



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For: Solar Vendor

AFFORDABLE SOLAR ACCESS PATHWAYS RFP

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation Renewable Energy Fund
and Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources



Section 1 Overall RFP Goals

In this Request for Proposals (the “**RFP**”), the Renewable Energy Fund (“**REF**”), a division of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“**The Corporation**”), is soliciting a Request for Proposal from a firm or firms qualified to:

- Provide solar leases and/or solar Power Purchase Agreements (“**PPAs**”) to low- and moderate-income (“**LMI**”) homeowners, i.e., households with income less than or equal to 80% of the Area Median Income in Rhode Island, in environmental justice focus areas as defined by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (the “**EJ Focus Areas**”);¹
- Receive up to one million (\$1,000,000) in elevated incentives from RI Commerce through REF grants (the “**Elevated Incentives**”);
- Specifically target LMI communities to receive the benefit of solar including by using community-based marketing tactics, either alone or with a partner;
- Within EJ Focus Areas, or based on the EJ Focus Areas state maps, updated as the case may be following the issuance of guidelines by the Inflation Reduction Act’s federal implementation agencies,² manage a flexible income verification process, following the broad guidelines set in this RFP, and any further guidelines set forth by the REF;
- Receive marketing support from staff and/or consultants of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (“**RIOER**”) and REF; and
- Over time, work with RIOER and REF to align programs, processes and products with neighboring states to lower solar costs for customers, for instance collaborating on solar workforce development strategies and programs, coordinating and aligning income verification processes, consolidating approaches to paperwork submission and processes, and otherwise helping RIOER develop streamlined programs to benefit LMI solar and Solar + Storage (“**S+S**”) customers.

REF developed this RFP and will administer the resulting program (the “**Affordable Solar Access Pathways**” program or “**ASAP**”) in close collaboration with RIOER which, among other things, will participate in the selection committee. Additional information about the roles of REF and RIOER in administering the program is available in Section 5 (*RIOER and REF Background*) below.

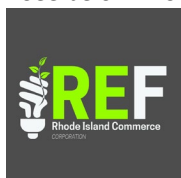
Section 2 Number of Firms to be Selected

REF seeks to select one (1) qualified partner, but reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to select additional firms as a result of this RFP, based on the strength of the applications received.

¹ <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/environmentalprotection/documents/ridem-environmental-justice-policy.pdf>

A map is available below in Section 8.1 (*Geographic Eligibility*) and is available online at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/environmentalprotection/documents/ridem-environmental-justice-map.pdf>

² See below in Section 8.1 (*Geographic Eligibility*) for additional information about such maps.



Section 3 RFP Deadline and Schedule

3.1 Deadline

To be considered, proposals must be submitted before the following date: Friday, February 24, 2023 at 2pm EST.

3.2 Schedule

Unless otherwise stated, all deadlines shall be midnight EST.

Milestone	Date
RFP launch date	Thursday, December 29, 2022
Virtual Bidder's Conference - Not Mandatory	Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 2pm
Questions Due	Tuesday, January 24, 2023
Answers Posted	Friday, February 3, 2023
Proposals Due	Friday, February 24, 2023, at 2pm.

Section 4 State Goals

This RFP will help the state of Rhode Island fulfill the following goals:

- Achieve higher penetration of solar for LMI communities in the state's EJ Focus Areas to ensure a more equitable distribution of the benefits of going solar;
- Deliver attractive, low-cost, and long-term solar lease and PPA products to LMI customers in Rhode Island, including those that may be credit-challenged;
- Accelerate financing for "solar plus" offerings, which may include solar + energy efficiency or specific heating, ventilation, and air conditioning solutions, battery storage, electric vehicle chargers, or other appropriate clean energy technologies.

Section 5 RIOER and REF Background

This section summarizes the roles of REF and RIOER with respect to both the RFP and the Affordable Solar Access Pathways program.

5.1 RIOER General Information

RIOER's mission is to lead the state toward a clean, affordable, reliable, and equitable energy future. RIOER develops policies and programs that respond to the state's evolving energy needs, while advancing environmental sustainability, energy security, and a vibrant clean energy economy.



RIOER is committed to working with public- and private-sector stakeholders to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to cost-effective, resilient, and sustainable energy solutions.

5.2 REF General Information

REF grants exist to help expand the role of renewable energy throughout Rhode Island, so the state and its citizens can reap the full benefits of cost-effective renewable energy from diverse sources.

REF provides grants for renewable energy projects that have the potential to produce electricity in a cleaner, more sustainable manner, while stimulating job growth in the green technology and energy sectors. Using funds from the “system benefit charge” on electric bills and alternative compliance payments received from retail electricity providers, REF funds renewable energy projects in Small Scale solar, Commercial Scale, and Community Renewables.

5.3 State Agencies’ Roles in this RFP

- REF:
 - Issues and manages the RFP process;
 - Sets eligibility criteria in consultation with RIOER;
 - Supports and manages communication with the contractor;
 - Participates in the selection committee; and
 - Negotiates the contract in consultation with RIOER.
- RIOER:
 - Participates in the selection committee;
 - Qualifies eligible contractors; and
 - Oversees negotiation of the contract in consultation with REF.

5.4 State Agencies’ Roles in Administering ASAP

The staff of both REF and RIOER will support the administration of the ASAP program, which will be co-branded.

- REF will:
 - Ensure adherence to REF rules and regulations;
 - Support the marketing of the ASAP program and related customer outreach; and
 - Work on streamlining processes, programs, and incentive administration through the REF online portal.
- RIOER will:
 - Support the marketing of the ASAP program and related customer outreach;
 - Collaborate with the RFP winner to ensure the success of the ASAP program; and
 - Answer questions and resolve implementation issues with REF and the RFP winner.

Section 6 RI Solar Market Background

6.1 General Information

According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, Rhode Island currently ranks 31st in the nation in



solar installations with 576MW of installed solar to date.³ This represents 11,936 homes and enough solar energy to power 104,564 homes as of the first quarter of 2022.⁴

According to NREL's REPLICA dataset, Rhode Island has 61,033 LMI single-family owner-occupied households, defined as at or below 80% of Area Median Income.⁵ These homes have a total solar capacity of 351MW and total solar generation potential of 413,199MWh, thus representing a significant opportunity for investment toward meeting the state's 100% renewable energy goals by 2033.⁶ For comparison, Rhode Island's 2015 State Energy Plan suggested the state could develop over 1,800 MW of solar energy by 2035⁷ and the projected gap to meet the state's 100% renewable electricity goals is estimated to be between 3,200 and 4,300 MW as per a recent Brattle Group Analysis.⁸

As of 2020, solar power represented about 32% of Rhode Island's clean energy portfolio.⁹

In addition, Rhode Island is a deregulated state where power sold into the New England Independent System Operator ("**ISO New England**") is generated by independent power producers. The state has retail customer choice so that customers in this program can purchase electricity from regulated utilities or from non-regulated power producers, also known as competitive suppliers.¹⁰ As per the RI Public Utilities Commission and Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("**RI PUC**"), there are three main regulated utility territories in Rhode Island but Narragansett Electric covers the vast majority of the state.¹¹ Narragansett Electric, doing business as Rhode Island Energy, is an investor-owned utility held by Pennsylvania-based PPL Corp. since its purchase from National Grid in 2022.

³ See SEIA's website for additional information and data, accessed July 11, 2022: <https://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/rhode-island-solar>

⁴ Id.

⁵ Rooftop Energy Potential of Low-Income Communities in America REPLICA dataset based on SEEDSII Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies project and 2015 data, accessed July 14, 2022, available here: <https://data.nrel.gov/submissions/81>

⁶ Executive Order 20-01: <https://governor.ri.gov/executive-orders/executive-order-20-01> and H7277 SUB A: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText22/HouseText22/H7277A.pdf>

⁷ RI OER solar FAQs, accessed July 14, 2022: <https://energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/solar/faqs>

⁸ The Road to 100% Renewable Energy – Brattle Group: <https://energy.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur741/files/documents/renewable/The-Road-to-100-Percent-Renewable-Electricity---Brattle-04Feb2021.pdf>

⁹ RI OER The Road to 100% Renewable Electricity 2030 – Public Workshop: <https://energy.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur741/files/documents/renewable/RI-100-Pct---1st-Public-Workshop-9July2020.pdf>

¹⁰ RI Public Utility Commission website, accessed July 15, 2022: <https://ripuc.ri.gov/utility-information/electric/competitive-energy-suppliers-qa-and-updates>

¹¹ The RI service territory of Narragansett Electric can be seen on the RI portion of this National Grid Service Territory Map, accessed July 15, 2022: https://www9.nationalgridus.com/non_html/a2_map_usa.pdf



6.2 Utility Rate Structure Summary

In Narragansett Electric territory, formerly National Grid and now doing business as Rhode Island Energy (“**RI Energy**”), two electric rates will be useful references for RFP applicants:

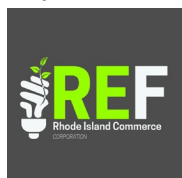
- Basic Residential (A-16)
 - Fixed charge: \$2.37/month - Note that the customer charge that was slated from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 is deferred, and that an additional \$6/month will be reinstated starting April 1, 2023.¹²
 - Total kWh Rate: Total delivery charges + supply charges = \$0.29415/kWh
 - Total delivery charges: \$0.11630/kWh
 - Total supply charges (RI Energy Last Resort Service): \$0.17785/kWh
- Low Income Residential (A-60)
 - Fixed charge: \$2.37/month - Note that the customer charge that was slated from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 is deferred, and that an additional \$6/month will be reinstated starting April 1, 2023.¹³
 - Total kWh Rate: Total delivery charges + supply charges = \$0.29177/kWh
 - Total delivery charges: \$0.11392/kWh
 - Total supply charges (RI Energy Last Resort Service): \$0.17785/kWh
 - A 25% to 30% discount is applied to the total bill and deducted from the Delivery Services portion of the bill *before* Net Energy Metering (“**NEM**”) credits are applied. This [example bill](#) from National Grid shows how the NEM credit is applied to an A60 customer.

