

Department of Energy and Environment

Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008
and
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004
Quarterly Report

April 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Energy and Environment's (DOEE) Clean and Affordable Energy Act and Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act Quarterly Report to the Council of the District of Columbia covers the period from April 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017.

This report: 1) describes significant program status; 2) provides timelines and milestones to track the progress and success of each program; 3) offers highlights of ward specific data; and 4) presents the status of administrative and programmatic expenditures.

BACKGROUND

The Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008 (CAEA) effective October 22, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-250; D.C. Official Code § 8-1773.01 *et seq.*), established the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund (SETF) and the Energy Assistance Trust Fund (EATF), which are funded by assessments on the natural gas and electric companies. The SETF finances the District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility and related programs, and the EATF provides annual support for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Additionally, the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004 (REPS) effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-340; D.C. Official Code § 34-1431 *et seq.*), established the Renewable Energy Development Fund (REDF), which is funded by compliance fees paid by electricity suppliers under the District's Renewable Energy Portfolio for the purpose of funding eligible solar projects in the District.

Pursuant to sections 210(e) and 211(e) of the CAEA and section 8(f) of the REPS, DOEE is required to submit a quarterly report detailing EATF, SETF, and REDF expenditures and program performance.

Sustainable Energy Trust Fund

The DCSEU submits quarterly reports to DOEE, and DOEE files these reports with the Council on behalf of the DCSEU. These reports include programs funded by the SETF. Both reports can be found on DOEE's website.

Energy Assistance Trust Fund

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Background

DOEE administers the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which assists low-income households in the District, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home heating and cooling needs. LIHEAP benefits are provided for households using electric, natural gas, or home heating oil. DOEE provides energy assistance benefit payments to income qualified households by providing a direct credit, on behalf of the customer, to the respective utility company that provides service to the household.

LIHEAP is funded by three sources – US Department of Health and Human Services (US HHS), District General Funds, and the Energy Assistance Trust Fund (EATF), a special purpose revenue fund. DOEE applies for an annual formula grant from US HHS through a State Plan, which is submitted by September 1 each year.

Energy assistance benefits are determined through a benefit matrix that is approved by the US HHS. DOEE provides two types of benefits: Regular energy assistance benefits and emergency energy assistance benefits. The regular benefit is a one-time benefit the household may receive each year, and is calculated based on four factors: household size, total household income, heating source, and type of dwelling. Regular energy assistance benefits range from \$250 to \$1,500 and the average benefit payment per household is \$500-\$600. The emergency benefit is available to low-income District residents who have received a disconnection notice for electric or gas service, or are already disconnected. Households that are out of home heating oil are also eligible to receive an emergency benefit.

Program Accomplishments

The total number of LIHEAP benefits given to District households this quarter from all funding sources, including EATF, was 3,801 (See Table 1).

Table 1: LIHEAP Benefit Payments by Ward

	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	Total
Current Quarter	238	24	10	219	478	257	967	1,608	3,801
Cumulative Quarter	1,425	195	59	1,268	3,101	1,588	4,536	6,480	18,652

Table 2: LIHEAP Benefit Payments Quarter 3 Timeline and Milestones

Milestone	Goal Date	Actual Date
Quarter 3: April 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017		
Serve additional eligible District households	June 2017	June 2017

Next Quarter's Projected Goals**Table 3: LIHEAP Benefit Payments Quarter 4 Timeline and Milestones**

Milestone	Goal Date	Actual Date
Quarter 4: July 1, 2017 – September 31, 2017		
Serve additional eligible District households	September 2017	

Renewable Energy Development Fund

As described in the Solar for All Implementation Plan, DOEE will implement Solar for All in five three-year phases to ensure the program is sufficiently flexible to adapt to market changes and overcome barriers. The initial implementation phase (FY 2017-FY 2019) will include the development of 30 to 60 MW of solar capacity, subject to funding availability. This phase will also focus on researching and developing the solutions necessary to complete large-scale projects in subsequent implementation phases. Much of this work is being done through strategic external and interagency partnerships and Solar for All Innovation and Expansion Grants described below.

Solar for All Innovation and Expansion Grants

In February 2017, DOEE announced two Requests for Applications (RFAs) for Solar for All Innovation and Expansion Grants. The RFA guidelines focused on research and development and sought to address four overarching program goals: (1) to expand solar energy in the District; (2) to provide benefits to low-income residents; (3) to develop solutions to program challenges;

and (4) to identify solutions DOEE can use to establish the most effective, predictable, and stable medium-term program. The RFA guidelines required projects to address at least one of the following five core barriers:

- Acquiring access to potential project sites by tailoring incentives to the respective project site owners/lessors
- Addressing competition for access to roof space due to conflicting incentives or requirements
- Acquiring low-income customers, educating eligible residents and building owners, and managing community solar subscriptions
- Providing solar power benefits to low-income residents who do not receive electric bills (e.g., master-metered building residents)
- Sharing the energy and other financial benefits (Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) and the Investment Tax Credit (ITC)) associated with the installation of new solar energy systems with low-income residents

The RFAs also encouraged project proposals to address additional barriers, which include:

- Incorporating electric or thermal storage for efficiency and/or resiliency;
- Combining solar installation with energy efficiency measures;
- Achieving net-zero energy through solar;
- Utilizing atypical spaces (e.g., road barriers, brownfields, or windows) for solar installations;
- Providing District residents with comprehensive solar job training while installing new solar systems;
- Incorporating technologies, such as smart inverters, to add value to the distribution grid; and
- Designing solar PV systems to reduce the distribution system's peak demand.

DOEE will provide an update on the application review and awarded grants for the Solar For All Innovation and Expansion Grants next quarter.