. In January 2021, OER issued a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit feedback from municipalities that identified their needs regarding microgrids as well as thoughts on definitions of critical infrastructure and public benefits. Based on the responses from the RFI and feedback from municipalities in MRP workshops, the program team has a good understanding of what is needed and issues microgrids can help solve. However, municipalities need a great deal of support related to microgrids, ranging from technical assistance for site identification and interconnection, feasibility studies to determine what is possible electrically and financially as well as direct funding to help support project construction. Program design for both construction and feasibility microgrid programs is underway and is expected to launch in summer 2023.

### Proposed Concept

Through this concept paper, OER proposes to partner with RIIB and the Nature Conservancy to focus on priority projects that reduce outages and bolster electric grid resilience, while leveraging the work already done by Resilient Rhody Communities through the MRP program. For past and newly identified communities, the MERP program will be available as a funding source leveraging the work already done through the workshops and prior engagement with municipalities. The MERP will have three primary components:

1. Energy Resilience Engagement with Resilient Rhody Municipalities

<sup>7</sup> <https://energy.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur741/files/documents/SRP/RI-microgrid-report-170331.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ngus.force.com/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=0150W00000DPLF6> (page 12)

The Program Partners propose to hold another in-person facilitator-led workshop with the Resilient Rhody Municipalities with a specific focus on the energy related projects included in the first workshop to further identify needs, resources, possible site locations and next steps for each proposed energy resiliency project. The second workshop will be branded as an Energy Resilience Learning Lab to distinguish between the two public meetings. Utilizing the equity concept of energy democracy, communities will prioritize which energy resiliency projects are more critical to their communities, considering location, community benefits and populations served. For the selected communities that have not yet held a workshop, their Energy Resilience Learning Lab will be scheduled after they join the Municipal Resilience Program and complete their MRP workshop. Resilient Rhody Municipalities designated as DACs will be prioritized for scheduling Energy Resilience Learning Labs.

The Energy Resilience Learning Labs will prioritize gathering DAC community leaders, stakeholders who attended the MRP workshop, stakeholders who were unable to attend the MRP workshop, and stakeholders who may not have been included in the MRP workshop invitation. Learning Labs will be held outside of the workday to ensure availability for all attendees. Childcare and transportation vouchers will be offered.

## **2. Energy Resilience Technical Assistance**

RIIB currently runs an Energy Asset Management program that provides consultant technical assistance related to municipal energy projects. The MERP would leverage and expand this existing body of work for previously identified energy resiliency projects, providing Energy Resilience Technical Assistance to the selected municipalities. Additional energy resilience projects not included in the original MRP workshops may be proposed and eligible for technical assistance. Assistance will vary by municipality however, examples may include project site identification, submission of interconnection study applications to the utility, review of building electrical systems for microgrid control systems, and cost estimates and analysis of energy storage or microgrids. It is anticipated that the contractor would also assist communities with the development of requests for proposals for projects, evaluation of bidders and guidance on contract language.

Additionally, OER has allocated State Energy Program Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 funding for feasibility studies specific to microgrid projects on municipal critical facilities. This funding will allow municipalities to perform a deeper analysis into project locations, costs, savings, and impacts. While this program is still under development, it is expected to be managed by OER and the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) at Commerce Rhode Island.

## **3. Municipal Energy Resilience Action Grants**

MERP Action grants would be used for the energy resiliency projects identified by RI communities with an emphasis on prioritizing the DACs. OER defines electric resilience



projects as any projects that reduce the risk of power outages caused by climate change, including sea level rise, flood events, storm events, and extreme temperature events. Such projects may include undergrounding of electrical utility equipment; enhanced flood mitigation for electric utility infrastructure; and installation of microgrids for critical municipal infrastructure. Utility infrastructure includes but is not limited to poles and wires, transformers, substations, and switchyards. Reducing risk of power outages not only supports continued operations of critical municipal infrastructure but will have real health value for residents faced with sheltering in place during extremely hot or cold weather. The Program Partners would identify a process for issuing grants, similar to the MRP program application, which has an annual solicitation via a Request for Proposal.<sup>9</sup> At least 40% of grant funding would be set aside for DAC communities with a strong consideration of designating a higher percentage based on cost share funding applicability.

There are three additional proposed grant programs that can leverage each other; MRP Action grants, a microgrid construction grant program and a solar plus storage program offered through the REF.

- A. MRP Action grants have already made an impact to Resilient Rhody communities reducing flooding through stormwater drainage projects, removing unnecessary impermeable surfaces, shoring up wastewater treatment plants, planting trees among other projects. The MRP has proven popular with Rhode Island voters as well, who recently voted to approve a Green Bond which will provide another \$12 million for the program.
- B. OER has started working with Commerce Rhode Island's Renewable Energy Fund on the implementation of a microgrid construction program. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Funding has been allocated for this new program and will include direct grants to municipalities for construction ready microgrid projects located at critical facilities. It is expected to launch in mid-2023.
- C. The REF currently offers up to a \$40,000 grant for commercial energy storage projects when paired with solar PV.<sup>10</sup> The solar grant is up to \$75,000 per project. At this time the storage and PV must be installed simultaneously however, this program is a good option for communities looking to replace diesel generators with storage that also have the space for a net metered solar installation.

