



Solar for All

Maine's Proposal to the U.S. EPA Program

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What is Solar for All?

Funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a \$7 billion Solar for All competition designed to spur the deployment of residential and community solar for millions of Americans. EPA will fund states and other entities to establish or expand "Solar for All" programs that **support deployment of solar and energy storage to benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities**. Learn more about Solar for All from the EPA [here](#).

Maine's Application

The Governor's Energy Office requested **\$99.5 million from EPA to establish statewide "Solar for All" programs**. The proposal was built on broad public engagement, incorporating direct outreach to key stakeholders and opportunities for public comment as well as national best practices to overcome barriers to accessing affordable solar. In the proposal, GEO proposed a comprehensive suite of programs designed to equitably accelerate the deployment of solar and energy storage to benefit Maine's most vulnerable households, delivering **energy savings, a cleaner environment, and high quality jobs**.

Incentives and Support Programs

The proposal puts forth a range of programs designed to ensure a pathway to solar participation is available to renters and homeowners, rural and urban households, and households that may not be well-suited for on-site solar.

New **incentives for residential rooftop solar and energy storage** serving affordable multifamily housing and low-income and disadvantaged single-family homes across the state, ensuring financial barriers to rooftop solar benefits are minimized.

New technical and financial assistance to support cooperatively-owned community solar, enabling households, resident-owned communities, Tribal communities, and community-based organizations, to **participate in solar energy ownership without barriers** of homeownership or rooftop suitability.

A new **community solar and energy storage program** focused on serving low-income and disadvantaged households, utilizing competitive bidding and aligning with existing energy assistance programs to **minimize costs and maximize benefits delivered directly to households** through lower electricity bills while building energy resilience. This new program would build on the recommendations of the [Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group](#), as directed by the Maine Legislature.

More about Maine's Proposal

Maine's Solar for All proposal strives to ensure that the benefits of the energy transition are delivered equitably, a central tenet of Maine's climate action plan, Maine Won't Wait. The GEO is grateful for the support of more than forty state, federal, Tribal, municipal, labor, community, nonprofit, and private-sector partners.

If fully funded, Maine's Solar for All proposal will:

- Enable an estimated **38,000 low-income and disadvantaged households** to access solar by supporting rooftop projects on owner-occupied and rental residences across the state, as well as cost-effective community solar to enable energy savings for low-income households.
- Ensure quality job opportunities in the growing solar energy field, support the modernization of Maine's electric grid, and provide resources to support communities in responsible solar deployment.

The proposal seeks funding to support the following:

Workforce development opportunities ensuring **quality clean energy jobs** for disadvantaged communities

Siting and permitting assistance for communities to support **timely, thorough, responsible solar permitting**

Staff and technical support to **improve access and remove barriers** to solar and energy storage

Next Steps

The EPA expects to announce awards as soon as March 2024, and deliver funding to states and other awardees in July 2024. To share feedback or suggestions, please email geo@maine.gov with the subject line, "Solar for All."



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Learn more about Solar for All: epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund/solar-all