

# Competitive Solicitation Schedule

## Calendar Year 2026

The Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is required by law to utilize competitive processes to identify and award new energy resources that will increase the supply of affordable energy in Maine and contribute to state policy goals. This schedule is intended to inform potential solicitation participants and interested stakeholders of anticipated timelines and milestones for DOER's competitive solicitations in calendar year 2026.

### Background

Public Law 2025 Chapter 476 (LD 1270, An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources) establishes DOER as the successor to the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) previously established in Title 2, section 9. DOER is charged with new responsibilities, including conducting regular clean energy and other energy infrastructure solicitations to advance the energy policies of the state based on the state energy plan (35-A M.R.S. §10313). Specifically, DOER is required to initiate and conduct a competitive procurement no later than January 15, 2026. Beginning January 2027, DOER must determine, based on the state energy plan, whether one or more procurements are necessary to:

- Meet and manage reasonably expected growth in electricity demand;
- Meet reliability needs;
- Achieve the statutory requirements established in 38 M.R.S. §576-A or 577; or
- Achieve the statutory requirements established in 35-A M.R.S. §3210.

DOER will only award energy resources through competitive solicitations that will provide benefits to ratepayers in Maine that exceed any costs to ratepayers in Maine.

### Procurement Determination

Maine's [Energy Plan](#) provides an overview of the state's energy landscape and offers objectives, strategies, and actions needed to responsibly advance Maine's energy system and meet the state's climate and clean energy requirements. Objective C emphasizes that "it is critical that the state's electricity is increasingly generated by affordable, reliable, homegrown clean energy resources" (Energy Plan, p. 31). A key objective of the Energy Plan is to establish a regular cadence of planning and procurements. Based on the Energy Plan, as well as consideration of relevant factors including the additional solicitations and related program development summarized in the Attachment below, DOER intends to undertake the following competitive solicitation activities in 2026.



## Solicitation Amount

DOER is authorized to “determine the total amount sought in all competitive solicitations within any 2-year period under [section 10313] in accordance with the state energy plan, except that the amount may not exceed 15% of the average annual statewide electric retail sales in the preceding 2-year period.” Fifteen percent of the average annual statewide electric retail sales for the most recent 2-year period available from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is 1,700,822 megawatt-hours, as demonstrated in the table below. DOER will not award more than this statutory solicitation award maximum, and will only award ratepayer-beneficial projects in accordance with established statutory requirements. DOER acknowledges that additional clarity regarding the application of the statutory solicitation award maximum to different eligible technologies will be necessary, particularly as it applies to energy storage and demand management. In the draft Requests for Proposals discussed below, DOER will define a proposed methodology for measuring proposals (e.g. energy storage proposals) against the 1,700,822 megawatt-hour solicitation award maximum.

	Source/Calculation	Megawatt-hours
<b>(A) Annual statewide electric retail sales, 2023</b>	EIA: Electric Sales, Revenue, and Average Price, Table 2	11,336,030
<b>(B) Annual statewide electric retail sales, 2024</b>	EIA: Electric Sales, Revenue, and Average Price, Table 2	11,341,591
<b>(C) Average statewide electric retail sales, 2023-2024</b>	$((A) + (B)) / 2$	11,338,811
<b>(D) 15% of average statewide electric retail sales, 2023-2024</b>	$(C) * 0.15$	1,700,822

## Energy Storage

Energy storage technologies use mechanical, chemical or thermal processes for absorbing energy and storing it for a period of time for use at a later time. The Legislature has established a statutory goal for energy storage deployment of 400 megawatts operating in the state by December 31, 2030 (35-A M.R.S. §3145). The Maine Energy Plan identifies energy storage as key to “decrease costs by supplying power when grid electricity is most expensive, and store energy to be utilized when intermittent clean energy resources may not be as abundantly available” (Energy Plan, p. 29). Furthermore, the Energy Plan notes that “increasing the amount of locally produced electricity from renewable generators and pairing that energy with advanced energy storage can diversify the region’s electricity supply and reduce emissions that contribute to climate change” (Energy Plan, p. 20) and “short- and long-duration energy storage capacity [can] meet changing peak demands” (Energy Plan, p. 32). The *Pathway to 2040* technical analysis which informs the Energy Plan suggests energy storage deployment in Maine generally consistent with or exceeding the 400-megawatt by 2030 goal.

