Home Energy Rebates Program

Office Hours for States and Territories

December 19, 2024

U.S. Department of ENERGY

AGENDA

- **Welcome (5 mins)**
- **Program Updates (25 mins)**
    - Recap: Rebates Nov & Dec Newsletters
    - New FAQ Responses
    - New Resources Published
- **Open Q&A (25 mins)**
- **Reminders (5 mins)**

Housekeeping Reminders

As always, we want to hear from you!
Throughout the meeting, please feel free to

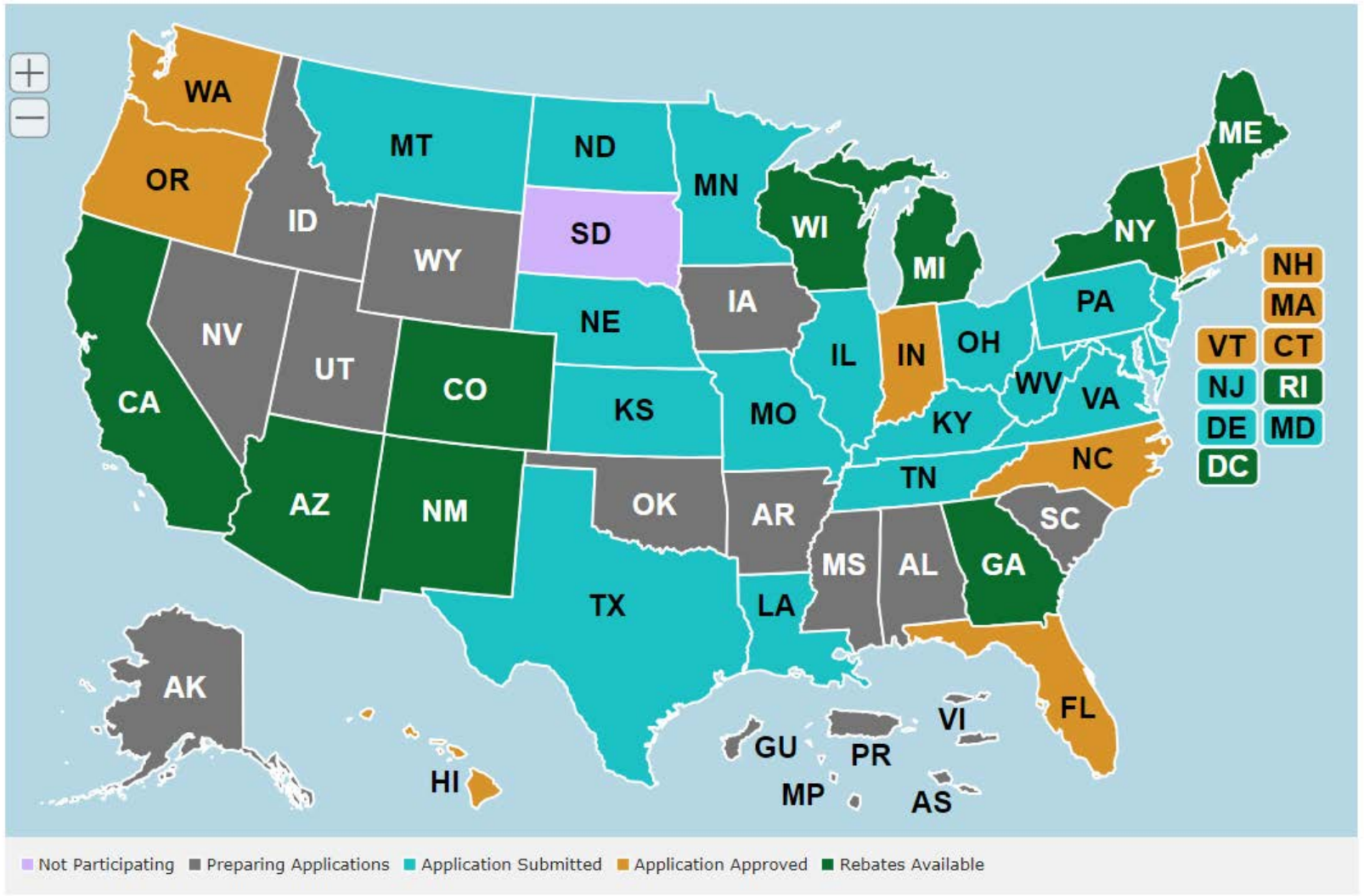

Unmute,


Raise Hand, and/or


Add to the Chat

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HOME ENERGY REBATES PROGRAM TRACKER



Last Updated on December 17, 2024

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Home Energy Rebates December Update Recap

REMINDER: SIGN UP FOR REBATES UPDATE EMAILS

DOE Home Energy Rebates newsletters typically include content such as:



Notifications of resource releases or updates



Updated FAQ responses



Recent news related to the Rebates program

Click to Subscribe!