6.3 Historical Growth

This section summarizes background information about historical growth of the solar market in Rhode Island.

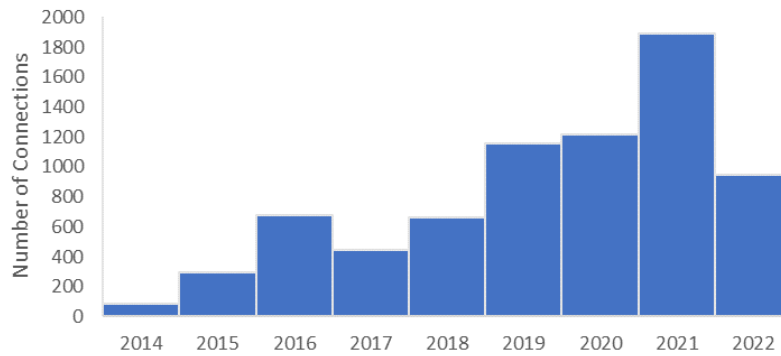
¹² As per the open meeting held on September 23, 2022 regarding RIPUC Docket No. 4978.
<https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Home/Rates/Service-Rates#:~:text=and%20farm%20customers.-,Rates%20for%20Delivery%20Service,-Charge>

¹³ Id.



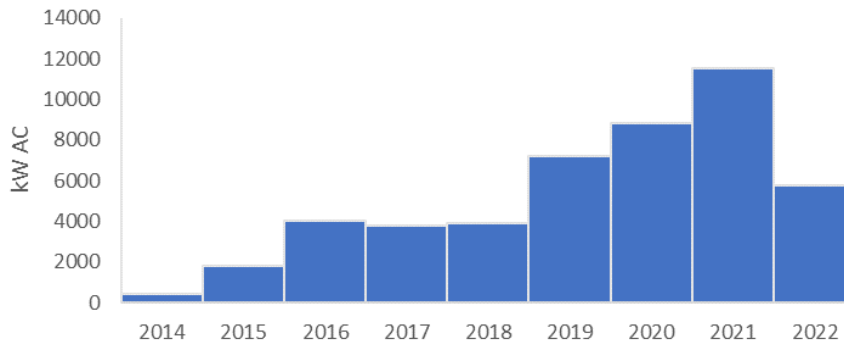
Connected Net Metered Applications Count in Rhode Island from 2014 to June 2022

Data Source: National Grid



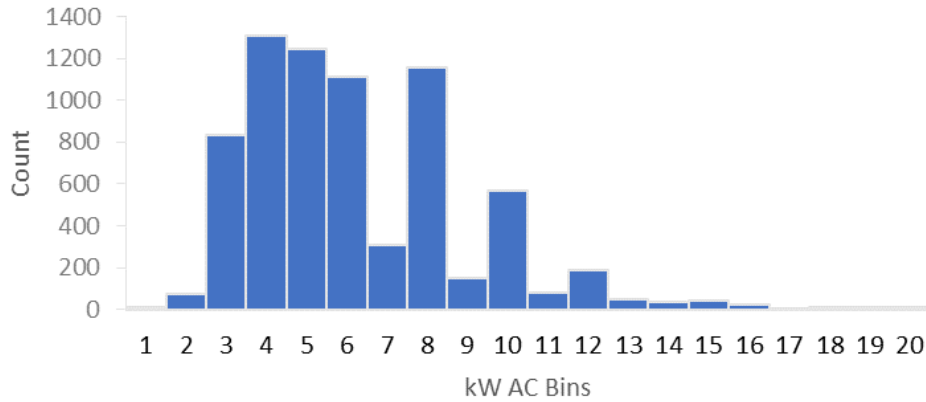
Connected Net Metered Applications Total Generation Capacity in Rhode Island from 2014 to June 2022

Data Source: National Grid



Frequency Distribution of NEM System Sizes Connected in RI from 2015 to June 2022

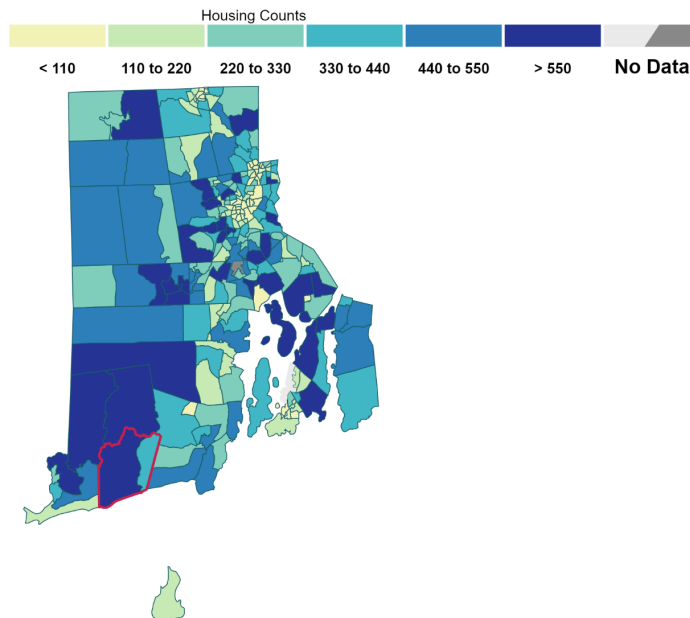
Data Source: National Grid



6.4 Background Information about the Rhode Island LMI Market

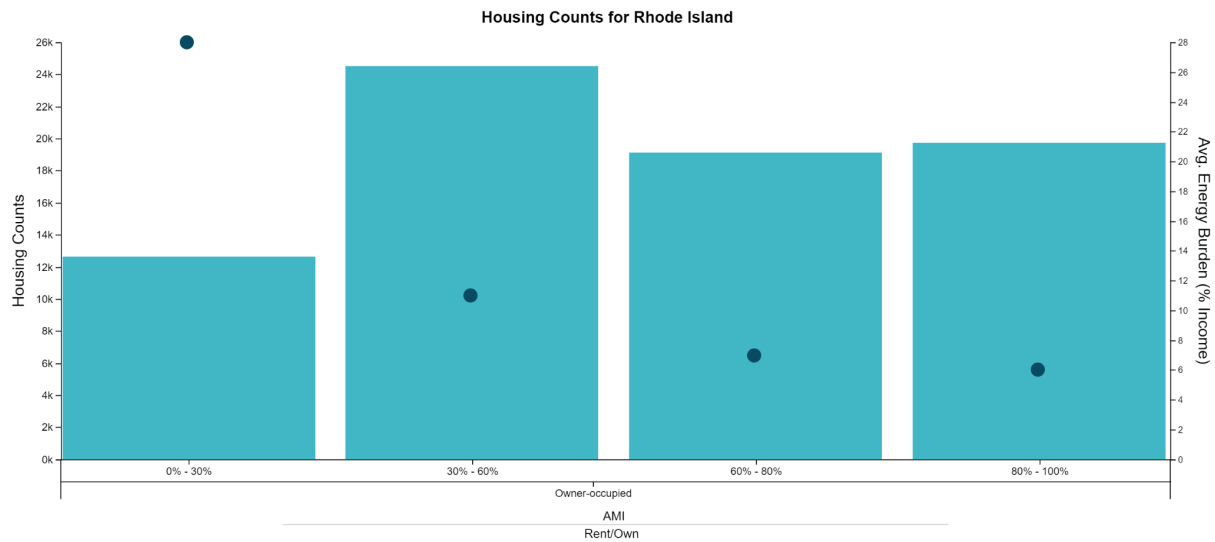
This section presents data from the U.S. Department of Energy LEAD tool regarding the location and distribution of owner-occupied single-family dwellings in Rhode Island. The tool is available at:

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/slsc/maps/lead-tool>



Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool Map Export (<https://lead.openel.org/#>)
 Exported On: 10/11/2022
 Building Age: Before 1940, 1940 - 59, 1960 - 79, 1980 - 99, 2000 - 09, 2010+
 Heating Fuel Type: Utility Gas, Bottled Gas, Electricity, Fuel Oil, Coal, Wood, Solar, Other, None
 Building Type: 1 unit detached, 1 unit attached, Mobile/Trailer
 Rent/Own: Owner-occupied
 AMI: 0% - 30%, 30% - 60%, 60% - 80%, 80% - 100%





Rhode Island
 ● Housing Counts
 ● Avg. Energy Burden (% Income)

Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool Chart Export (<https://lead.openel.org/#>)
 Exported On: 10/11/2022
 Building Age: Before 1940, 1940 - 59, 1960 - 79, 1980 - 99, 2000 - 09, 2010+
 Heating Fuel Type: Utility Gas, Bottled Gas, Electricity, Fuel Oil, Coal, Wood, Solar, Other, None
 Building Type: 1 unit detached, 1 unit attached, Mobile/Trailer
 Rent/Own: Owner-occupied
 AMI: 0% - 30%, 30% - 60%, 60% - 80%, 80% - 100%

Housing Counts and Average Energy Burden of Owner-Occupied Dwellings in Rhode Island

Area Median Income	Housing Counts	Avg. Energy Burden (% Income)
0% - 30%	12,648	28
30% - 60%	24,504	11
60% - 80%	19,117	7

Section 7 Summary of Relevant State Solar Policies and Programs

Rhode Island is a solar-friendly state and currently supports the development and financing of solar energy in several ways. The programs below are available to single-family homeowners for customer-sited projects in the Affordable Solar Access Pathways program. Community solar is not currently eligible and is excluded from this summary.



