



**Maryland**  
Energy  
Administration

# FY 2025 Commercial Solar: Equitable Outcomes & Enhanced Sustainability

Presented November 15, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Statewide Brownfields Conference

# Background

- Former Program: Commercial Clean Energy Rebate Program (“C-CERP”).
- Run from 2015 until 2024
- Commitment Letters or Rebates issued
- Low rebate levels @ 3% – 5% of project costs
- While popular - Installations would probably have occurred

The New FY2025 Commercial Solar Grant Program (SCGP) focus is to change this!

# FY2025 Commercial Solar Grant Program

- FY2025 Inaugural Year
- Commercial Solar (incl. Roof- Ground- Wall-Mounts, & Shingles)
- Grant agreements issued – 18 months to complete
- 2 Areas of Interest (AOI):
  - 1 – Equitable Solar Access for Organizations
  - 2 – Commercial Solar for Sustainability
- Higher Rebate levels:
  - Up to 75% for AOI-1, or 50% for AOI-2 of Net Project Costs
- Grants up to \$500,000 available!

# Areas of Interest Described – AOI 1

- AOI 1 – Equitable Solar Access for Organizations:
  - Non-Profits
  - Small Business Enterprises, Minority Business, Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, as designated by MDOT [Office of Minority Business Enterprise](#)
  - Small Business meeting the size standards adopted by the US Small Business Administration ([13 CFR 121.201](#)), and at least 51% owned/controlled by one or more veterans
- <https://www.mdot.Maryland.gov/tso/pages/index.aspx?pageid=90>
- <https://www.sba.gov/document/support-table-size-standards>

# Areas of Interest Described – AOI 2

- AOI 2 – Commercial Solar for Sustainability
  - Maryland businesses that do not have the designations noted in AOI 1
  - Helps high energy-use organizations improve sustainability through investments in solar energy
  - Reduces grid energy consumed and replaces it with carbon-free, solar energy

# Grant Formulas – AOI 1

AREA OF INTEREST	SYSTEM CAPACITY RANGE	GRANT AMOUNT CALCULATION
<b>AOI 1: Equitable Solar Access for Organizations</b>	1 - 500 kW <sub>DC</sub>	Up to <b>\$1,700 per kW<sub>DC</sub></b> , not to exceed <b>\$500,000 total</b> , <u><b>OR</b></u>  <b>75% of the Net Total Project Cost*</b> , <u><b>WHICHEVER IS LOWER.</b></u>

# Grant Formulas – AOI 2

<b>AOI 2: Commercial Solar for Sustainability</b>	1 - 500 kW <sub>DC</sub>	Up to \$1,000 per kW <sub>DC</sub> , not to exceed \$500,000 total, <u>OR</u>  <b>50% of the Net Total Project Cost*, <u>WHICHEVER IS LOWER.</u></b>
	500 - 1,000 kW <sub>DC</sub>	Up to \$750 per kW <sub>DC</sub> , not to exceed \$500,000 total, <u>OR</u>  <b>50% of the Net Total Project Cost*, <u>WHICHEVER IS LOWER.</u></b>
	> 1,000 kW <sub>DC</sub>	Up to \$600 per kW <sub>DC</sub> , not to exceed \$500,000 total, <u>OR</u>  <b>50% of the Net Total Project Cost*, <u>WHICHEVER IS LOWER.</u></b>

# Grant Formula – Net Project Cost

- Note: Net Total Project Cost is the all-in, total project cost minus *any* non-MEA incentives:\*

- Example:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,000,000
Less - Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC):	(\$300,000)
- REAP Grant (if Applicable)	<u>(\$150,000)</u>
Net Total Project Cost:	\$ 550,000

- *ITC must be included if applicable. Any incentives that are pending (such as the USDA Rural Energy for America Program of REAP) will be assumed to be approved and must be included in the application.*



# Initial Program Requirements:

- All installations must be in Maryland HB550 Census Tracts
- Link to the EJ Screening Tool can be found in the MEA website:  
<https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/CensusTractsRPS.aspx>
- Work to begin *following* Grant issuance and acceptance
- 18 months for project completion
- Projects subject to MD Historic Preservation Review
  
- *Please read the Funding Opportunity Announcement detailing all other minimum requirements.*

# Application Process

- Electronic Application Process
- Read the FOA completely for terms/conditions/requirements
- Required documents are listed and must be provided
- Have all documents ready to upload
- Pre-review of application possible – open app, click on first question to enable ability to scroll through the various questions (Recommended as application cannot be saved mid-stream)
- Emailed acknowledgement once application completed

# The FY2025 CSGP Goal:

- MEA seeks to increase Solar PV installation by providing meaningful incentives to the many eligible businesses and non-profit organizations committed to serving their low- to moderate-income communities as well as those who have historically been overburdened or underserved. MEA trusts that these enhanced incentives will be very impactful for the business community members as they in turn strive to serve their communities. In this way, everyone benefits from cleaner energy and a more healthful and sustainable environment. Together, this can happen!

*Learn more at*  
**[Energy.Maryland.gov](http://Energy.Maryland.gov) !**



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**Thank You**

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