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HOME ENERGY REBATE UPDATES: NOVEMBER 2024

In November, the Home Energy Rebates program published a Quality Installation Guide, three Market Transformation Sample Plans, and updated FAQ responses. New York also became the first state to launch in-store rebates for appliances.



DOE Issues Revised Tribal Resources, Quality Installation Guide, Market Transformation Sample Plans, New and Updated FAQs



New York First to Launch In-Store Home Energy Rebates for Appliances

HOME ENERGY REBATE UPDATES: DECEMBER 2024

Earlier this week, DOE published updates to the Administrative & Legal Requirements Document and released four new guidance documents.

Please review these resources to ensure your program still meets all posted requirements.

Access these resources here.



DOE Updates Program Requirements and Administrative & Legal Requirements, Issues New Guidance Documents

The U.S. Department of Energy has updated the **Program Requirements and Application Instructions** (PRAI) and the **Administrative and Legal Requirements Document** (ALRD) for the Home Energy Rebate programs.

In June, when DOE last updated the ALRD, only one state had launched a rebates program. Since then, nine more states and the District of Columbia have launched programs. In working closely with states as they launch programs, DOE has learned that improved processes for accessing funds are needed to allow for more effective program implementation. As outlined

PROGRESS TRANCHES

ADMINISTRATIVE & LEGAL REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT: DECEMBER UPDATE

In June, when DOE last updated the ALRD, only one state had launched a rebates program. Since then, nine more states and the District of Columbia have launched programs.

In working closely with states as they launch programs, DOE has learned that improved processes for accessing funds are needed to allow for more effective program implementation.

As outlined in the newly updated ALRD, states and territories can now use funds **across the program's progress tranches** for any appropriate, allowable expenses that follow 2 CFR 200 regulations.

No action is needed from award recipients at this time.

The ALRD **pages 4-7 and 14** have been updated.

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PROGRESS TRANCHES

ADMINISTRATIVE & LEGAL REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT: DECEMBER UPDATE

C. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

DOE anticipates making awards that will run a maximum of 8 years in length, comprised of one budget period ending not later than September 30, 2031. DOE will periodically evaluate project performance, project schedule adherence, the extent progress tranche objectives are met, compliance with reporting requirements, and overall contribution to the program goals and objectives. DOE will monitor recipient progress via the Progress Tranche Summary Report and other reporting requirements delineated in the Award's Attachment #2, Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist (FARC). The awardee is required to submit a Progress Tranche Summary Report to DOE at least ninety (90) calendar days prior to the recipient achieving their current progress tranche objectives and prior to moving forward to the next progress tranche. If after conducting the periodic review of the progress tranche summary report, DOE determines that the state has not fully and satisfactorily completed the work described in this ALRD, Program Requirements & Application Instructions, Award Attachments, the Award's Special Terms and Conditions, as well as DOE approved plans for this award, DOE will work with the state to develop

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ADMINISTRATIVE & LEGAL REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT: DECEMBER UPDATE

a progress tranche improvement plan that clearly lays out the additional steps the state[2] must take to fully and satisfactorily meet such requirements and plans. In the event of continued failure to make progress and achieve the program goals, DOE may take steps to halt or potentially discontinue funding.

In addition, if routine data reviews demonstrate the state is not meeting award terms, DOE reserves the right to put a hold on the funds the Grantee can draw down under the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) System.

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[2] In this document "states" means "states and U.S. territories" unless otherwise indicated.

PROGRESS TRANCHES

ADMINISTRATIVE & LEGAL REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT: DECEMBER UPDATE

Tranche #	Performance Metrics	LI Target*	LI Minimum	LI MF Target*	LI MF Minimum
1	Negotiated and approved state grant application				
2	Approved Program Launch Approved State Implementation Blueprint	10-15%	5%		
3	Approved Market Transformation Plan	50-60%	35%	25%	5%
4	Approved independent privacy and security review Approved review of QA Plan Completed review of incentive implementation	80%	60%	70%	25%

*** Targets indicate DOE's expected performance towards expending low-income (LI) and low-income multifamily (LI MF) allocations. Applicants should strive to achieve targets.**

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QUESTIONS?