7.1 Renewable Energy Standard

Rhode Island's Renewable Energy Standard ("RES") was established in 2004¹⁴ and required that retail electric utilities and competitive suppliers procure 38.5% of electricity from renewable energy sources, including solar by 2035. The requirement, set in 2007 increased by an additional 1.5% per year from 2015 to 2022, when 17% of the electricity supplied to retail customers had to come from new renewable energy resources, and 2% from existing or new sources.¹⁵ In 2022, new legislation updated the state's RES to require that 100% of RI's electricity be offset by renewable production by 2033, starting with an increase of 4% in 2023, bringing the 2023 total target to 23%.¹⁶

The RES does not include a solar carve-out.

For solar consumers, the ownership of Renewable Energy Certificates ("RECs") from distributed generation ("DG") solar depends on the support mechanism used by the homeowner at the onset and rests either with the homeowner or with the utility.

7.2 Net Metering

The Rhode Island legislature passed R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-1 in 2011 and set up net energy metering ("NEM") for the benefit of customer-sited and grid-connected renewable energy producers.¹⁷ Currently, Narragansett Electric credits customers at the retail rate of electricity minus a conservation charge, up to 100 percent of the on-site consumption during a billing period.¹⁸ For excess generation between 100% and 125% of onsite consumption, the utility will credit the customer using its avoided costs rate, i.e., the Last Resort Service rate shown above in *Utility Rate Structure* (\$0.17785/kWh).¹⁹

¹⁴ R.I. Gen. Laws Section 39-26-1-10

¹⁵ The RI RES website includes a table summarizing all annual increases, accessed July 15, 2022: <https://rhodeislandres.com/about/>

¹⁶ H7277 SUB A: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText22/HouseText22/H7277A.pdf> - Note that competitive suppliers can maintain the old RES until the end of their current-in-2022 supply contract. Please see H7277 SUB A for annual increase rates to the RI RES.

¹⁷ R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-1, accessed July 15, 2022: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE39/39-26.4/39-26.4-1.htm>

¹⁸ RI OER website, accessed July 15, 2022: <https://energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/wind/net-metering> and DSIRE database, accessed July 15, 2022: <https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/287>

¹⁹ Under the 1978 Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act, an avoided cost rate is the minimum price that an electric utility will pay a power producer and is equal to the price it would have paid if it had generated that amount itself. For additional information on NEM credits calculation specific to Rhode Island, please see: <https://ngus.force.com/RI/s/article/Net-Metering-in-Rhode-Island>. For the full definition of "avoided costs" under PURPA, see 18 C.F.R. § 292.101(b)(6): <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/18/292.101>.



Systems smaller than 10MW AC are eligible. In addition, system sizes are capped to the average prior three years' load on the home where the system is located. Larger solar systems are not eligible for NEM.

Third-party ownership of net-metered systems has been allowed under the program rules since 2016.²⁰

7.3 Renewable Energy Fund Grants and the Elevated Incentive

REF is housed within RI Commerce, a quasi-public agency tasked with economic development in the state. REF programs are overseen by RIOER and are funded through a surcharge on customers' electricity bills and alternative compliance payments from utilities under RI's RES.²¹ In addition, as part of the sale by National Grid to PPL Corp. of RI's utility, Narragansett Electric, PPL Corp. agreed to contribute \$2.5 million to the Renewable Energy Fund.²²

REF supports clean energy development by providing grants to renewable energy projects, including the Elevated Incentive as part of the Affordable Solar Access Pathways program.

Such grants cannot be combined with Rhode Island's Feed-in Tariff Renewable Energy Growth program ("REG"), and the Affordable Solar Access Pathways program will not be available to systems enrolled in Rhode Island's REG program. **Grants, including the Elevated Incentive, can be combined with the NEM program, so that a project owner enrolled in the Affordable Solar Access Pathways program and in the NEM program will receive an upfront grant in the form of the Elevated Incentive and the net-metering credits.**

Typically, homeowners who wish to receive the REF grants must apply within a block on a quarterly basis. **In the ASAP program, applications will be received from the contractor selected in this RFP on an ongoing basis through an online portal.** Additional information about eligibility and incentive levels is available below in Section 11.1 (*Accessing the Elevated Incentive*).

In addition, several adders are available, including a Small-Scale Energy Storage Adder of \$2,000 per system.²³

²⁰ R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-2, accessed October 13, 2022: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE39/39-26.4/39-26.4-2.HTM>

²¹ RI Commerce website, accessed July 14, 2022: <https://commerceri.com/financing/renewable-energy-fund/>

²² See the Attorney General's office summary of settlement agreement here: <https://riag.ri.gov/press-releases/attorney-general-neronha-announces-agreement-securing-over-200-million-value-ri> Accessed July 20, 2022

²³ For additional details on the Small Scale Program adders, see RI Commerce website: <https://commerceri.com/financing/renewable-energy-fund/>



7.4 Sales and Property Tax Exemptions

The state offers sales tax exemptions for eligible renewable energy materials, including solar PV panels,²⁴ as well as property tax exemptions.²⁵

Section 8 The Affordable Solar Access Pathways Program Eligibility

The Affordable Solar Access Pathways program (“ASAP”) described in this RFP will provide Elevated Incentives to the selected bidder to provide Eligible Customers with Eligible Products under the ASAP program rules. As this is a new program, some program implementation elements may be changed in consultation with the winning bidder to address implementation challenges as they arise.

8.1 Customer Eligibility

Customers enrolled in the ASAP program must meet all of the criteria set forth below in Section 8.1 (*Geographic Eligibility*), and 8.1 (*Income Eligibility*), and 8.1 (*Household Eligibility*) (the “**Eligible Customers**”).

Geographic Eligibility

The solar lease or PPA must serve a customer residing within Rhode Island’s EJ Focus Areas. The definition of EJ Focus Areas and a map are available below. However, in order to account for changes to the Investment Tax Credit (the “ITC”) that are anticipated as a result of the implementation of the federal Inflation Reduction Act (the “IRA”) starting in January 2023, in particular changes to the ITC under 26 U.S.C § 48(e) (the “**Low-Income ITC Adder**”), RIOER will update the EJ Focus Areas map provided below to add any census tract designated by the IRA implementation agencies as those in which solar system owners can apply for allocation of the Low-Income ITC Adder and that were not included in the EJ Focus Areas map on the date of the RFP. **For the avoidance of doubt, areas newly designated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a “low-income community” under 26 U.S.C § 48(e) will be deemed EJ Focus Areas for purposes of implementing the Affordable Solar Access Pathways program.**

See below in Section 10.1 (*Incentive Rate and Maximum Elevated Incentive*) for additional information about how the Low-Income Adder will interact with the Elevated Incentive.

²⁴ R.I. Gen. Laws § 44-18-30(57) available here: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE44/44-18/44-18-30.HTM>

²⁵ R.I. Gen. Laws § 44-3-3(48) available here: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE44/44-3/44-3-3.HTM>