DOER has completed substantial analysis and stakeholder engagement to inform the advancement of an energy storage solicitation. Specifically, as directed by Public Law 2023 Chapter 374, the Governor's Energy Office (now DOER) developed [recommendations](#) submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for a competitive solicitation for energy storage systems. The proposed solicitation program incorporated feedback provided by stakeholders through two separate public comment periods, and was further subject to public input through a subsequent Public Utilities Commission proceeding (Docket 2025-00148). DOER's analysis supporting the recommendations indicates that grid-connected energy storage systems are likely to be cost-effective for ratepayers, helping to reduce electricity costs while increasing the availability of renewable energy and optimizing the use of existing infrastructure.

DOER anticipates conducting a competitive solicitation for energy storage systems, informed by the recommendations put forward earlier in 2025. Specifically, DOER anticipates soliciting transmission and distribution-connected storage systems, with a per-kilowatt nameplate capacity tolling agreement contract structure. DOER may consider additional performance requirements and may also consider specific opportunities for energy storage collocated with existing or planned generators. DOER expects to solicit up to its full quantity authorized by law, and will only award ratepayer-beneficial projects in accordance with established statutory requirements.

DOER will issue a draft Request for Proposals according to the schedule provided below to obtain additional public input on the solicitation design prior to issuance of a final RFP.

## Consideration of Demand Management

Demand management refers to strategies that influence when and how much electricity is consumed to effectively balance electric supply with demand on the electricity grid. Demand management can play a central role in increasing affordability by providing a flexible, cost-effective alternative to traditional grid infrastructure upgrades. By reducing the need for new large-scale generation and potentially costly grid upgrades, demand management helps lower costs for all ratepayers by more efficiently utilizing existing infrastructure, unlocking underutilized electricity supply, and delivering economic and environmental benefits across the state. Effective demand management resources could include, but are not limited to, smart distributed energy resources that voluntarily respond to dispatch signals, such as distributed solar, battery or other customer-sited storage, standby generators, connected thermostats, networking electric vehicle chargers, networked electric storage water heaters, and other consumer devices.

The Energy Plan highlights the significant potential for load flexibility (the outcome achieved through effective demand management) to support affordability and facilitate an increasingly clean electricity grid, among other benefits. Objective D highlights that "load flexibility can



provide cost-effective reliability while reducing peak loads and infrastructure needs” (Energy Plan, p. 46). The Energy Plan summarizes the potential value proposition as follows:

*Because the electricity grid is built to accommodate the times of greatest demand, there is potential for significant cost savings for all electricity customers when peaks can be moderated. As more renewable energy flows into the grid, creating periods of abundant, low-cost electricity (e.g. during periods of high wind or intense sunshine), it will be critical to use or store that power to ensure consumers can benefit from these low-cost periods. Conversely, additional benefits can be reaped by shifting loads away from periods of high demand to avoid taxing the system and incurring higher operating costs. This underlying dynamic is referred to as load flexibility. (Energy Plan, p. 40).*

In Maine, the Efficiency Maine Trust has and continues to offer a variety of programs with regards to demand management and the Maine Public Utilities Commission has recently requested comments in Docket 2025-00343. Further, numerous states have advanced policies, programs, solicitations, regulations, and other efforts targeting the potential value of demand management. DOER seeks to complement and build off of existing programs without duplicating any of these important efforts of existing state and quasi-state entities, but recognizes the potential for a competitive solicitation pursuant to DOER’s statutory authority, which may result in one or more contracts between awarded entities and electric utilities, to deliver significant incremental value. DOER anticipates taking additional steps in 2026 in close coordination with the Efficiency Maine Trust and stakeholders to explore the feasibility and potential for a competitive solicitation for demand management. Based on the outcome of these steps, which will include public engagement, DOER may issue one or more requests for proposals for demand management.

## **Anticipated DOER Solicitation Schedule**

<b>Energy Storage</b>		<b>Demand Management</b>
<b>Q1 2026</b>	Publish draft Request for Proposals for Energy Storage Systems for public comment	Engage interested stakeholders and publish demand management straw proposal for public comment
<b>Q2 2026</b>	File Request for Proposals for Energy Storage Systems for review by Public Utilities Commission	Subsequent steps will be determined based on responses to straw proposal and additional information obtained by DOER, and may include publication of a draft Request for Proposals for Demand Management Solutions for public comment
<b>Q3 2026</b>	Issue Request for Proposals for Energy Storage Systems  Deadline for Proposals for Energy Storage Systems	
<b>Q4 2026</b>	Energy Storage Proposal Selections	



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Energy Resources**

## **Stay Updated**

To receive email updates on DOER's competitive solicitation activities, including information about upcoming meetings and public comment opportunities, opt-in to the DOER general newsletter [here](#) or visit [www.maine.gov/energy](http://www.maine.gov/energy).