Please raise your hand or add your question to the chat.

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MULTIFAMILY

PARTIAL PAYMENT OF REBATES FOR MULTIFAMILY 50121 MODELED SAVINGS: DECEMBER UPDATE

States can seek approval from DOE to provide **partial payments of the total rebate amount for partial completion of 50121 modeled savings projects in low-income multifamily properties**.

Effective upon the publication of the updated PR&AI (published 12/16), states will be able to request approval from DOE.

The PR&AI update (pg. 18) details the requirements for projects, payments, and the state submission for approval.

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MULTIFAMILY

PARTIAL PAYMENT OF REBATES FOR MULTIFAMILY 50121 MODELED SAVINGS: DECEMBER UPDATE

Projects eligible for partial payments **must** meet **all** the following requirements:

- The project is in a low-income multifamily building (more than 50% residents with incomes less than 80% AMI).
- The project qualifies for rebates through the 50121 modeled energy savings pathway.
- The project has a contract in place with one or more contractors that (1) identifies total cost of all measures included in the scope of the project, (2) the timeline for partial completion and full work completion, and (3) the terms of payment and schedule for partial payments. The rebate recipient must work with the state to ensure any changes to the project scope, schedule and/or budget are allowable and meet both DOE and State program requirements.
- A rebate recipient using partial payments may retain the rebate only if the entire scope of the project for which the rebate was approved is fully completed. For example, if changes to the project scope result in the project moving from 35%+ modeled savings to 20-34% modeled savings, the project is only eligible for lower rebate levels appropriate for 20-34% modeled savings. If the project scope changes in such a way that the project does not meet the minimum threshold of 20% energy savings, the rebate recipient **may not** retain any rebate amount for partial completion of the project; in this instance, all partial payments must be returned to the state.
- If the building is sold while the project is in progress, these conditions still apply and must be included as part of the purchase agreement.

PARTIAL PAYMENT OF REBATES FOR MULTIFAMILY 50121 MODELED SAVINGS: DECEMBER UPDATE

Partial payments **must** meet the following requirements:

- Generally, partial payments may only be made after the complete installation of individual measures that are part of the modeled energy savings scope; an exception is made for central systems, for which states may provide partial payments for progress on installation of a central system.
- Partial payments may not be made for milestones such as completion of an energy audit or delivery of materials/equipment on site.
- Partial payments may only be paid to one rebate recipient who assumes responsibility for completion of the full project, for example, a building owner or a general contractor. States may not pay multiple different contractors for the same project directly. If a contractor is the rebate recipient, and the contractor is replaced with a different contractor, the building owner or the new contractor may assume responsibility for project completion and receipt of rebates.
- The final partial payment may not be made until the state verifies that the full scope of the project for the modeled savings has been completed and follows program requirements.

PARTIAL PAYMENT OF REBATES FOR MULTIFAMILY 50121 MODELED SAVINGS: DECEMBER UPDATE

The state **must** submit their approach for partial payments to DOE for approval, which must include:

- The state's plan for comprehensive due diligence on every project to ensure they are set up to successfully reach completion.
- The state's approach to keep accurate documentation and accounting practices for partial payments, so that the state can provide, immediately upon request by DOE, project-level details for projects that are in progress.
- How the state will ensure that individual measures have been completed (or in the case of central systems that progress on installation has been made) before providing partial payments for those measures and how the state will ensure that the full scope of the modeled savings project has been completed before disbursing a final partial payment of the rebate.
- The state's overall approach to ensuring timely completion of projects, including remedies the state will pursue for delayed projects and to recover rebate funds for incomplete projects.
- The state's approach to informing the rebate recipient (e.g. building owner or general contractor) of the requirement that the recipient may keep the rebate ONLY IF the entire scope of measures that is projected to meet the modeled savings threshold (20-34% or 35%+) is completed.