EJ Focus Areas Definition

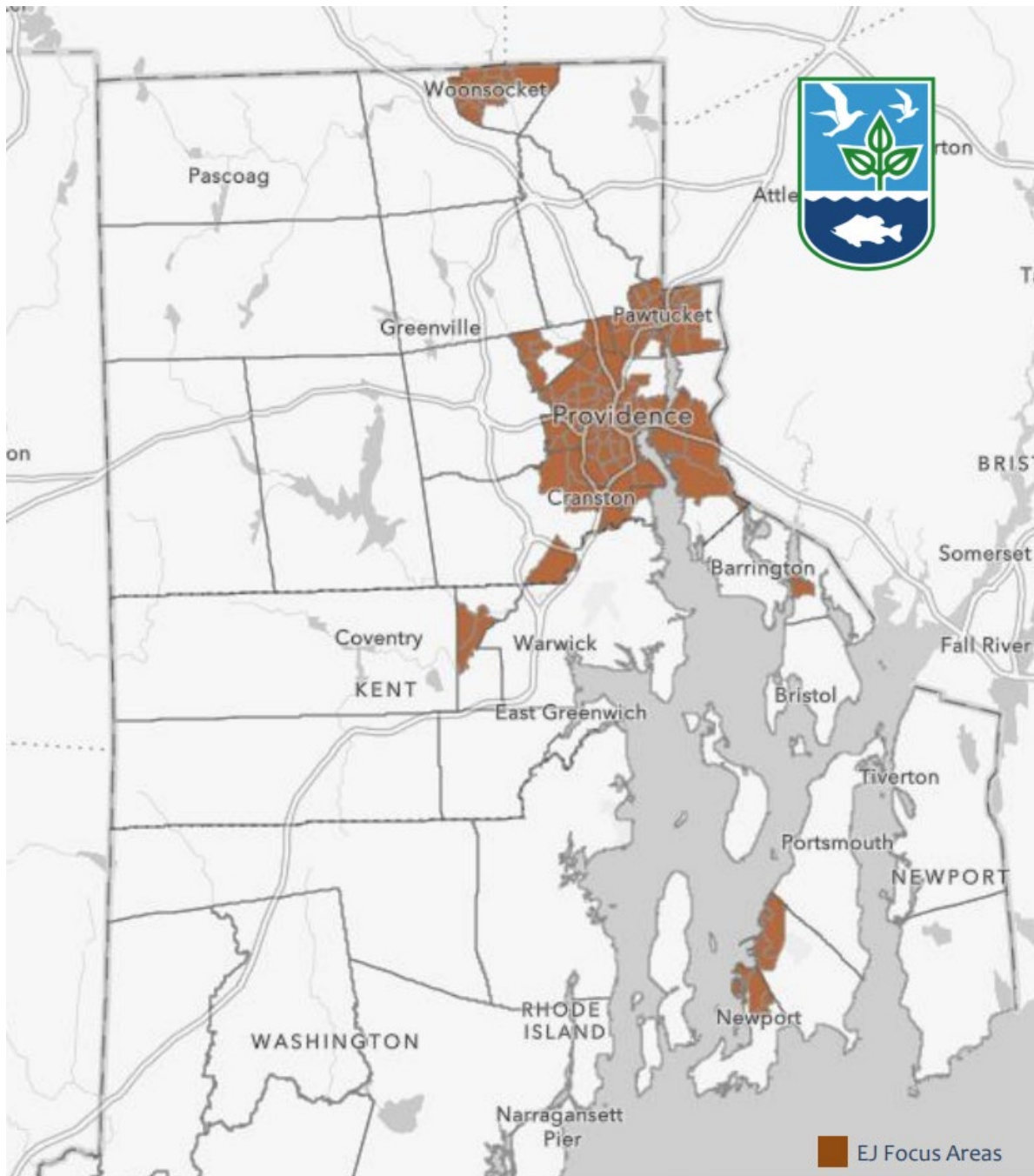
As per the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (“**DEM**”), an “Environmental Justice Focus Area” (or “**EJ Focus Area**” in this RFP) is a census tract that meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Annual median household income is not more than sixty-five percent (65%) of the statewide annual median household income,
2. Minority population is equal to or greater than forty percent (40%) of the population,
3. Twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the households lack English language proficiency, or
4. Minorities comprise twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the proposed area does not exceed one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the statewide annual median household income.

EJ Focus Areas Map

Below is a low-resolution image of Rhode Island’s DEM Draft Environmental Justice Area Map. Proposers should reference this map to discern focus locations for program. Please be aware that the map is a draft and that a finalized tool is under development by DOE and the State of Rhode Island, and the selected vendor will be engaged in discussions related to the updated map.



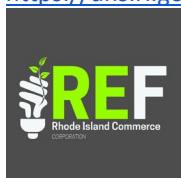


Income Eligibility

Customers in the Affordable Solar Access Pathways program must fit within the following income brackets.²⁶

Household Size	12-Month Income Maximum	3-Month Income Maximum	1-Month Income Maximum
1	\$34,039	\$8,510	\$2,837
2	\$44,512	\$11,128	\$3,709
3	\$54,986	\$13,747	\$4,582
4	\$65,460	\$16,365	\$5,455
5	\$75,933	\$18,983	\$6,328
6	\$86,407	\$21,602	\$7,201
7	\$88,371	\$22,093	\$7,364
8	\$90,335	\$22,584	\$7,528
9	\$92,299	\$23,075	\$7,692
10	\$94,262	\$23,566	\$7,855
11	\$96,226	\$24,057	\$8,019
12	\$98,190	\$24,548	\$8,183

²⁶ The income table is set by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services and is available online here: <https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/energy-and-water-assistance-programs/ffy-2023-low-income-guidelines>



Income Verification Process

The income verification process of the ASAP program will be driven by the customer and flexible, so as to limit invasive questions from contractors to Rhode Island families, and so as to reduce risks posed by the storage of sensitive customer data with a private sector organization. Customers will be able to choose one of the following methods to self-verify:

1. Customers may provide a self-attestation in a form to be provided by REF and RIOER, substantially in the form attached to this RFP in Exhibit 2 to certify they meet the income requirements set above in Section 8.1 (*Income Brackets*) with respect to annual income and household size; or
2. Customers may provide evidence of participation in state or federal income-eligible programs to their solar contractor. Qualifying programs include:
 - a. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
 - b. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 - c. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - d. RI Works Program
 - e. SSI State Supplemental Payment (SSP)
 - f. Medicaid/Medicare
 - g. Housing Program/Section 8

Household Eligibility

Customers in the ASAP program must own the home in which the solar system is installed.

8.2 Solar Product Eligibility

The winning bidder of this RFP will provide the types of products described in this Section 8.2 (*Solar Product Eligibility*) to the Eligible Customers in compliance with the REF Rules set forth in Section 8.3 (*REF Rules*) (the “**Eligible Products**”).

Third-Party Ownership

All types of third-party ownership structures that allow customers to access solar and receive part of the benefits of the ITC are eligible under the ASAP program. Both PPAs and solar leases are eligible.

Minimum Eligible Products Requirements

The following minimum requirements are applicable to all Eligible Products:

1. Eligible Products must be made available to Eligible Customers with no money down;
2. Eligible Products must be cash flow positive on day one for Eligible Customers;
3. Eligible Products must allow Eligible Customers to receive a substantial part of the financial benefits afforded by the ITC (or after 2025, the technology neutral tax credit Clean Energy Investment Tax Credit (the “**CEITC**”)) to the winning bidder and yield net savings during the contract term;



4. Customer contracts for the Eligible Products must include production guarantees for the whole contract term;
5. Eligible Products must include ongoing maintenance support and continue to offer maintenance support even in the case of sale of the solar leases or PPA to third parties;
6. Eligible Products must include solar system insurance for the whole term of the customer contract;
7. Eligible Products must include robust warranty management post-installation.

Preferred Eligible Products Features

In the evaluation of proposals, preference will be given to those that:

1. Propose contracted 1st-year customer net savings minimums for Eligible Customers;
2. Propose to include pathways to ownership for Eligible Customers, including for example early repayment clauses in lease contracts, or purchase options following milestones in PPAs;
3. Propose to use alternative approaches to underwriting instead of, or in addition to, FICO;
4. Propose approaches that limit risk exposure from escalators to Eligible Customers;
5. Includes choices in the contract pricing structure for consumers;
6. Offer additional technologies such as energy storage, EV chargers, and/or energy efficiency services that can provide deeper savings to Eligible Customers.

Eligible Technology

The ASAP program is intended to apply to grid-tied solar photovoltaic (“PV”) systems smaller than 25kW DC in capacity. Please refer to Section 8.3 (*REF Rules*) below for additional details.

The winning bidder will be encouraged to also provide battery storage and energy efficiency products as part of their offering to Eligible Customers.

8.3 REF Rules

All projects must adhere to the REF rules and regulations available here:

<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/870-20-00-1> (the “REF Rules”)

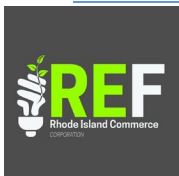
General Rules

These requirements include among others:

- PV arrays must not be installed on any roof that is expected to be replaced within 10 years;
- The PV project must be designed so that the estimated annual energy output is at least 80% of the default optimal output for a fixed PV project of the same capacity, as estimated by PVWATTS or a similar tool. The PV project must have a measured total solar resource fraction (“TSRF”) of 0.8 or greater.²⁷
- All installations must follow the most current adopted edition of Rhode Island’s Building Code and National Electrical Code.²⁸
- A Percentage of projects will receive an inspection.

²⁷ TSRF = Available insolation including shading and Tilt Orientation Factor / Total Insolation on location at the optimum tilt and orientation and with no shading

²⁸ See [Minimum Requirements](#) for additional information



ASAP Program Administration

Unlike other grants administered through REF, the Elevated Incentive in the ASAP program will be offered on a rolling basis until funds run out.

The contractor will access a dedicated application portal through which contractors can upload and/or certify, as the case may be, that disclosure and income verification documents have been received by the customers. For additional information about income verification in the ASAP program, please see Section 8.1 (*Income Verification Process*) above.

RIOER and REF will work with the winning bidder to train installers to facilitate the smooth administration of inspection processes by a third-party inspection vendor, and, after an initial trial period, will allow for self-inspection paired with random inspections to ensure program compliance. A draft inspection form, to be finalized by REF and RIOER with input from the winning bidder, is available for review in Exhibit 3. The RFP applicants should include the cost of preparing inspection documents in their cost estimates.

To the extent feasible while maintaining strong customer protections, RIOER and REF will receive feedback from the winning bidder on ways to facilitate program operations and limit paperwork.

