



Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (RIHousing)
Request for Information
Solar-Renewable Resource Utilization
August 7, 2023

RIHousing is interested in promoting the utilization of renewable energy resources in affordable housing projects. However, there are a number of statutory, regulatory, and logistical barriers to doing that. Those challenges include a statutory prohibition on family developments of more than 10 units utilizing a master meter ([RIGL 39-3-7.1](#)), which, combined with requirements that onsite or virtual net metering runs through a single meter, makes it difficult for the benefits of renewable energy savings to be shared with residents of these developments. It also creates challenges with being able to size renewable resources to the needs of the entire development rather than just the needs served by a common area meter.

RIHousing hereby seeks advice and recommendations to support the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to develop statutory and regulatory language to facilitate the utilization of renewable energy in affordable housing. Specifically, RIHousing invites advice and recommendation on one or more of the following particular objectives and all related matters:

1. What are the relevant Rhode Island statutes and regulations that could pose barriers to affordable housing developments utilizing renewable energy?
2. What restrictions and/or barriers exist in the current state “community net metering”, “rooftop solar” and other renewable energy programs that present barriers to the utilization of renewable energy in affordable housing and the achievement of “net zero” building ratings?
3. What best practices are other states using to ensure the maximization of renewable energy resources in housing and the incentivization of “net zero” developments?
4. What logistical/technological issues could pose barriers to affordable housing developments maximizing the utilization of renewable energy?
5. What kinds of firms or organizations are capable of successfully carrying out this scope of work? What kinds of experience and skillsets would it be important for a respondent to have?
6. What agencies, organizations or other entities are important to include in discussions about addressing these statutory and regulatory barriers and why?
7. Any other information relevant to effectively framing an RFP for this scope of work.

Please provide your response in writing to arainone@rihousing.com by 4:00 P.M. August 28, 2023 with the subject line “Response to Solar-Renewable RFI”. There is no particular format required for a response, and respondents may respond to as many or as few of the above topics as they wish.