



MAINE GOVERNOR'S
Energy Office

Solar for All

Dan Burgess, Director
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Maine Legislative Background

- **June 2021** – LD 936 becomes law, limits NEB program; directs the GEO, in coordination with the PUC, to establish Distributed Generation (DG) Stakeholder Group to consider various options for future DG programs
- **January 2023** – Final DG Stakeholder Report issued, outlines key principles for a future DG program
- **July 2023** – Legislature passed LD 1986 – ends C&I tariff NEB program; establishes cost control mechanisms for NEB; establishes new DG solar and storage program utilizing federal funds
- **March 2024** – LD 2099 becomes law, allowing GEO to petition the PUC for procurement related to Solar for All if it benefits ratepayers



U.S. EPA Funding

Inflation Reduction Act's \$7 Billion Solar for All Competition.

- Program objectives include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, delivering cost savings on electric bills for overburdened households, and accelerating the deployment of distributed solar.
- Supports solar and energy storage projects that benefit low-income households across the country
- EPA Requires:
 - 100% of funding supports low-income and disadvantaged communities
 - Delivers savings equal to at least 20% of the average household electricity bill



Maine's Solar for All Program (MESA)

- **October 2023** - GEO submitted a \$99.5 million proposal built on broad public engagement, analysis, and principles of DG Stakeholder Group.
- **April 2024** - EPA announced that Maine received \$62M award to establish Maine's Solar for All Program.
- **December 2024** - GEO received its Notice for EPA Assistance Award, which now allows GEO to begin the planning and implementation phase.



Overview of Maine's Solar for All

- Aligns with the DG Stakeholder Group report, Maine Energy Plan & *Maine Won't Wait*
- Compliments existing energy efficiency, weatherization, and electrification incentives
- Prioritizes disadvantaged and low-income households
- Program components estimated to include:
 - **Single-Family Residential Program (~\$10 million)**
 - **Multifamily Solar Program (~\$16 million)**
 - **Energy Assistance Community Solar Program (~\$22 million)**
 - **Project Deployment Technical Assistance (~\$10 million)**





Next Steps

- December 2024 GEO hired two staff to develop and run program
- Establish Solar for All Advisory Board
 - Community Organizations
 - Key Stakeholders
 - Provide public forum
- Work with local, state, and national partners to learn best practices for implementation
- Begin deploying multi-family home funds in 2025; other funds in 2026; GEO has 5 years to spend funds.





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