## Attachment: Summary of anticipated solicitations and related programs

*Information current as of December 19, 2025. Anticipated timelines and other information may be subject to change. Information provided here may be summarized or otherwise incomplete, is solely for informational purposes, and does not supersede or control information provided by any authority including DOER. DOER does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this information.*

Solicitation	Lead Entity	Authority	Eligible Resources	Volume	Anticipated Timeline
<b>Energy Storage Solicitation</b>	Maine Department of Energy Resources	35-A M.R.S. §10313	Energy Storage Facilities	Up to 1,700,822 MWh total across all §10313 solicitations	See Anticipated Schedule above.
<b>Demand Management Solicitation</b>	Maine Department of Energy Resources	35-A M.R.S. §10313	Demand Management Providers	Up to 1,700,822 MWh total across all §10313 solicitations	See Anticipated Schedule above.
<b>Front of Meter Distributed Energy Resource Program</b>	Maine Department of Energy Resources	35-A M.R.S. §3209-I and P.L. 2025 Ch. 430 §14	An electric generating facility that uses a renewable fuel or technology under 35-A M.R.S. §3210 (2) (B-3), is located in the service territory of a transmission and distribution utility in the State and is interconnected to the distribution grid on the utility side of a customer's utility meter.	To be determined	DOER will submit a proposal for the program to the Public Utilities Commission no later than September 30, 2026.
<b>Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program</b>	Maine Public Utilities Commission	35-A M.R.S. §3210-I	A transmission line or lines necessary to connect at least 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy resources located in northern Maine; and qualified renewable energy generation projects in northern Maine designed to connect to and transmit generated power using the transmission line or lines.	Up to 1,200 megawatts	A Request for Proposals is anticipated from the Public Utilities Commission in December 2025 in Docket 2025-00361.
<b>Existing or Repowering Renewable Resources</b>	Maine Public Utilities Commission	35-A M.R.S. §3210-K	Class IA resources that began commercial operation on or before June 30, 2019.	Up to 5% of the retail electricity sales in Maine between January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023,	A Request for Proposals is anticipated from the Public Utilities Commission in



				as determined by the Commission.	December 2025 in Docket 2025-00351.
<b>Demand Management Program and related initiatives</b>	Efficiency Maine Trust	Triennial Plan VI	Measures and strategies that mitigate the impacts of demand on electricity utilities' T&D systems and balance the increased penetration of intermittent renewables on the grid.	See Triennial Plan VI.	See <a href="http://efficiencymaine.com">efficiencymaine.com</a> for latest program opportunity notices and announcements.
<b>Distributed Generation Resources</b>	Maine Public Utilities Commission	35-A M.R.S. §3209-H	A distributed generation resource that: (1) Reaches commercial operation before November 1, 2025; (2) Participates in net energy billing pursuant to Title 35-A §3209-A or 3209-B; and (3) For which 75% or less of the bill credits associated with the distributed generation resource are allocated to a customer of or subscriber to the resource.	Any eligible resource may bid.	A Request for Proposals has been issued by the Public Utilities Commission in Docket 2025-00319 with a proposal deadline of January 15, 2026.
<b>Clean Hydrogen Facilities</b>	Maine Public Utilities Commission	35-A M.R.S. §123	A clean hydrogen facility that must: (1) produce clean hydrogen as defined in 35-A M.R.S. §123; (2) be located in the State of Maine; (3) meet the applicable requirements for a federal clean hydrogen production tax credit under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Public Law 117-169, 136 Stat. 1818 Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Public Law 117-169, 136 Stat. 1818, and Internal Revenue Service production tax credit regulations; and (4) have a peak electricity demand of no more than 20 megawatts.	One qualifying clean hydrogen facility.	A draft Request for Proposals has been issued by the Public Utilities Commission in Docket 2025-00328 with a deadline for potential bidders to submit indications of interest of December 10, 2025.