Section 9 Scope of Services

The winning bidder will supply Eligible Products to Eligible Customers and receive the benefits set forth below in Section 10 (*Benefits for RFP Partner*).

The Scope of Services may be altered to accommodate necessary changes agreed upon between REF, RIOER, and the winning bidder during the contract negotiations phase of this RFP.

Section 10 Benefits for RFP Partner

The winning bidder of this RFP will enter into a long-term partnership with REF, under RIOER oversight. The winning bidder will receive (i) access to the Elevated Incentive, (ii) marketing assistance, (iii) the benefits of a long-term cooperation with RIOER and REF in growing solar for LMI communities in Rhode Island.

10.1 Accessing the Elevated Incentive

Total Amount

The total amount of Elevated Incentives accessible under the ASAP program will be one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“**RGGI**”) funds.

Note that under RGGI rules, these funds may not be commingled with ratepayer funds such as those used to fund the REG program. These funds should be paired with the NEM program.



Incentive Rate and Maximum Elevated Incentive Per Project

The incentive rate to be provided per kW DC for each project should be proposed by the applicant in their RFP proposals.

For reference, the incentive available in the existing REF Small Scale PV program, i.e., outside of ASAP, and primarily open to direct-owned solutions, is 0.65\$/W DC for the first 7.69kW DC of a system, with a maximum of \$5,000 per individual project in REF grants for systems above 7.69kW DC and up to 20kW DC.²⁹

ITC Amount and Elevated Incentive Interactions

The IRA includes many changes to the ITC under 26 U.S.C § 48, including the addition of the Low-Income ITC Adder. As mentioned above in Section 8.1 (*Geographic Eligibility*), RIOER will update the EJ Focus Area maps to account for new areas in which projects may be eligible for the Low-Income ITC Adder under 26 U.S.C § 48(e).

As additional amounts of federal incentives in the form of Low-Income ITC Adders become available for projects, and to comply with the requirement that Eligible Products must allow Eligible Customers to receive a substantial part of the financial benefits afforded by the ITC or the CEITC to system owners (the winning bidder) as stated above in Section 8.2 (*Solar Products Eligibility*), **the applicant's proposals must include a proposal to (a) reduce the amount of Elevated Incentive in situations where the system owner will receive additional amounts of ITC under the IRA, and/or (b) reduce the cost of the solar lease or PPA charged to Eligible Customers, and/or (c) offer additional technologies, perks, or value to Eligible Customers.**

This RFP seeks to retain flexibility for the applicants to propose a mechanism that will provide substantial benefits to the largest possible number of Eligible Customers while not creating undue administrative burdens for the winning bidder.

ITC Background

For ease of reference, the ITC for projects under 1MW placed in service after December 31, 2022 under the IRA is summarized below.

Possible ITC/CEITC Categories	Credit amount
1) Base ITC assuming the wage and apprenticeship requirements are met	30%
2) Domestic Content Bonus	+10% points

²⁹ REF Small-Scale Program Request for Projects document, 2022, accessed July 20, 2022:

<https://commerceri.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Small-Scale-Solar-Requests-for-Projects-2.11.22.pdf>



3) Siting in Energy Community ³⁰	+10% points
4) Low-Income ITC Adders	+10 to 20% points

The Low-Income ITC Adder

1. **10% Low-Income ITC Adder:** Under Section 48(e) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (the “IRC”), and starting in 2023, solar projects under 5 MW in size that are located in a low-income community (as defined in Section 45D(e) of the IRC) or on Indian land (as defined in section 2601(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501(2))) can receive an additional ten (10) percentage points in ITC value.

Under 45(D)(e) of the IRC, a “low-income community” generally means any population census tract if “(A) the poverty rate for such tract is at least 20 percent, or (B) (i) in the case of a tract not located within a metropolitan area, the median family income for such tract does not exceed 80 percent of statewide median family income, or (ii) in the case of a tract located within a metropolitan area, the median family income for such tract does not exceed 80 percent of the greater of statewide median family income or the metropolitan area median family income.”³¹

2. **20% Low-Income ITC Adder:**³² Under Section 48(e) of the IRC, and starting in 2023, solar projects under 5MW in size that are part of a qualified low-income economic benefit project can receive an additional twenty (20) percentage points in ITC value. A qualified low-income economic benefit project is a solar facility for which at least fifty (50) percent of the financial benefits of the electricity produced by such facility are provided to households with income of:
 - a. less than two hundred (200) percent of the poverty line (as defined in 26 U.S.C § 36B(d)(3)(A)) applicable to a family of the size involved, or
 - b. less than eighty (80) percent of area median gross income (as determined in 26 U.S.C § 142(d)(2)(B)).

The low-income adder will be allocated based on an application and award process to be developed by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, and will be capped at 1.8 GW AC/year.

³⁰ As per the IRA, an “Energy Community” is (i) a brownfield site as per subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D)(ii)(III) of 8 section 101(39) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 42 U.S.C. 9601(39); (ii) a metropolitan statistical area or non-metropolitan statistical area which (I) has or at any point during the period after December 31st 1999, had, (i) 0.17% or greater direct employment or 25% or greater local tax revenues related to the extraction, processing, transport, or storage of coal, oil or natural gas (as determined by the Secretary) and (II) has an unemployment rate at or above the national average unemployment rate for the previous year; or (iii) a census tract after December 31st 1999 where a coal mine has closed or after December 31st 2009 a coal fired electric generating unit has been retired, or an adjoining census tract.

³¹ 26 USC §45D(e)(1)

³² This summary excludes “qualified low-income residential building projects” that may be eligible to receive the 20% ITC adder as these projects are not owner-occupied.



10.2 Marketing and Outreach Support

REF and RIOER will provide general marketing, including promotion and communications, support to the winning bidder to deploy the ASAP program. Specifically, the winning bidder will target LMI communities in EJ Focus Areas to receive the benefit of Eligible Products including by using community-based marketing tactics, either alone or with a partner, under co-branding with REF and/or RIOER.

In addition, REF and RIOER will assist the winning bidder in identifying community events or other opportunities to promote the ASAP program. RIOER will make staff available to support direct outreach and to assist in the creation of collateral that will resonate with Rhode Island customers, in collaboration with the winning bidder's staff.

REF and RIOER staff will be available to answer questions from customers about program enrollment, eligibility and other topics related to ASAP and solar technology.

REF and RIOER will make use of the following channels:

<https://energy.ri.gov/>

<https://commerceri.com/financing/renewable-energy-fund/>

Agency social media platforms, including but not limited to newsletters and Twitter

Due to limitations to the size of the servers currently in use by REF and RIOER, the selected vendor would be invited to share their marketing database with respect to the ASAP program with the REF and RIOER to facilitate the marketing of the program.

10.3 Long-Term Cooperation

Over time, RIOER and REF wish to work with the winning bidder to align programs, processes and products with neighboring states to lower solar costs for customers, for instance collaborating on solar workforce development strategies and programs, coordinating and aligning income verification processes, consolidating approaches to paperwork submission and processes, and otherwise helping RIOER develop streamlined programs to benefit LMI solar and S+S customers.

Section 11 Proposal Process

11.1 Proposal Format

The proposal should follow the following format:

- Executive Summary
 - Introduction to the Company and its business model
 - Illustration of how the company will achieve the state's goals
 - Introduction to how the company will meet the program requirements
- Technical Proposal
 - Description of Eligible Product(s) to be offered



- Approach to savings
- Approach to marketing
- Approach to accessories market (if any)
- Interest in developing a long-term partnership and growing the program, possibly with additional public support
- Any plans relating to the retirement of RECs
- History, Qualification, and Experience
 - Relevant experience with residential solar
 - Relevant experience with LMI solar
 - Staffing and installers network
 - References
- Cost Proposal
 - Proposed incentive level
 - Approach to ITC benefit sharing with Eligible Customers, including Low Income ITC Adder
 - Sample customer contracts including approach to savings

11.2 General Terms and Conditions

- Reserves the right to accept or reject, make changes, etc.
- Clarifications
- Awards with or without discussions
- Reserves the right not to accept the lowest price point
- Not responsible for expenses in submitting proposal
- Selection does not mean offer
- REF and RIOER can negotiate before contract award
- Other to be determined

11.3 Proposal Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

Proposals found to be technically or substantially non-responsive at any point in the evaluation process will be rejected and not considered further. Proposals that do not include all of the requirements will not be considered.

Only Proposers submitting a Proposal in accordance with the criteria set forth above shall be eligible for evaluation. Each submitted Proposal meeting the administrative requirements will be evaluated by the REF and ranked from highest to lowest. Upon completion of the initial evaluation, Proposers may be invited to participate in an interview phase of the selection process. However, the REF Project Team reserves the right to make a selection and award the contract based on evaluation of the proposals without conducting formal interviews.

The REF will evaluate and score all proposals. Responses from qualified Proposers will be reviewed and evaluated according to the criteria outlined below:



Evaluation Criteria Table

Evaluation Criteria	Possible Points
Executive Summary	10
Technical Proposal	35
History, Qualification, and Experience	35
Cost Proposal	20
Total Possible Points	100
MBE/WBE/DisBE Participation (additional potential points)	6 pts

Designated REF and RIOER staff or selected advisors will evaluate the written proposals. The Corporation may at any time during the evaluation process seek clarification from applicants regarding any information contained within their proposal. Final scores for each bidder will reflect a consensus of the evaluations. Any attempt by a bidder to contact a member of Corporation staff or selected advisors outside the RFP process, in an attempt to gain knowledge or an advantage, may result in disqualification of bidder.

