

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

COMMERCE CORPORATION

Title of Rule: Rules and Regulations for the Renewable Energy Development Fund Programs (870-RICR-20-00-1)

Rule Identifier: 870-RICR-20-00-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: 11/29/2018

End of Public Comment: 12/29/2018

Authority for this Rulemaking:

R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 42-64-13.2; 39-2-1.2; and R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 39-26

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

REF- Amended Rules and Regs 2018

Below is a list of the substantive changes:

Deletions:

1. (Sections 1.6.D; 1.7.D) Energy Audits

- Currently REF requires that project owners undergo an energy audit which requires a time to be scheduled by the auditor and the owners.
- There is a large backlog of applications due in part to this specific requirement and the volume of applications for the REF programs.
- We would propose that the energy audits be offered as an option and not as a requirement.

2. (Sections 1.6.D; 1.7.D) The requirement of an ROI/simple payback assuming no more than 3% utility inflation rate is no longer relevant to the application process and should be removed.

Additions of New Programs:

1. (Section 1.11) Workforce Development Program providing internships for Rhode Island students.
2. (Section 1.10) Brownfields Solar PV Program providing incentives for the use of impacted sites for photovoltaic generation
3. (Section 1.7.C) Commercial Scale- Expanding eligible technologies to include Solar Water Heaters or Solar Domestic Hot Water (SDHW).
4. (Section 1.6.C) Small scale- Expanding eligible technologies to include Solar energy and associated battery storage

Additional Information and Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until December 29, 2018 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

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In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by an agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

No additional analysis was conducted on this amendment.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.