The program partners, as well as RIIB's consultant, will assist in aggregating these various funding sources and incentive programs to offset MERP project costs. Since many of these programs already exist or are in development for deployment in 2023, there is an opportunity to move forward quickly with MERP's implementation. Due to this existence of foundational and additive programs and the Program Partners dedicated experience working together, the

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<sup>9</sup> [https://riib.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/RIIB\\_20220926\\_MRP-Participation-Application.docx](https://riib.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/RIIB_20220926_MRP-Participation-Application.docx)

<sup>10</sup> <https://commerceri.com/financing/renewable-energy-fund/>

MERP program design can begin immediately upon award with program launch by the end of the year.

One additional component of the MERP plan is working with the utility on their proposed projects (if awarded). RIE's STRONG Concept Paper Investment 6 proposal outlines a plan to underground approximately 4,000 feet of a transmission line which connects to one of RI's six major generation facilities that is vulnerable due to extreme weather events because it lies within 50 feet of the water. Investment 7 in the STRONG proposal includes a plan to install three utility scale storage systems to reduce outages for DACs. These batteries would be charged directly from the distribution system and would provide backup power to customers during potential outages. The Program Partners would work with RIE to identify the MERP communities impacted by the transmission undergrounding and battery projects and invite RIE to join in the MERP Learning Lab workshop to introduce the project to the communities and tie the proposal to the summary of findings reports. A mix of RIE staff, including an engineer, a planner, and a regulatory expert will be integrated into the MERP Learning Lab workshop to help communities identify the specific projects, the exact proposed location, and understand the resilience implications. RIE will be able to frame their projects in the context of MERP, gain public support and trust in the project which may help with permitting.

The STRONG proposal also includes a conceptualized Community-Prioritized Resilience Investment Framework. It includes two deliverables: (1) a case study on utility-scale battery energy storage systems to improve community resilience; (2) a Community-Prioritized Resilience Investment Framework to prioritize resilience investments and leverage private funding. If awarded, the Program Team would work with RIE to integrate this concept into the MERP plan regarding engagement with municipalities, stakeholders and DACs in particular. If both proposals are awarded, there is significant opportunity for additional funding to ensure some of the larger, more costly projects can move forward utilizing a public-private partnership.

## **Metrics**

Program Partners for the MERP are experienced with tracking impact metrics through the Efficient Buildings Fund and MRP and will continue to expand upon the current breadth of metrics to include those identified within DOE's Justice40 General Guidance<sup>11</sup>. The following metrics are inclusive but not exhaustive, allowing for flexibility if additional Environmental Justice metrics are identified or released by either federal or state guidance. Trackable DAC impact metrics reported by the MERP will include but are not limited to: (1) Dollars saved in energy expenditures due to technology adoption in DACs, (2) avoided electricity or fuel consumption, (3) avoided air pollutants in DACs, such as CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents, NO<sub>x</sub> SO<sub>2</sub>, and/or PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and (4) number of stakeholder engagement events, participants, and/or dollars spent to

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<sup>11</sup><https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Final%20DOE%20Justice40%20General%20Guidance%20072522.pdf>

engage with organizations and residents of DACs, including participation and notification of how DAC input was utilized.

The EBF and MRP already record metrics pertaining to system size, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and avoided cost savings with respect to electricity, fuel, or avoided infrastructural upgrades. The project team plans to expand upon these basic metrics to include a count of participating MERP communities, number of meetings per community, and a dollar amount for MERP awards. Existing reporting practices serve as a buildable framework that the MERP can expand upon to include DAC metrics, which successfully quantify resiliency benefits. DAC metrics are crucial to ensuring compliance with Justice40 mandates.

### **Risks**

The overarching goal is for all Rhode Island municipalities to participate in the MERP and implement at least one priority electric resilience project, placing a priority on the stakeholder engagement process for DACs to ensure the community has the resources it needs to see a complex investment through to completion. However, there is potential concern that one or more of the seven remaining communities that have never participated in the MRP may not apply, either due to lack of interest or resource availability. These remaining communities are the most rural and share their limited resources staff with neighboring municipalities. Similarly, previously engaged municipalities could have staffing turnover or priority changes and may not engage with the Program Partners on a second, energy-specific learning lab. We plan on engaging the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns for assistance to mitigate both risks as they may be able to provide resources or assistance to communities who want to engage or continue to engage with the MERP.

Other potential risks could include barriers to communication of stakeholder engagement events, especially towards municipalities that have not yet engaged with the MRP. Once a municipality has chosen to participate in the MERP, it's equally critical to ensure members of the community are aware of the benefits that long-term investments in electric resiliency can provide to their community, as opposed to more conventional, short-term and less expensive investments (such as a diesel generator) that do not bolster the resiliency of the grid or reduce energy burden or health impacts for DACs long-term. It is critical that the Program Partners utilize a robust stakeholder engagement strategy, potentially in tandem with STRONG's Community Prioritized Resilience Investment Framework (if approved) leveraging existing stakeholder engagement efforts to expanding upon them and steer municipalities towards prioritizing investments that will provide the greatest community benefit.

The Program Partners hope to identify a local community liaison to help mediate communications with the local community in advance of the second energy learning lab. If a community liaison identifies a language barrier for their community within the stakeholder engagement process, the Program Partners will utilize translation services as necessary.



Additionally, the Program Partners recognize the potential for unforeseen negative impacts, such as project citing concerns, especially when working with DACs. These impacts have historically not been prioritized when compared to their non-disadvantaged counterparts. The process for seeing a complex project through to completion requires substantial administrative legwork on behalf of the community and Program Partners, and it is critical to be aware of these consequences before they pose barriers to project implementation. In order to mitigate this risk, the Program Partners will plan to specifically address this as part of the stakeholder engagement process by asking DACs to identify any unforeseen impacts or concerns they may have about proposed projects.

### **Program Funding Impact**

Should the MERP move forward, DOE funding would be made available through grants directed to energy resiliency projects identified and prioritized by Resilient Rhody Municipalities. While detailed program design is forthcoming including how the funding would be made available, the total funding from DOE and the cost match will support the MERP. The Program Partners would also leverage other funding resources and programs to help move projects through the MERP program including municipal investment, and other funding streams as identified and appropriate. If federal funding is not made available, the MERP will not be feasible and energy resiliency projects identified through the current MRP will not have a dedicated funding source to move them forward. Additionally, while DACs are included among the MRP program participants, it is unlikely that 40% of the program funds could be dedicated to them.

### **Cost Share**

OER and RIIB commit to providing an equal cost share in order to meet the 50% cost match required by DOE. Both agencies recognize and understand that certain federal funding, such as State Energy Plan and other federal funding may not be eligible for the cost share. Rhode Islanders have consistently demonstrated that the Municipal Resiliency Program is important for the state and have voted twice to approve a Green Bond providing additional funding to support the program.<sup>12</sup> In 2022, a \$50 million green bond was on the statewide ballot to fund an additional \$16 million for the MRP Program. RIIB commits to using part of this funding for the MERP program cost match. If this concept paper is encouraged, the Program Partners will develop a budget committing at least 40% of the cost match funds for DACs with a goal of 43-45%. Finally, municipalities that move forward with an Action Grant supported by the MRP program are required to match 25% of the total project cost share. This cost share will be outlined in the budget as part of the Program Partners match. However, some innovation may be developed related to reducing



<sup>12</sup> <https://dem.ri.gov/green-bond-2022-green-bond>

DAC cost share requirements and would be reflected in the final budget and MERP program design.

### **Additional Support**

The Program Partners plan to engage other groups and agencies if encouraged to apply. These include but are not limited to: Commerce Rhode Island's Renewable Energy Fund, the RI League of Cities and Towns, the George Wiley Center<sup>13</sup>, current MRP communities with a focus on engaging and partnering with participating DACs, Rhode Island Energy, Pascoag Utility District, Block Island Utility District, and community based organizations that are engaged on energy related work.

### **Individual Qualifications**

The following members of the Project Team would bring their deep and multidisciplinary knowledge to deliver key outcomes and proposed program deliverables:

**Shauna Beland**, the Director of Program and Policy, works on a range of initiatives at OER including implementing solar PV, energy storage and community solar programs, ensuring renewable energy quality assurance, designing new programs to improve solar access on previously disturbed land such as brownfields and carports, and increasing solar access among low-moderate income customers. In addition, she leads OER's workforce development efforts related to renewable energy and manages Rhode Island's annual Clean Energy Industry Report and the Clean Energy Internship program. Previously, she worked for the Renewable Energy Fund at Commerce Rhode Island and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. Shauna has BAs in History and International Studies from Elon University and is Chair of the Rhode Island Chapter and Board member of New England Women in Energy and Environment.

**Kimberly Koriath** is the Stormwater & Resilience Analyst at Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB). In her work at RIIB, Kimberly directs the Municipal Resilience Program and leads other Bank stormwater and resilience initiatives. Before joining the Bank, Kimberly worked as a Fellow with the RI Coastal Resources Management Council, assisting with implementation of CRMC's Shoreline Adaptation, Inventory, and Design project; she has also completed aquatic invasive species work with New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation. Kimberly holds a Master of Landscape Architecture, specializing in Ecological Design, from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a B.A. from Boston University.

Shauna and Kimberly would be the lead program managers for MERP. Other program supporting team members can be found in Addendum A.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.georgewileycenter.org/>