1. ISBE Participation Evaluation (see below for scoring)

- a. The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation encourages MBE/WBE/DisBE participation in this Request. In accordance with Title 37, Chapter 14.1, and Title 37, Chapter 2.2 of the Rhode Island General laws, the Corporation reserves the right to apply additional consideration to MBE/WBE/DisBE up to six (6) additional points in the scoring evaluation as provided below:
- b. Calculation of ISBE Participation Rate
 - i. ISBE Participation Rate for Non-ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for non-ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of non-ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs by the non-ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example, if the non-ISBE's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs, the non-ISBE's ISBE participation rate would be 12%.
 - ii. ISBE Participation Rate for ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of the ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs and the amount that will be self-performed by the ISBE vendor by the



ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example, if the ISBE vendor's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs and will perform a total of \$8,000.00 of the work itself, the ISBE vendor's ISBE participation rate would be 20%.

c. Points for ISBE Participation Rate:

- i. The vendor with the highest ISBE participation rate shall receive the maximum ISBE participation points. All other vendors shall receive ISBE participation points by applying the following formula:

$$(\text{Vendor's ISBE participation rate} \div \text{Highest ISBE participation rate} \times \text{Maximum ISBE participation points})$$

For example, assuming the weight given by the RFP to ISBE participation is 6 points, if Vendor A has the highest ISBE participation rate at 20% and Vendor B's ISBE participation rate is 12%, Vendor A will receive the maximum 6 points and Vendor B will receive $(12\% \div 20\%) \times 6$ which equals 3.6 points.

See Appendix A for information and the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form(s). Applicants are required to complete, sign and submit these forms with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation

Instructions and Notifications to Offerors

1. Potential agencies are advised to review all sections of this RFP carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.
2. Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this procurement are solicited. However, proposals that depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of work defined by this RFP will be rejected as being non-responsive.
3. All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content, shall be borne by the agency. The Corporation assumes no responsibility for such costs.
4. Proposals are considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than 120 days following the date set for submission of agency proposals.
5. All pricing submitted will be considered to be firm and fixed unless otherwise indicated herein.
6. Proposals misdirected to other locations, or that are otherwise not present at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation by the submission deadline for any cause will be determined to be late and will



not be considered. For the purposes of this requirement, the official time and date shall be that of the time clock in the reception area of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

7. All proposals should identify the agency's proposed team of professionals, including those employed by subcontractors, if any, along with respective areas of expertise and relevant credentials. Agencies should also provide a delineation of the portion of the scope of work for which each of these professionals will be responsible.

8. All proposals should include the agency's FEIN or Social Security number as evidenced by a W9, downloadable from www.purchasing.ri.gov

9. All proposals should include a completed **RFP Response Certification Cover Form**, included in this document.

10. The purchase of services under an award made pursuant to this RFP will be contingent on the availability of funds and made at the discretion of the Corporation.

11. Awarding this RFP is based on the Evaluation Criteria set forth in this RFP. Vendors are advised, however, that all materials and ideas submitted as part of this proposal and during the performance of any award shall be the property of and owned by the Corporation, which may use any such materials and ideas.

12. Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Corporation's website (www.commerceri.com) on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFP. Addenda will also be posted to the Rhode Island State Division of Purchases' website at www.purchasing.ri.gov.

13. Equal Employment Opportunity (R.I. Gen. Laws § 28-5.1-1, et seq.) – § 28- 5.1-1 Declaration of policy – (a) Equal opportunity and affirmative action toward its achievement is the policy of all units of Rhode Island state government, including all public and quasi-public agencies, commissions, boards and authorities, and in the classified, unclassified, and non-classified services of state employment. This policy applies to all areas where State dollars are spent, in employment, public services, grants and financial assistance, and in state licensing and regulation.

14. In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.2 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no corporation organized under the laws of another state or country shall have the right to transact business in Rhode Island until it shall have procured a Certificate of Authority to do so from the Rhode Island Secretary of State (401-222-3040). This is a requirement only of the successful agency.



15. The agency should be aware of the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) requirements, which address the State's goal of ten percent (10%) participation by MBE's in all procurements. For further information, visit the website www.mbe.ri.gov.

16. The Corporation reserves the right to award to one or more Proposers.

Proposal Submission

Responses to this RFP are due **by February 24, 2023 by 2:00 pm EST**. One (1) electronic (PDF) version emailed to ref@commerceri.com, and two (2) printed copies of the complete proposal must be mailed or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked:

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
Attention: **Renewable Energy Fund ASAP RFP**
315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101
Providence, RI 02908

Note: No phone calls and late responses will be accepted, and responses received via electronic submission only will be disqualified.

Optional Bidders Conference

Commerce RI will host a non-mandatory bidders conference on Thursday, January 19th at 2pm. The Zoom details are as follows:

RI Commerce is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89363261613?pwd=T0c3K0Zxc29JVVpaVUUxMXltU1FOQT09>
[\[us06web.zoom.us\]](https://us06web.zoom.us)

Questions, interpretations, or clarifications concerning this RFP should be directed by e-mail to ref@commerceri.com no later than 2:00 pm EST, on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. Responses to questions, interpretations, or clarifications concerning this RFP will be posted online via addendum at www.commerceri.com and <https://www.ridop.ri.gov/> on Friday, February 3, 2023, to ensure equal awareness of important facts and details.

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation reserves the right to terminate this solicitation prior to entering into any agreement with any qualified firm pursuant to this Request for Proposal, and by responding hereto, no firms are vested with any rights in any way whatsoever.



The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for not complying with the terms of this RFP.



APPENDIX A

PROPOSER ISBE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MBE, WBE, AND/OR DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION FORM

A. Proposer's ISBE Responsibilities (from 150-RICR-90-10-1.7.E)

1. Proposal of ISBE Participation Rate. Unless otherwise indicated in the RFP, a Proposer must submit its proposed ISBE Participation Rate in a sealed envelope or via sealed electronic submission at the time it submits its proposed total contract price. The Proposer shall be responsible for completing and submitting all standard forms adopted pursuant to 105-RICR-90-10-1.9 and submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by either the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to the names and contact information of all proposed subcontractors and the dollar amounts that correspond with each proposed subcontract.
2. Failure to Submit ISBE Participation Rate. Any Proposer that fails to submit a proposed ISBE Participation Rate or any requested substantiating documentation in a timely manner shall receive zero (0) ISBE participation points.
3. Execution of Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. Proposers shall be evaluated and scored based on the amounts and rates submitted in their proposals. If awarded the contract, Proposers shall be required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates. During the life of the contract, the Proposer shall be responsible for submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to copies of purchase orders, subcontracts, and cancelled checks.
4. Change Orders. If during the life of the contract, a change order is issued by the Division, the Proposer shall notify the ODEO of the change as soon as reasonably possible. Proposers are required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates on any change order amounts.
5. Notice of Change to Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. If during the life of the contract, the Proposer becomes aware that it will be unable to achieve its proposed ISBE Participation Rate, it must notify the Division and ODEO as soon as reasonably possible. The Division, in consultation with ODEO and Governor's Commission on Disabilities, and the Proposer may agree to a modified ISBE Participation Rate provided that the change in circumstances was beyond the control of the Proposer or the direct result of an unanticipated reduction in the overall total project cost.



B. MBE, WBE, AND/OR Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan Form:

Attached is the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form. RFP applicants are required to complete, sign and submit with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.

MBE, WBE, and/or DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION PLAN	
Bidder's Name:	
Bidder's Address:	
Point of Contact:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Solicitation No.:	
Project Name:	
This form is intended to capture commitments between the prime contractor/vendor and MBE/WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers, including a description of the work to be performed and the percentage of the work as submitted to the prime contractor/vendor. Please note that all MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers must be certified by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity MBE Compliance Office and all Disability Business Enterprises must be certified by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities at time of bid, and that MBE/WBE and Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors must self-perform 100% of the work or subcontract to another RI certified MBE in order to receive participation credit. Vendors may count 60% of expenditures for materials and supplies obtained from an MBE certified as a regular dealer/supplier, and 100% of such expenditures obtained from an MBE certified as a manufacturer. This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted at time of bid. Please complete <u>separate forms</u> for each MBE/WBE or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.	
Name of Subcontractor/Supplier:	
Type of RI Certification:	<input type="checkbox"/> MBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Business Enterprise
Address:	
Point of Contact:	
Telephone:	
Email:	



Detailed Description of Work To Be Performed by Subcontractor or Materials to be Supplied by Supplier:					
Total Contract Value (\$):		Subcontract Value (\$):		ISBE Participation Rate (%):	
Anticipated Date of Performance:					
I certify under penalty of perjury that the forgoing statements are true and correct.					
Prime Contractor/Vendor Signature			Title		Date
Subcontractor/Supplier Signature			Title		Date



RFP/RFQ RESPONSE CERTIFICATION COVER FORM

Instruction: To fulfill your RFP/RFQ response, this form must be completed, printed, signed and included with your submission.

