SCORECARD
IREC'S NATIONAL SHARED RENEWABLES SCORECARD

Maine Community Net Metering Program

IREC developed the National Shared Renewables Scorecard to provide policymakers, regulators, and other stakeholders with a tool for evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of state shared renewable energy programs. IREC graded ***Maine's Community Net Metering Program*** using the Scorecard's full criteria* and found that the program currently receives a **C** because it **lacks many of the key components necessary for successful market development**.

KEY	*One star (★) indicates an especially important criterion for a state program.* *Two stars (★★) indicate one of the most heavily weighted and critical criteria for program success.*

Category	Criterion	Description	Program Grade
General Program Details	Aggregate Capacity Limit	Does the program have an **unlimited aggregate capacity**?	✓
	Tracking & Reporting Requirements	★ Does the program specifically require the utility or other relevant entity to provide publicly available data regarding installed and queued capacity that is updated on at least an annual basis?	✓
	Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) Consumer Participation	★ Does the program have specific component(s) **to promote LMI customer participants** (e.g., capacity carve-out or target?)	✗
		Does the program **explicitly address financial barriers** faced by LMI participants (e.g., incentives or on-bill financing)?	✗
		Does the program have specific requirements re LMI customer **marketing, education, and outreach?**	✗
Customers and Subscriptions	Eligibility	Are **all customer classes** eligible for the program?	✓
	Portability	★ Does the program explicitly permit **portability** (i.e., allow participants to move within the utility service territory and take their subscription with them)?	✗
	Transferability	★ Does the program explicitly permit **transferability** (i.e., allow participants to leave the program or service territory and transfer their subscriptions to others?)	✓
Generation Systems	System Capacity Limit	Is the system size limit **at least 5 megawatts** (MW)?	✗
	Siting Requirements	★★ Does the program allow **both on-site and off-site** facilities?	✓
		Can the facility and customers be **located anywhere** within the utility service territory?	✓
		Do the program rules explicitly address whether or not facilities can be **co-located**?	✗
	Ownership & Management	Are **third-party facility ownership** and **management** permitted?	✓
Bill Credits	Valuation	★★ Does the program meet one of the following conditions: 1) Bill credit is valued at the utility's retail rate; 2) Bill credit includes values for generation and at least some portion of the transmission and/or distribution charges; or 3) RECs are used to provide value in addition to bill credit.	✓
		★ Is the valuation methodology **clearly articulated** in the statute, rule, and/or tariff?	✓
	Unsubscribed Generation	Is **unsubscribed generation** clearly treated and valued at least at an avoided cost rate?	✗
Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)	Subscribed RECs	Are **subscribed RECs** clearly treated?	✗
	Unsubscribed RECs	Are **unsubscribed RECs** clearly treated?	✗
		State Program Grade:	***C***

Program Strengths

- ✓ ***Compensates shared renewable energy generation at a rate that includes values for generation and a portion of the transmission and distribution rate components.***
- ✓ ***Clearly articulates the valuation methodology.***
- ✓ ***Allows shared renewable energy facilities to be located either on-site or off-site.***
- ✓ ***Explicitly permits customers to transfer their subscriptions if they leave the program or service territory.***

Opportunities for Improvement

- ➢ ***Add specific components to promote access for low- to moderate-income customer participation.*** The current program does not have any such components.
- ➢ ***Explicitly permit customers to keep their subscriptions if they move within the same utility's service territory.*** Portability is not addressed in the current rules.
- ➢ ***Increase the system size limit to at least 5 megawatts.*** Currently, the system capacity limit depends on the utility, but the maximum limit is 660 kilowatts.

**Note: The criteria above are a subset of the full criteria used to arrive at the state grades but reflect the most substantial program design components. For more information about the Scorecard, including the full criteria applied to grade state programs and definitions for many of the terms within the criteria, see https://sharedrenewablesscorecard.org/.*

October 2018