

**SSREIP Terms, Conditions and
Requirements
vFY2014.1**



**SMALL SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (SSREIP)
TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Vermont SSREIP is designed to provide funds to help cover the costs of installing new renewable energy systems on the homes, businesses, institutions, and non-profit facilities of Vermont. Funding is provided through the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund. The SSREIP is administered by the Renewable Energy Resource Center (RERC) and overseen by the Public Service Department.

SECTION A. GENERAL RULES & REQUIREMENTS

1. Incentives are available for renewable projects that meet the requirements set forth in this document. All program requirements must be strictly adhered to and documentation must be complete in order to receive an incentive payment.
2. Project incentives can only be reserved by a Photovoltaic or Solar Thermal Partner. For a complete list of Partners (hereinafter, Reserving Partner), please visit www.vtpartnership.wordpress.com/. The Reserving Partner arranges the installation of a renewable project and ensures that the installation is completed in a safe and reliable manner.
3. Incentives are available for solar PV, solar hot water, and micro-hydro projects that meet the size requirements set forth in Section E: Incentive Structure as well as the other rules set forth herein.
4. The incentive amount for a specific project will be determined based on the structure described in Section E: Incentive Structure. That section also sets forth the Maximum Incentive Amount allowable for each type of project.
5. Once completed projects are given final approval, **incentive payments are made by check to the Reserving Partner (or in the case of a Leased System to the Lessor) on behalf of the customer.**
6. **Incentives are intended for the benefit of the customer. Transfer of incentive benefit from the Reserving Partner to the customer must be clearly identified in customer contracts and invoices, as either a credit (preferred method) or a rebate.**
7. Before project installation can begin, a signed and dated Incentive Reservation Form must be submitted to RERC, and an official incentive reservation approval letter containing an incentive reservation number must be issued by RERC. If project installation begins prior to incentive reservation approval, no incentive will be provided for that project.
8. Solar projects must be completed, and Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Forms must be submitted, within 6 months from the incentive reservation approval date. Micro-hydro reservations are made for one year, with a one-year extension available if progress toward permit approval can be shown. **No extensions to this deadline will be granted.**
9. Projects that do not submit completed Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Forms within the timeframe specified above may "return to the back of the line" and re-submit a new incentive reservation request form if installation has not yet begun; the original incentive identification number must be provided. Re-submissions are not guaranteed approval.

10. Customers receiving an incentive cannot also receive a grant/loan through the Clean Energy Development Fund without prior approval.
11. Projects that have Standard Offer contracts are not eligible for an incentive.
12. Individual customers may receive *both* an incentive *and* the Vermont Investment Tax Credit (V.S.A. Title 32 §5822). **Please refer to a tax professional for more information.**
13. The incentive payments made to the Reserving Partner under this program will trigger the issuance of 1099s and thus may be treated as taxable income by the IRS and the State of Vermont. **It is the responsibility of the recipient of this incentive payment to consult with his/her tax advisor to determine the correct treatment of these payments for Federal and State tax purposes.**
14. If a customer receives an incentive, but then removes the installation for which the incentive was approved, the customer must notify the RERC and the CEDF Manager. The customer has a fiscal obligation to the CEDF equal to the incentive amount received from the State of Vermont through the SSREIP. Alternatively, the incentive amount/equipment purchased with the incentive may be considered property of the State and may be required to be returned to the State. In addition, the customer will not be granted any further incentives, unless there are exceptional circumstances as determined by CEDF Manager.
15. Approximately 10% of all installed systems will receive a site visit to verify system installation. Customers must be willing to allow and reasonably schedule such a site visit if requested.
16. New construction – Developers and builders are eligible for up to five incentive reservations at one time for new construction projects that do not yet have identified owners.
17. Customers may apply for incentives for more than one renewable system, whether installed at the same time or over multiple installations, up to the Maximum Incentive Amount for their customer category.
18. Subsequent to submittal of an Incentive Reservation Form, a customer may decide to use a different Reserving Partner while retaining the incentive. However, the customer must first receive permission from RERC to make the change or the incentive may not be paid.
19. To qualify for an incentive in the Special Category, projects must be for low-income housing non-profits, municipalities, or public schools. Repeated incentives to the same entity for different buildings will be considered for approval dependent on program and market conditions.
20. Solar hot water projects that include space heating are only eligible for an incentive on the portion of the system that contributes to domestic hot water.
21. Group net metering projects owned by a business or corporation are considered Commercial installations and are not eligible for an incentive. A group net metering project owned by a residential customer for residential meters can be considered a residential installation.
22. Customers are also eligible for an Efficiency Adder. The amount of the Efficiency Adder will be determined based on the structure described in Section E: Incentive Structure. Applicants must submit documentation showing that the project meets the eligibility requirements set forth below.
23. Eligibility for the Efficiency Adder is based on receiving:
 - a. **Residential** - 1. An audit completed by a BPI certified or Home Performance with Energy Star participating contractor, State Weatherization service provider or Vermont Gas auditor (existing homes) *OR* 2. Participation and completion of the Vermont Energy Star Homes or Energy Code Plus programs (new construction).
 - b. **Non-residential** - 1. Multifamily building audit by a State Weatherization service provider, participation in Efficiency Vermont Multifamily New Construction or VT Fuel Efficiency Partnership programs *OR* 2. ASHRAE Level 1 audit *OR* 3. Custom incentive agreement from Efficiency Vermont. Documentation of the above must be submitted with the Final Incentive Request.
 - i. Minimum requirements for an audit include: blower-door testing; full CAZ testing; a walk through assessment of areas that need to be insulated, and the existing effective R-value of those areas; and a written report of the audit from the contractor to be submitted with final project documentation.

- ii. In order for a customer to access certain energy efficiency incentives through Efficiency Vermont and/or PACE financing the customer will be required to use a Home Performance with Energy Star participating contractor. Group net-metering projects must include one building/home that has received the above.
 - iii. Qualifying events for the Efficiency Adder performed prior to the reservation application can be used to show compliance if they were performed within the three months prior to approval.
- 24. Select information (Installer/Lessor, system type, system size, location, and total installed costs) about the systems installed with SSREIP support may be publicly posted. Additional information may be released upon official request.
- 25. The Clean Energy Development Fund and the Public Service Department reserve the right to modify or terminate this program. Program rules, requirements, terms and conditions, and incentive levels are subject to change or cancellation.
- 26. **Failure to adhere to the rules and requirements of the SSREI Program may result in non-payment of reserved incentive and in being removed from the SSREI Program.**

SECTION B. RESERVING PARTNER RULES & REQUIREMENTS

1. Reserving Partners must be qualified as a Photovoltaic or Solar Thermal Partner by Renewable Energy Vermont (REV). This rule does not apply to micro-hydro systems.
2. Reserving Partners must submit a signed copy of the current SSREIP Terms, Conditions and Requirements at the start of each funding round in order to access the incentives.
3. The Reserving Partner must oversee system design and installation and identify, by name and title, the lead installer for each project (hereinafter, Installer).
4. The Installer (either an employee of the Reserving Partner or a person under contract by the Reserving Partner) must have expertise in the design and installation of the relevant type of system and must provide on-site review of the installation and be on-site to complete the final inspection before commissioning (i.e., the time when the interconnected system is turned on and capable of supplying energy to the grid).
5. Reserving Partners that are certified by REV as Full Partners are subject to the following Incentive Caps. Once this limit is reached, outstanding reservations must be completed, or withdrawn in order for the Reserving Partner to be eligible for new incentive reservations.
 - a. Residential, commercial and industrial – Reserving Partners may not have more than \$135,000 (for PV and Solar Hot Water) in open incentive reservations at any one time.
 - b. Special Category – Reserving Partners may not have more than \$275,000 (for PV and Solar Hot Water) in open incentive reservations at any one time.
 - c. Solar Hot Water – Reserving Partners are limited to 100 open reservations at any one time.
6. If the Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form is submitted prior to the date of commissioning, the Reserving Partner must list an estimated date for the commissioning in the space labeled “Date Commissioned.” The amount of the incentive will be removed from the Reserving Partner’s Cap, so long as all other conditions are met. However, the incentive payment process will not start until the Reserving Partner submits the Commissioning Certification form. It is the responsibility of the Reserving Partner to notify the RERC of the actual date commissioned. If the Reserving Partner fails to notify the RERC of a commissioning date prior to the incentive deadline (i.e., 6 months from the incentive reservation approval date), the incentive reservation will be withdrawn.
7. Reserving Partners certified by REV as Provisional Partners may only have one incentive reservation at a time and will require a site visit for the first 2 projects. The third installation will not require a site visit. However, Provisional Partners will remain subject to the one-installation-at-a-time cap until notification is provided by REV that the provisional partner has achieved full partner status.
8. Reserving Partners must provide a 5-year warranty on all major system components and initial installation, with the exception of batteries (if installed), for which a 2-year warranty is required.

9. Self-installations are not eligible for an incentive. This applies to Reserving Partner company owners who wish to install a system on their home or business. Employee discounts are acceptable; however, the incentive will be capped at 30% of the installed cost of the project. Because the incentive payment is made to the Reserving Partner, the Reserving Partner should **clearly indicate how the transfer of the incentive benefit to the customer will be made.**
10. Reserving Partners that wish to reserve incentives for leased systems must first have the lease agreement approved by RERC.

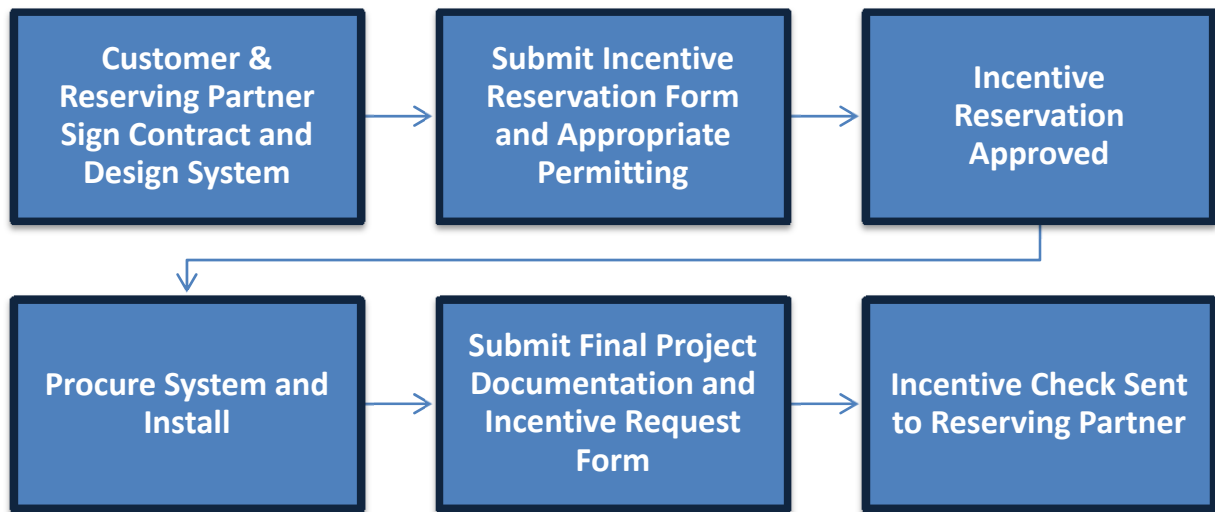
SECTION C. RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM RULES & REQUIREMENTS

1. All solar electric and micro-hydro systems must be installed in Vermont and must be operated as interconnected net-metered power systems.
2. Only systems that meet the size requirements set forth in Section E: Incentive Structure are eligible for incentives through this program.
3. Required permits must be properly obtained and posted.
4. All systems must be installed in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws.
5. All systems must comply with all applicable requirements of the current version of Vermont Public Service Board Rule 5.100, and must obtain a Certificate of Public Good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §248 from the Vermont Public Service Board.
6. All systems must comply with National Electric Code®, the 2009 Vermont Plumbing Rules, and all other applicable local, state, and federal rules and codes. All equipment must be properly installed according to manufacturer's recommendations and all applicable local, state, and federal codes and permits.
7. Incentives are available only for projects that use new equipment and that result in a functional, independent system. Systems with used components are not eligible for an incentive.
8. Upgrades to existing systems are eligible, but must include new components with a rated output of at least 1 kW for solar electric or at least 15 kBtu/day for solar hot water systems.
9. Solar PV incentives are designed for systems that will generate at least 1,000 kWh/year per kW of rated DC capacity installed. Systems designed to produce a lower number of kWh/year would be eligible for a lower, pro-rated incentive payment.¹ The Reserving Partner is required to perform this calculation on the *Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form* and provide the prorated incentive amount on the customer's final invoice.
10. Portable systems and solar thermal air panels are **not** eligible for incentives under this program.
11. Solar Hot Water incentives are available for public swimming pools **for Special Category customers only.**

¹ This requirement is intended to discourage poorly sited PV systems. Systems that are estimated to generate less than 1,000 kWh/yr per kw will only be eligible for a prorated incentive amount equal to the same percentage that the estimated kWh/year per kW of rated DC capacity is of the standard 1000:1 ratio. E.g. if a 1kW system (\$250 incentive) is estimated to generate 850kWh/year you can expect to receive 85% of your originally reserved incentive or \$213 ($\$250 \times .85 = \213).

SECTION D. PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION STEPS



Incentive Reservation Form

1. The customer and Reserving Partner must each read and agree to be bound by the SSREIP Terms, Conditions and Requirements. This document can be found at <http://www.ercvt.org/incentives/eligibility>. (If you need a printed copy, please contact the RERC at 877-888-2737). The customer and Reserving Partner must each sign and date the Incentive Reservation Form, which certifies that they acknowledge, understand, and agree to be bound by the terms of the SSREIP.
2. All reservation applications must be submitted on the most current FY2014 Incentive Reservation Form. All pages of the application must come from the same version of that form.
3. A current customer mailing address, if it differs from the installation address, is required.
4. Full model numbers are required for system components, including modules and collectors.
5. The customer and Reserving Partner must certify on the Incentive Reservation Form that installation of the project has not yet begun. If installation has begun before the reservation for the incentive is approved, the incentive will not be paid.
6. A response (either approval or denial) to an incentive reservation will be provided within 10 business days from when a complete Incentive Reservation Form is received. If a reservation application is submitted outside of regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, excluding state and federal holidays), it will be considered "received" on the next regular business day, if it is complete.
7. For all PV systems greater than 10kW, a copy of the Certificate of Public Good application as submitted to the Public Service Board must be included with the reservation application.
8. All projects on buildings older than 50 years, and/or with ground disturbance (footings, trenching, etc.), must be in compliance with the State Historic Preservation Act. These projects are therefore subject to the additional requirements set forth in the Incentive Reservation Form.
 - o Because the Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request must include a letter of compliance from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), applicants must apply for a letter of compliance **prior** to beginning the installation of the project. Be aware that VDHP only accepts hard copies of documentation for review.

Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form

1. Full documentation is needed before review will begin. **Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form with missing and/or incorrect documentation will be returned to the Reserving Partner.**
2. The Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form must be completed, signed, and dated. All pages must come from the same version of that form. To the extent the response to any portion of the Form is “NA,” a detailed reason for that response must be provided.
3. The following is a list of required forms and supporting documents to be submitted with the Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form:
 - a. The Reserving Partner and the name of the Installer responsible for system design, project oversight, and final inspection must be listed.
 - b. Total installed system cost – this must match the value listed on the customer invoice.
 - c. An Invoice that includes the incentive amount as a line-item; if there are changes to the system that could justify a larger incentive, the original reserved incentive amount AND the new requested amount with a note about the requested increase must be listed on the invoice. A larger incentive may or may not be granted on a case-by-case basis. If the installed system is smaller than originally approved, the incentive amount on the invoice must reflect the decreased incentive amount justified by the change.
 - d. **The invoice that is submitted must be an exact copy of the final itemized invoice that is sent to the customer – not an invoice created just to submit with the Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request. The RERC needs to verify that the end-use customer is receiving full benefit of the incentive.**
 - e. One-line diagram that is tailored to each individual project; using the same one-line diagram for each project regardless of differences between projects will not be accepted. Please see instructions in the Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form.
 - f. A warranty of at least 5 years on the major system components and initial installation.
 - g. A warranty of at least 2 years on batteries.
 - h. Solar hot water installations in or on buildings covered in or by the 2009 Vermont Plumbing Rules must list a Work Notice Number.
 - i. A full calculation of the estimated annual Btu output is required for solar hot water installations.
 - j. PV installations – PV Watts or other calculator verifying estimated annual output of kWh/year.
 - k. Supporting documentation for the Efficiency Adder, if applicable.
 - l. As specified below, a copy of either the Certificate of Public Good (CPG) or the CPG Registration Form as submitted to the Public Service Board must be included. For more information, please visit <http://psb.vermont.gov/utilityindustries/electric/backgroundinfo/netmetering>.
 - Solar PV systems with a capacity less than or equal to 10 kW must submit a date-stamped CPG Registration Form. Included with the CPG Registration Form, the Reserving Partner must certify that the 10-day waiting period has passed and there have been no adverse comments.
 - All other systems interconnected to the grid must submit a CPG issued by the Public Service Board.
 - m. If applicable, a copy of the letter of no adverse effect issued from the Vermont Department for Historic Preservation (for buildings older than 50 years and/or installations with **any** ground disturbance (footings, trenching, etc.) – includes all pole/ground mounted systems.
 - n. Photographs of system installation per instructions on Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form (must be submitted electronically with reservation number). Please remember that the technical reviewer must be able to clearly see all significant components of the installation—if there are only 1 or 2 photos submitted or blurred photos, the review process will be delayed.

4. The customer must review all pages, **including** the supporting documents listed above. Only after reviewing these documents should the customer initial where necessary, and sign and date Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form.
5. A completed Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Form and supporting documents may submit by fax or email (as a pdf; jpg or pdf files are acceptable for photos) in lieu of standard mailing.
6. Final Project Documentation and Incentive Request Forms should be processed and incentive payments issued within 30 days of receipt of complete and correct final project documentation. If documentation is missing or incorrect it will delay the process.

Administrative Information

1. When contacting the RERC about a particular project, please reference the reservation number.
2. Important program information is distributed via email. Please be sure to submit current email addresses on your paperwork.
3. Each Incentive Reservation Form submitted electronically must be emailed or faxed individually. Multiple Incentive Reservation Forms on a single email will not be accepted.
4. If you are mailing in original documents, please keep a copy for your records.
5. The mailing address and contact information for the Renewable Energy Resource Center is:

128 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 401
Burlington, VT 05401
Phone: (877) 888-7372
Fax: (802) 658-1643
Email: info@rerc-vt.org

SECTION E. INCENTIVE STRUCTURE

SOLAR ELECTRIC AND SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEMS

Customer Type	System	Incentive Amount	Maximum Incentive
Residential	Solar Electric	\$0.25/Watt ≤ 10 kW	\$2500
	Solar Hot Water	\$1.50/100Btu/day ≤ 200kBtu/day	\$3,000
Special Category ²	Solar Electric	\$1.25/Watt ≤ 10 kW	\$12500
	Solar Hot Water	\$3.00/100Btu/day ≤ 1,500kBtu/day	\$45,000

MICRO-HYDRO SYSTEMS

Customer	Incentive Amount	Maximum Incentive
Residential & Commercial	\$1.75 per 3ft-gal/min	\$8,750
Special Category	\$3.00 per 3ft-gal/min	The lesser of \$17,500 or 50% of total installed cost

EFFICIENCY ADDER

Customer	System	Calculation	Maximum Amount Allowed
Residential	Solar Electric	\$0.15/Watt	\$350
	- OR -		
Commercial & Special Category	Solar Hot Water	\$0.50/100Btu/day	\$450
	- OR -		
Commercial & Special Category	Solar Electric	\$0.15/Watt	\$450
	- OR -		
Commercial & Special Category	Solar Hot Water	\$0.55/100Btu/day	\$450
	- OR -		

² Maximum incentive possible is as listed or 50% of total installed cost, whichever is less.