SECTION 1 - RESPONDENT INFORMATION

RFP/RFQ Number:

RFP/RFQ Title:

RFP/RFQ Respondent Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Contact Name: Contact Title:

Contact Email:

SECTION 2 —DISCLOSURES

RFP/RFQ Respondents must respond to every statement. RFP/RFQ Responses submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

Indicate "Y" (Yes) or "N" (No) for Disclosures 1-4, and if "Yes," provide details below

____ 1. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has been subject to suspension or debarment by any federal, state, or municipal governmental authority, or the subject of criminal prosecution, or convicted of a criminal offense within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 2. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has had any contracts with a federal, state, or municipal governmental authority terminated for any reason within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 3. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has been fined more than \$5000 for violation(s) of any Rhode Island environmental law(s) by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 4. State whether any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent is serving or has served within the past two calendar years as either an appointed or elected official of any state governmental authority or quasi-public corporation, including without limitation, any entity created as a legislative body or public or state agency by the general assembly or constitution of this state.

Disclosure details (continue on additional sheets if necessary):

SECTION 3 —OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE

Respondents must provide all relevant information. Respondent proposals submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

If the Respondent is publicly held, the Respondent may provide owner information about only those stockholders, members, partners, or other owners that hold at least 10% of the record or beneficial equity interests of the Respondent; otherwise, complete ownership disclosure is required.

List each officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principle of the Respondent, and each intermediate parent company and the ultimate parent company of the Respondent. For each individual, provide his or her name, business address, principal occupation, position with the Respondent, and the percentage of ownership, if any, he or she holds in the Respondent, and each intermediate parent company and the ultimate parent company of the Respondent.

SECTION 4 —CERTIFICATIONS

Respondents must respond to every statement. Responses submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

Indicate "Y" (Yes) or "N" (No), and if "No," provide details below.

THE RESPONDENT CERTIFIES THAT:

____ 1. The Respondent will immediately disclose, in writing, to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation any potential conflict of interest which may occur during the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

____ 2. The Respondent possesses all licenses and anyone who will perform any work will possess all licenses required by applicable federal, state, and local law necessary to perform the requirements of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation and will maintain all required licenses during the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation. In the event that any required license shall lapse or be restricted or suspended, the Respondent shall immediately notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in writing.

____ 3. The Respondent will maintain all required insurance during the term of any contract pursuant to this solicitation. In the event that any required insurance shall lapse or be canceled, the Respondent will immediately notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in writing.

____ 4. The Respondent understands that falsification of any information in its RFP/RFQ response or failure to notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation of any changes in any disclosures or certifications in this Respondent Certification may be grounds for suspension, debarment, and/or prosecution for fraud.

____ 5. The Respondent has not paid and will not pay any bonus, commission, fee, gratuity, or other remuneration to any employee or official of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State of Rhode Island or any subdivision of the State of Rhode Island or other governmental authority for the purpose of obtaining an award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation. The Respondent further certifies that no bonus, commission, fee, gratuity, or other remuneration has been or will be received from any third party or paid to any third party contingent on the award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation.

____ 6. This RFP/RFQ response is not a collusive RFP/RFQ response. Neither the Respondent, nor any of its owners, stockholders, members, partners, principals, directors, managers, officers, employees, or agents has in any way colluded, conspired, or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other Respondent or person to submit a collusive response to the solicitation or to refrain from submitting response to the solicitation, or has in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement or collusion or other communication with any other Respondent or person to fix the price or prices in the response or the response of any other Respondent, or to fix any overhead, profit, or cost component of the price in the response or the response of any other Respondent, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, or unlawful agreement any advantage against the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State of Rhode Island or any person with an interest in the contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation. The price in the response is fair and proper and is not tainted by any collusion, conspiracy, or unlawful agreement on the part of the Respondent, its owners, stockholders, members, partners, principals, directors, managers, officers, employees, or agents.

____ 7. The Respondent: (i) is not identified on the General Treasurer's list created pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-2.5-3 as a person or entity engaging in investment activities in Iran described in § 37-2.5-2(b); and (ii) is not engaging in any such investment activities in Iran.

___ 8. The Respondent will comply with all of the laws that are incorporated into and/or applicable to any contract with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

Certification details (continue on additional sheet if necessary):

Submission by the Respondent of a response pursuant to this solicitation constitutes an offer to contract with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation on the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation and the response. The Respondent certifies that: (1) the Respondent has reviewed this solicitation and agrees to comply with its terms and conditions; (2) the response is based on this solicitation; and (3) the information submitted in the response (including this Respondent Certification Cover Form) is accurate and complete. The Respondent acknowledges that the terms and conditions of this solicitation and the response will be incorporated into any contract awarded to the Respondent pursuant to this solicitation and the response. The person signing below represents, under penalty of perjury, that he or she is fully informed regarding the preparation and contents of this response and has been duly authorized to execute and submit this response on behalf of the Respondent.

RESPONDENT

Date: _____

Name of Respondent

Signature in ink

Printed name and title of person signing on behalf of Respondent

Exhibit 1 - Rhode Island Utilities Rate Structures

- Details about the RI Energy retail delivery charges for both the A-16 (Basic Residential) and A-60 (Low Income) rates are available here: https://www.rienergy.com/media/pdfs/billing-payments/tariffs/ri/rate_summary_2095.pdf
- Updates to the RI Energy retail delivery charges in the A-16 (Basic Residential) and A-60 (Low Income) rates are summarized here: <https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Home/Rates/Service-Rates>
- Details about the RI Energy last resort charges are available here: https://www.rienergy.com/media/pdfs/billing-payments/tariffs/ri/rate_summary_2096.pdf
- Details about the rules applicable to the low-income discount in the A-60 (Low Income) rate are available here: https://www.rienergy.com/media/pdfs/billing-payments/tariffs/ri/a60_ripuc_2225.pdf
- Details about the last resort tariff are available here: <https://ripuc.ecms.ri.gov/utility-information/electric/national-grid-last-resort-service>
- A typical monthly bill for a typical customer in Rhode Island from RI PUC from 2017 to 2022 is available here: https://ripuc.ecms.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur881/files/2022-06/Electric%20Rates_Chart.pdf

Exhibit 2 - Example of Self-Attestation Form for Eligible Customers



Affordable Solar Access Pathways (ASAP) Attestation of Income

Full Legal Name: _____

I, (insert name) attest that my annual income for the year of contract date with XXX vendor for a XXX (insert services) is \$XXX.XXX.

Household Size: _____

I do hereby attest that this information is true, accurate and compete to the best of my knowledge and I understand that any falsification may subject me to disqualification from the ASAP program.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____



Exhibit 3 Self-Inspection Template

Instructions

The prompts in this self-inspection report are intended to collect key system installation characteristics, including photographs, which will allow Commerce Rhode Island staff and contractors to conduct a reasonable due diligence review, as a substitute for an onsite inspection. This report includes a self-inspection checklist and a descriptive photograph sheet. **Installers wishing to complete a self-inspection must fill out all applicable fields, including all photos. Forms with missing information will be returned to the installer.** In cases where multiple pieces of equipment (e.g., two different types of PV modules) are used, please copy/paste the relevant information table and fill it out for both sets of equipment. Installers are encouraged, but not required, to attach an as-built electrical design drawing to this report.

Once completed, please submit this form in PDF format via email to ref@commercieri.com.

System Information

Grant Number	#-###
System Owner Last Name	
Installation Company	
Installer Last Name	
Person Completing This Report	
Phone	
Email	
Report Date	

Self-Inspection Checklist

Array and PV Modules

Inspection Item	Value
System Capacity (kW _{DC})	
System Lifetime Energy Production (kWh)	
TSRF(%)	
Module Quantity	
Module Manufacturer	
Module Model Number	
Modules per String (or per circuit for microinverters)	
Number of Strings per Input Circuit	
Conductor Size/Insulation Type	



Racking and Grounding

Inspection Item	Value		
PV Racking Manufacturer			
Model			
Grounding, If WEEBs (or equivalent) used, indicate number used per module.			
Conductors supported and protected from damage.	Yes	No	N/A
All enclosures and splicing means rated for outdoor/wet location use (e.g., no indoor wire nuts).	Yes	No	N/A
All roof penetrations are properly flashed and sealed (note that sealant is a supplement, not a replacement, to flashing).	Yes	No	N/A
DC conduit labeled as containing PV circuits (NEC 690.31(D)(2)).	Yes	No	N/A

Microinverter

Inspection Item	Value
Quantity (enter 0 if not present)	
Manufacturer	
Model Number	
Mount Type	Rack or Module Frame
Grounding	Microinverter bonding hardware or other
Inverter Breaker/Fuse Current Rating (A)	

Optimizer

Inspection Item	Value
Quantity (enter 0 if not present)	
Manufacturer	
Model Number	
Mount Type	Rack or Module Frame
Grounding	Optimizer bonding hardware or other

Rooftop Junction Box (Copy and Paste if Multiple)

Inspection Item	Value		
Number of Strings in JB			
Conductor Size/Insulation Type			
Enclosure rated for outdoor/wet location use.	Yes	No	N/A
Conductors supported and protected from damage.	Yes	No	N/A
Splice means rated for outdoor/wet location use (e.g., no indoor wire nuts).	Yes	No	N/A
All roof penetrations are properly and sealed	Yes	No	N/A