PARTIAL PAYMENT OF REBATES FOR MULTIFAMILY 50121 MODELED SAVINGS: DECEMBER UPDATE

Process for requesting approval

1. The state must submit their approach to partial payment to their PO for DOE approval, addressing all items requested in program requirements.
2. State response will be reviewed by Rebates Team
3. Feedback will be shared with states via email from the PO and a call may be set up to discuss feedback if needed.
4. Once state has provided sufficient responses, PO will communicate that the state is approved to offer partial payments for 50121 modeled MF low-income projects and will document the state's approved approach in the state's file.

QUESTIONS?

Please raise your hand or add your question to the chat.

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FAQS

HIGHLIGHTS: NEW FAQ RESPONSES

37. When are upgrades to common areas in multifamily buildings allowed?

States will determine if such upgrades are eligible for their Home Energy Rebate programs. If states allow such upgrades, DOE requires that such work benefit occupants of individual dwelling units; the benefit to occupants of individual units may be any of the following: energy savings, cost savings, pollution reduction, or other health and safety benefits.

58. Within the HOMES program, can multifamily mixed-use buildings install central systems?

Yes, central systems that serve both residential and commercial spaces are eligible to be included in a Home Efficiency Rebates program (HOMES, Inflation Reduction Act section 50121) retrofit project if the majority of the benefit from the system is to residential units.

HIGHLIGHTS: NEW FAQ RESPONSES

59. When can states request DOE approval of an alternative equipment efficiency standard?

Per DOE's Program Requirements and Application Instructions, within section 4.2, ENERGY STAR-certified equipment must be installed when available for all rebated products under the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program (Inflation Reduction Act section 50122) and for heating, cooling, and water heating products for the Home Efficiency Rebates program (Inflation Reduction Act section 50121).

However, DOE may consider a state or territory's proposal to use non-ENERGY STAR-certified products in circumstances such as, but not limited to:

1.ENERGY STAR certification criteria for a necessary product type does not exist.

2.ENERGY STAR certification criteria exist, but no product has been certified.

In all cases, states and territories seeking DOE approval to use alternative efficiency standards must provide a detailed justification for deviation from this requirement as part of their funding application.

HIGHLIGHTS: NEW FAQ RESPONSES

60. When are states required to collect pre- and post-installation photos?

Per DOE's Program Requirements and Application Instructions section 4.2.4 and the Data & Tools Requirements Guide section 2.1 and Appendix B, states must collect geotagged post-install photos for all products (i.e., appliances and building materials) rebated under the Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) programs. Notably, when a retailer or distributor is being reimbursed with a rebate, a state program can comply with post-install photo requirements by either collecting geotagged photos of product delivery or by requiring an agreement by the household that received a rebate to provide photos upon request.

Appliances (but not building materials) that are rebated under the HEAR program will also require geotagged photos of pre-existing equipment/conditions.

113. What is the “DNP” list and who has access to it?

The “Do Not Pay” (DNP) system is a resource operated by the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury) dedicated to preventing and detecting improper payments. The DNP database can only be accessed by government agencies, and it is a requirement for the states to apply to the Treasury to access this resource, subject to Treasury approval. Many state agencies are already enrolled. If enrolled, states must use this resource to vet potential contractors to be added to their Qualified Contractor List.

QUESTIONS?

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HIGHLIGHTS: NEW RESOURCES

- **Measured Pathway Software Verification Procedures:** DOE, working with experts at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, developed this test procedure to verify that software meets the open-source advanced measurement and verification requirements for the Home Efficiency Rebates program's measured pathway.
- **Quality Installation Guidance:** As part of the DOE's program requirements, states and territories that design and implement these programs are required to develop and continually improve their quality installation and quality assurance/quality control procedures. DOE has developed this document to guide states and territories in these efforts.
- **Photo Collection Recommendation & Geotagging Guides:** Under DOE's program requirements, states are required to establish oversight procedures, including using photos to document installation of equipment. This document outlines photo collection requirements and best practices.
- **Market Transformation Sample Plans:** DOE has provided the following sample plans to help states and territories develop their market transformation blueprints that are required as part of their funding applications:

Laying the Foundation for Virtual Power Plants

Supporting Sustainable Business Models with an Aligned & Qualified Workforce

Valuing Energy Efficiency in Real Estate Markets

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Open Q&A

Reminders

BIWEEKLY PNNL OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays at 1pm ET

Sign Up:

Contact your DOE Home Energy Rebates Project Officer for the meeting invitation

Purpose:

Opportunity to ask questions on the PNNL rebate tracking tool

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Thank You