DC conduit labeled as containing PV circuits (NEC 690.31(D)(2)).	Yes	No	N/A
--	-----	----	-----

Standalone DC Disconnect

Inspection Item	Value		
Max DC Ratings	Voltage		Current
Location			
DC disconnect located near inverter and readily accessible.	Yes	No	N/A
DC characteristics label present (NEC 690.53).	Yes	No	N/A
Disconnects all ungrounded conductors (note that ungrounded arrays must disconnect both positive and negative conductors).	Yes	No	N/A

String Inverter

Inspection Item	Value		
Quantity (enter 0 if not present)			
Manufacturer			
Model Number			
AC Conductor size/Rating			
Inverter Type	Transformerless	Transformer	
Rapid Shutdown device	Inverter Integrated	Other	
If Other, enter manufacturer/model			
Continuous grounding electrode conductor originates at designated inverter terminal. (Applicable for Transformer based inverters)	Yes	No	N/A
Inverter enclosure is grounded.	Yes	No	N/A
Integrated AC disconnect or External Disconnect within sight (10ft)	Yes	No	N/A
DC fuse rating (if combining 3 or more strings)	Voltage	Current	N/A

AC Combiner

Inspection Item	Value		
Max Enclosure Ratings (AC)	Voltage V	Current A	
Location (enter N/A for not present)			N/A
Front panel included labels that identify each circuit (NEC 408.4(A))	Yes	No	N/A
Combiner enclosure is grounded.	Yes	No	N/A
PV Disconnect ID label(s)/ AC characteristics label(s) present (NEC 690.54),706.15(C)).	Yes	No	N/A
Multiple sources & overcurrent device ratings warning label present (NEC 705.12(D)).	Yes	No	N/A





AC Disconnect (Other than Interconnection) (Copy and Paste if Multiple)

Inspection Item	Value		
	Voltage	Current	
Max Enclosure Ratings (AC)	N/A		N/A
Location (enter N/A for not present)	N/A		N/A
Disconnects all ungrounded conductors.	Yes	No	N/A
Utility conductors connected to "Line" side of PV disconnecting means.	Yes	No	N/A
PV disconnect identification label present (NEC 690.13(B)).	Yes	No	N/A
Disconnect enclosure is grounded.	Yes	No	N/A
AC disconnect door latch secured (NEC 690.15(A))	Yes	No	N/A

Interconnection (fill in one of the three sections below)

	Inspection Item	Value		
SUPPLY SIDE CONNECTION	PV Service Disconnect Location			
	Enclosure Rating	Voltage V	Current A	
	Fuse Rating	Voltage V	Current A	
	Conductor Size/Type	Line	Load	
	Utility conductors connected to "Line" side of disconnecting means.	Yes	No	N/A
	Interconnection wiring method compliant with NEC 230.43.	Yes	No	N/A
	Grounded conductor bonded to enclosure (NEC 250.24(C)).	Yes	No	N/A
	AC characteristics label present (NEC 690.54)	Yes	No	N/A
	AC disconnect door latch secured (NEC 690.15(A))	Yes	No	N/A
	Directories/labeling present on all service disconnects per NEC 230.2(E), 230.70(B), 705.10, and 690.56(B).	Yes	No	N/A
FEEDER TAP CONNECTION	Primary Source Overcurrent Device Rating (A)			
	Existing Feeder Conductor Size/Type			
	Main panel or subpanel Busbar Rating (A)			
	Main panel or subpanel Breaker Rating (A) (enter MLO if main lug only)	A	MLO	
	PV Disconnect Location			
	Enclosure Rating	Voltage	Current	
	Fuse Rating	Voltage	Current	
	Conductor Size/Type	Line	Load	
	Utility conductors connected to "Line" side of PV disconnecting means.	Yes	No	N/A
	AC characteristics label present (NEC 690.54)	Yes	No	N/A
	PV disconnect identification label present (NEC 690.13(B)).	Yes	No	N/A
	AC disconnect door latch secured (NEC 690.15(A))	Yes	No	N/A
	Directories/labeling present on all service disconnects per NEC 230.2(E), 230.70(B), 705.10, and 690.56(B).	Yes	No	N/A
	LOAD SIDE CONNECTION	Main Breaker Rating (A)		
Main Breaker Location		Top	Bottom	Other
Backfeed Breaker Rating (A)				
Backfeed Breaker Location		Top	Bottom	Other
Panel Busbar Rating (A)				
PV Conductor Size/Type				
Combined Rating of Other Current Sources (A)-				
Panelboard labeled to indicate presence of all power sources (NEC 705.12(C)).		Yes	No	N/A
AC characteristics label present (NEC 690.54)		Yes	No	N/A
"Do not relocate" label present at PV breaker (NEC 705.12)(B)(3)(2).				
AC disconnect door latch secured (NEC 690.15(A))		Yes	No	N/A
Directories/labeling present on all service disconnects per NEC 230.2(E), 230.70(B), 705.10, and 690.56(B).		Yes	No	N/A

Photos Required (Multiple photos may be needed)

Module Nameplate Photo
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Module Close-up Connector Mating/Compatibility Photo
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Full Array Image(s) Multiple photos may be needed to include all modules for verifying system capacity
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Horizon Profile Photos From a single point near the middle of the either the bottom or top row of each array, start by pointing the camera to the left side of the array. Include a little of the array's left edge, then take successive overlapping photos rotating to the right side of the array typically 4 or 5 photos per array. If more than one array, take another set if the array faces another direction not seen in the previous set. Identify the associated cardinal direction per set. (i.e. E, ESE, SE, SSE, S, SSW, SW, WSW, W, etc)
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Array Mounting/Flashing Detail Close shot of mounting bracket connection to roof and associated use of flashing/sealant
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Under-Array Wire Management Close up photo showing the wire management under each array. Multiple photos may be necessary
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Module Clamping and Grounding Show typical grounding hardware installation, including ground rails, ground lugs, module clamping, and rail splices, if applicable
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Microinverter Nameplate Photo
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Microinverter Mounting Show mounting method and mounting/grounding hardware
Insert Photo(s) Here, Notes:



<u>Optimizer Nameplate Photo</u>
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Optimizer Mounting</u> Show mounting method and mounting/grounding hardware
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Rooftop Junction and/or Combiner Box Wiring</u> Show splice/termination method, conductor fittings
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Cable/Conduit Runs</u> Show indoor and outdoor cable and/or conduit runs towards inverters, AC combiners, and/or raceways and troughs. Include wiring of building penetration LB if presents
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Raceway/Trough Exterior</u> Show labeling details, conductor fittings, and conduit runs towards inverters, AC combiners, disconnects Multiple photos may be needed
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Raceway/Trough Wiring</u> Show wiring, splice/termination methods, grounding hardware, and/or conductor fittings
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Standalone DC Disconnect Exterior</u> Show nameplate/labeling details Multiple photos may be needed
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Standalone DC Disconnect Wiring</u> Show wiring details
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>String Inverter Exterior</u> Show sufficient detail to verify labeling
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:



<u>String Inverter Nameplate Photo</u>
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>String Inverter Wiring</u> Show all wiring terminations
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>AC Combiner Exterior</u> Show nameplate/labeling details
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>AC Combiner Front Panel</u> Show front panel unique descriptive breaker/circuit ID. labeling
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>AC Combiner Wiring</u> Show all wiring details and terminations
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Production Meter Exterior</u> Show production meter enclosure, nameplate ratings, and production reading Multiple photos may be needed
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Production Meter Wiring</u> Show wiring of production meter enclosure Multiple photos may be needed
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Standalone AC Disconnect Exterior</u> Show nameplate/labeling details
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Standalone AC Disconnect Wiring</u> Show all wiring details, nameplate, and terminations
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:

<u>Load Side Connection Main Service Panel Exterior (Door Open and Closed)</u> Show labeling detail, Main breaker rating , System Backfeed Breaker
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Load Side Connection Main Service Panel Wiring</u> Show full wiring detail inside panel
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Feeder Tap Connection</u> Show feeder tap interconnection/splice connector detail
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Feeder Tap Connection Disconnect Exterior</u> Show labeling/nameplate detail
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Feeder Tap Connection Disconnect Wiring</u> Show all wiring, termination, nameplate, and fuse details
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Feeder Tap Connection Load panel/Panel Disconnect</u> Show labeling, nameplate detail, main breaker
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Supply Side Connection Disconnect Exterior</u> Show labeling/nameplate detail
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Supply Side Connection Disconnect Wiring</u> Show all wiring, termination, nameplate, and fuse details. Ensure neutral terminal and green ground bonding screw are visible
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
<u>Supply Side Connection Main Service Panel Exterior and Nameplate Photo(s)</u> Photo showing the busbar rating
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:



Supply Side Connection Show service entrance conductor interconnection/spice connector detail, main/service OCPD Include images of genset / automatic transfer switches if present
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Interconnection Standalone Main Service Disconnect
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Balance of System (BOS) Overview Photos Show general location/configuration of DC disconnect, inverter, production meter, panelboards, and/or other co-located equipment, indoor and outdoor Multiple photos may be needed
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Balance of System (BOS) Utility Meter Photos Show location and nameplate of utility meter
Insert Photo(s) Here Notes:
Additional Photos
Notes: