



RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES PROGRAM REPORT

January through December 2016

**Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Illinois Energy & Recycling Office
Renewable Energy Resources Program
500 East Monroe
Springfield, Illinois 62701**



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

Bruce Rauner, Governor

Executive Summary

Since its inception, the Renewable Energy Resources Program (RERP) has successfully facilitated over \$390 million of total investment in renewable energy projects in Illinois through \$65 million in RERP grant and rebate expenditures (As seen in Table 1). No funding was appropriated for RERP during FY 2016 or FY 2017; as such no grants or rebates were issued during 2016.

Table 1: Projects Funded through the Renewable Energy Resources Program, 1999-2016

Fiscal Year	Incentives Awarded (\$)	Total Project Cost (\$)	Number of Grants Issued	Number of Rebates Issued
1999	\$40,265	\$90,381	2	3
2000	\$2,520,831	\$10,276,563	14	20
2001	\$2,462,423	\$5,666,165	23	35
2002	\$8,109,613	\$66,009,091	25	37
2003	\$6,394,456	\$69,126,237	32	52
2004	\$5,175,936	\$104,660,966	16	65
2005	\$1,366,560	\$3,063,006	5	68
2006	\$568,870	\$1,617,687	0	110
2007	\$3,500,021	\$11,045,159	35	165
2008	\$2,307,895	\$3,719,918	2	164
2009	\$4,876,068	\$35,035,919	24	184
2010	\$6,121,781	\$13,028,846	3	222
2011	\$2,220,457	\$5,469,831	3	109
2012	\$6,176,409	\$19,092,036	23	178
2013	\$5,866,395	\$13,677,182	13	184
2014	\$5,862,993	\$20,752,652	20	232
2015	\$1,574,176	\$6,689,378	2	193
2016	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$65,145,149	\$390,567,765	242	2021

Prior to the programs' suspension, this investment assisted in the development of over 25MW of solar photovoltaic and distributed wind development, over 180MW of wind farms (during early wind development in mid 2000s), as well as hundreds of solar thermal and biomass to electricity projects. In particular, over the last several years, RERP had largely supported distributed solar projects, leading to the addition of approximately 3-5 MW annually.

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the Department) finds that the facilitation of renewable energy projects in Illinois brings economic development benefits to the state including new income streams, new jobs, new investments and new property tax sources.

The current annual value of the energy produced from the distributed renewable energy projects the Department has funded is estimated to be over \$4.7 million, and there is an additional \$28 million generated annually from the wind farms. Renewable energy projects also have significant employment impacts. For example, several of the early wind farms in Illinois received support through the RERP. Today, Illinois is 5th for wind energy development in the country, has supported 2,573 jobs for the construction of the wind farms, created 226 long-term jobs for the operations of the wind farm, and has supported thousands of indirect jobs as a result of the

millions of dollars invested throughout the state. Furthermore, a 2015 survey by the Clean Energy Trust found that there were over 21,000 renewable energy sector jobs in Illinois, a 6.8% increase over 2014.¹

Over the last several years, challenges with the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) have led to a significant slowdown of wind and solar energy development in Illinois. Previously, the rules of the RPS did not allow the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) to procure renewable energy credits for several years. However, in December of 2016 the Future Energy Jobs Bill (PA 99-0906) was signed into law. PA 99-0906 introduced a wide variety of changes to energy policy in Illinois, and will heavily influence energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in the state.

Notably, PA 99-0906 includes a fix to the RPS. RPS planning and compliance will be unified under the IPA, who now has the authority to develop a long-term procurement plan for Illinois renewable energy. Other relevant renewable energy policy contained in PA 99-0906 also includes a new low-income solar program, Illinois Solar for All.

Additionally, in 2016 the IPA continued to implement the Solar Energy Credit (SREC) Procurement Program - \$15 million of SRECS were procured in 2016, which in conjunction with the 2015 procurements should add approximately 20-30 MW of solar capacity. However, this program ended in 2016, with the Future Energy Jobs bill serving as the new guiding force for renewable energy credit procurement going forward.

This report contains four parts:

- Part I: Authorization and Funding Sources
- Part II: Report on the Renewable Energy Resource Base in Illinois
- Part III: Report on Program Implementation
- Part IV: Report on Legislative Recommendations

¹ See: <http://cleanjobsillinois.com/2015/#ch/top>

Part I:

Authorization and Funding Sources

Authorization

The Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Coal Resources Development Law (20 ILCS 687, “the Law”) of 1997 directs the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the Department) to administer the Renewable Energy Resources Program (RERP) and to provide grants, loans and other incentives to foster investment in, and the development and use of, renewable energy resources. The Law directs the Department to establish eligibility criteria for the incentives and to review them annually and adjust them as necessary. The provisions of this law are to be repealed ten years after the effective date unless renewed by act of the General Assembly. The current sunset date is December 12, 2020.

The Law defines “renewable energy resources” to include energy from wind, solar thermal energy, photovoltaic cells and panels, dedicated crops grown for energy production and organic waste biomass, hydropower that does not involve new construction or significant expansion of hydropower dams and other such alternative sources of environmentally preferable energy. "Renewable energy resources" does not include, however, energy from the incineration, burning or heating of waste wood, tires, garbage, general household, institutional and commercial waste, industrial lunchroom or office waste, landscape waste, or construction or demolition debris.

Contributions to the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund

Funding for the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Coal Resources Development Law is required by the Renewable Energy Resources and Coal Technology Development Assistance Charge as follows:

- 1) \$0.05 per month per residential electric service;
- 2) \$0.05 per month per residential gas service;
- 3) \$0.50 per month per nonresidential electric service taking less than 10MW of peak demand during the previous calendar year;
- 4) \$0.50 per month per nonresidential gas service taking less than four million therms of gas during the previous calendar year;
- 5) \$37.50 per month per nonresidential electric service taking 10MW or greater of peak demand during the previous calendar year;
- 6) \$37.50 per month per nonresidential gas service taking four million or more therms of gas during the previous calendar year.

Fifty percent of the moneys collected are deposited into the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund. The remaining fifty percent is deposited in the Coal Technology Development Assistance Fund for use under the Illinois Coal Technology Development Assistance Act. The Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund receives approximately \$5to \$6.5 million per year to fund eligible projects.

Part II:

Report on the Renewable Energy Resource Base in Illinois

The renewable energy resources in Illinois that have significant growth potential include biogas and biomass, solar and wind. The following sections discuss each of these renewable energy resources.

Wind Energy

Wind is a clean, inexhaustible energy resource and is one of the fastest-growing forms of electricity generation in the United States. The potential for wind energy development in Illinois is significant. According to the DOE Wind Vision report, Illinois could develop 30GW of wind energy by 2030. The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) ranks Illinois 14th in the nation in potential wind resources. Modern wind generation investments, at current prices, can be competitive with more traditional sources of new electric generation and therefore a valuable hedge against higher electric costs that may result from over reliance on traditional energy resources. The federal production tax credit (or PTC, currently valued at 2.3 cents per kWh) was renewed late in the year through 2019; however, prior to the extension of the PTC, wind farm development had slowed down nationally.

Illinois is a leader in the wind industry. Over 3,842MW of wind energy capacity have been installed, ranking Illinois 5th in the country in wind power capacity.² There are currently 462MW of wind farm projects under construction and about another 3,000MW of projects have been permitted as of 2014. No wind farms in Illinois completed construction in 2016.³

However, past issues with the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) have led to a significant slowdown of wind energy development in Illinois. Due to complications with the law, the rules of the RPS did not allow the Illinois Power Agency to procure utility-scale renewable energy over the last few years. With the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act, the IPA will procure renewable energy credits from 2017 onwards.

Wind energy has a significant economic impact on the state. According to the most recent study conducted by the Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University, the wind industry has supported 2,573 jobs for the construction of the wind farms and 226 long-term jobs for the operations of the wind farms. The wind farm developments also provide indirect and induced economic impacts to the communities they are built in, supporting about 17,600 jobs during the construction phases and 643 long-term jobs. Furthermore, these wind farms provide over \$13 million in lease payments to landowners and over \$30.4 million in property taxes to local governments annually.⁴

Illinois is also a leader in wind turbine manufacturing with major wind industry manufacturers such as Trinity Structural Towers and gearbox manufacturer Winergy. Over 30 other companies in Illinois are involved in some component of the wind energy supply chain, and there are also

²See:<http://awea.files.cmsplus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/3Q2016%20AWEA%20Market%20Report%20Public%20Version.pdf>

³See:<http://renewableenergy.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/databases/071714%20Permitted%20Wind%20Farms%20in%20IL.pdf>

⁴See:http://renewableenergy.illinoisstate.edu/mwg-internal/de5fs23hu73ds/progress?id=c6Ptvf23s8GaZ3kmiWjlrMFOhEz_tJ3LjfA_Nsb_pw

eight wind project developers with North American headquarters in Chicago. According to AWEA, there are 35 wind-related manufacturing facilities in Illinois with over 1,000 employees in total.

Table 2: Wind Farms in Illinois, Source: Illinois Wind Working Group

Wind Projects	Location (County)	Capacity (MW)	Year Online
Mendota Hills	Lee County	52	2003
Crescent Ridge	Bureau County	54	2005
Twin Groves Wind Farm I	McLean County	198	2007
GSG 1 Wind Farm	Lee (19 turbines) and LaSalle (21) Counties	80	2007
Camp Grove Wind Farm	Marshall (60) and Stark (40) Counties	150	2007
Twin Groves Wind Farm II	McLean County	198	2007-2008
Grand Ridge Energy Center Phase I	LaSalle County	99	2008
Providence Heights	Bureau County	72	2008
EcoGrove Wind Farm Phase I	Stephenson County	101	2009
Rail Splitter Wind Farm	Logan (29) and Tazewell (38) Counties	101	2009
Top Crop Wind Farm Phase I	LaSalle County	102	2009
Grand Ridge Energy Center Phases II, III, and IV	LaSalle County	111	2009
Lee-DeKalb Wind Energy Center	DeKalb (126) and Lee (19) Counties	218	2009
Steator Cayuga Ridge South Wind Farm	Livingston County	300	2010
Top Crop Wind Farm Phase II (Blackstone Wind Farm II)	Grundy County	198	2010
Big Sky Wind Farm	Bureau (56) and Lee (58) Counties	239	2011
White Oak Energy Center	McLean County	150	2011
Shady Oaks Wind Farm	Lee County	110	2011
Bishop Hill I Wind Farm	Henry County	211	2012
Bishop Hill II Wind Farm	Henry County	81	2012
Settlers Trail	Iroquois County	150	2012
Pioneer Trail	Iroquois County (17) and Ford County (77)	150	2012
California Ridge Wind Farm	Vermillion (104) and Champaign (30) Counties	217	2012
Hoopston Wind	Vermillion County	98	2015
Pilot Hill	Iroquios and Kankakee Counties	175.1	2015

In the past, there has also been some interest in small-scale and community-scale wind turbines in Illinois. DCEO has provided rebates for small wind energy systems under 100kW, and has done several grants for projects ranging from 100kW to 1.5MW.

Solar Energy

Solar technologies use energy from the sun to provide heat, light, hot water, electricity and even cooling for homes, businesses, and industry. Illinois has significant solar energy resources and interest in installation of thermal and photovoltaic (electric) systems are rapidly increasing over time. However, historically the ability to truly capitalize on the potential development of this industry has been stymied by state policy uncertainty.

Illinois began to see development of solar farms under the new solar carve-out included as part of the renewable portfolio standard in 2011. Two solar farms received long-term contracts

through the Illinois Power Agency in 2011 in order to help meet the requirements of the Renewable Portfolio Standard. This included Invenergy's development of a 20MW solar farm in LaSalle County, as well as Rockford Solar Partners' completion of a 3MW solar farm at the end of 2012. There has also been significant development of large distributed solar energy projects to meet the needs of large energy users such as retailers, manufacturing facilities, governmental agencies, and non-profit entities. For example, from 2012-2015, the Department committed funds to 33 large solar and wind distributed energy systems, adding over 3 MW of solar in the state. With this significant development of solar in the last few years, there is now over 68MW of solar photovoltaic systems spread throughout the state of Illinois.

Since 1999, approximately 13MW of distributed photovoltaic systems and over \$25 million in solar thermal systems have been supported with over \$30 million in grants and rebates through the Renewable Energy Resources Program. While the price of solar photovoltaic systems have declined over 50% in the last few years, financial support through the Renewable Energy Resources Program is necessary to continue to encourage the development of solar energy resources throughout Illinois. Solar energy is becoming much more cost competitive, however, because the retail prices of electricity and natural gas have also fallen in recent years, Illinois solar power is not yet at “grid parity” with traditional generation resources.

Illinois is also trailing much of the country in solar development. Though Illinois has the fifth highest potential for rooftop solar PV in the country (estimated at 26,000MW), according to the Solar Energy Industries Association, Illinois ranks 29th in solar development (compared to 25th in 2015). Illinois is considerably behind states ranked in the top 10 of solar development; for example, Illinois has a total solar capacity over 68MW, while Indiana is estimated to have installed about 81MW of solar in 2016 alone.⁵

Illinois has over 3,700 solar jobs in Illinois, ranking the state 17th in the country in total solar jobs, but 40th on a per capita basis. There were 7% more solar jobs in Illinois in 2016 over the previous year, significantly less growth than surrounding states such as Missouri (28%), Wisconsin (45%) and Indiana (72%).⁶

There are several reasons for the lag in Illinois' solar market. In 2011, the State legislated a solar carve-out as part of the Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires 1.5% of the Illinois eligible retail load come from solar energy by 2025. However, the Illinois Power Agency customer base (which includes the ComEd and Ameren retail customers) shrank to the point that the IPA no longer needed to procure renewable energy to meet the renewable portfolio standard. This customer base shrinkage was due in part to the way the law was written, in conjunction with the amount of municipalities in the state purchasing electric power for their residents and opting to provide energy aggregation services. However, over the last couple of years, some municipalities have returned to ComEd as their electricity supplier. A significant portion of electric customers in Illinois purchase power from alternative retail electric service companies (ARES). ARES must provide compliance payments into a renewable energy fund. However, due to a problem in legislation at the time, none of these renewable energy funds were able to be

⁵See: <http://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-market-insight-report-2016-q4>

⁶ See: <http://www.thesolarfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/National-Solar-Jobs-Census-2016-Appendix-A.pdf>

used to purchase renewable energy, either through renewable energy credits or long-term power purchase agreements.

Furthermore, the Renewable Energy Trust Fund that supports the DCEO Renewable Energy Programs has not been available since the programs were suspended in January 2015. Consequently, the Department has not been able to provide rebates or grants in support of renewable energy projects.

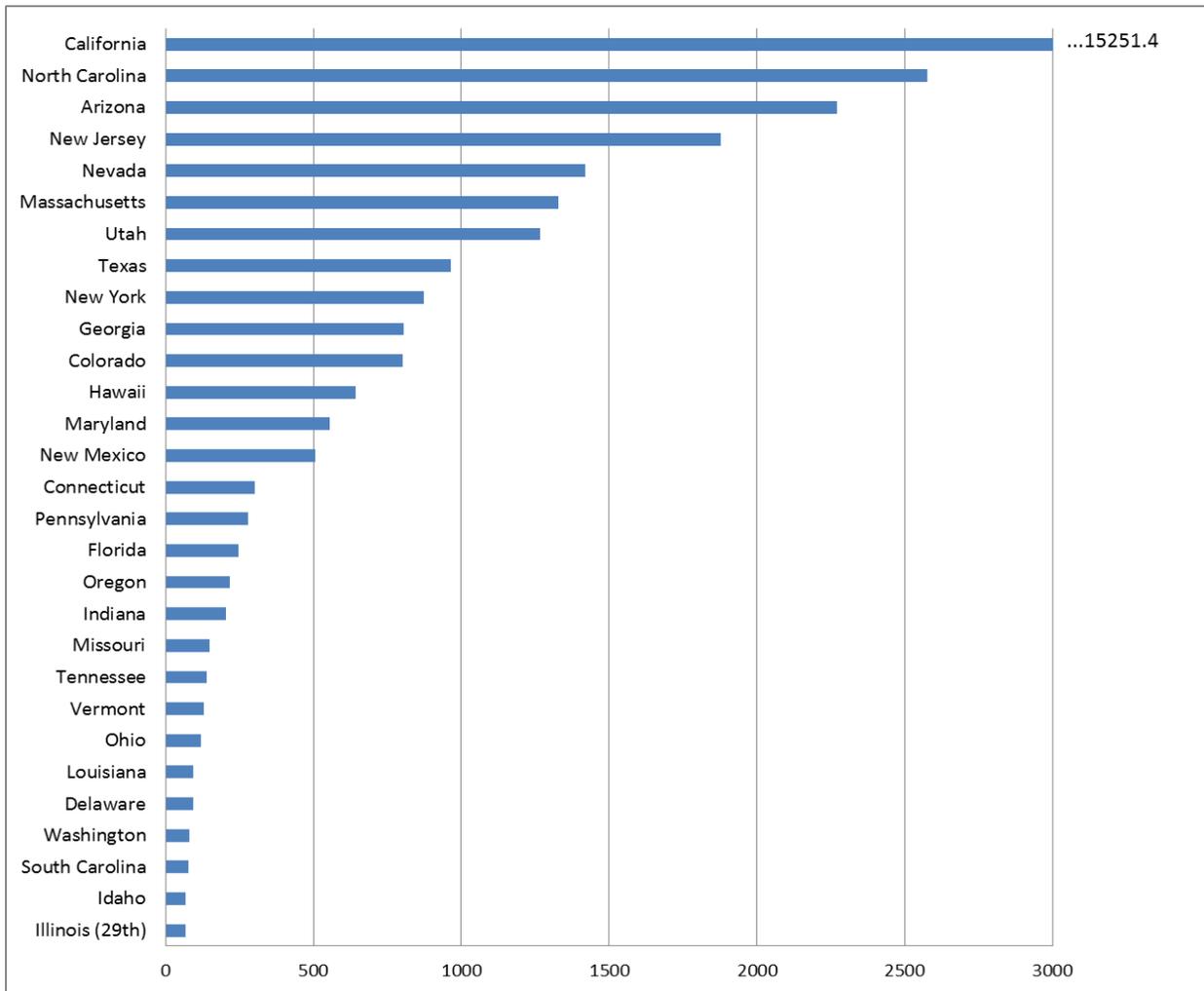


Figure 1: Cumulative Solar Capacity by State Thru 3rd Quarter 2016, Source: Solar Energy Industry Association.

However, in 2014, the Illinois Power Agency Act was amended (Public Act 098-0672) to authorize the Illinois Power Agency to spend up to \$30 million of the stranded compliance payment dollars, for a one-time procurement of Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). This \$30 million was done over two procurements for \$5 and \$10 million of SRECs in 2015, with a third procurement event in March 2016, for the remaining \$15 million. The results of the procurements should eventually add 20-30MW of solar in Illinois. The IPA also procured, on behalf of the utilities, -RECs from new and existing systems through energy procurement events in 2015. Whenever the IPA purchases conventional power for the utilities they are also required to purchase renewable energy. The IPA elected to focus the 2015 procurement solely on solar

asset procurement. There was \$28 million in funds for -RECs under these standard energy procurements. The IPA procured 198,948 SRECs through three SREC procurements in 2015-16, and also purchased over 100,000 RECs for the utilities in 2016.

However, once these funds were expended, especially the one time SREC fund, there was uncertainty for future procurement of RECs. However, the Future Energy Jobs Bill (P.A. 99-0906), set to take effect June 1, 2017, will bring about major changes to the RPS and the responsibilities and duties of the IPA. Changes to the duties of the IPA related to renewable energy include:

- **Illinois Solar For All:** Renewable Energy Resources Fund (RERF) funding will be used to purchase RECs generated from solar projects located in the low-income sector under 15-year agreements, with the RECs being retired once the solar asset is energized. Included in the Illinois Solar for All program are program carve-outs for Low-income Distributed Generation, Low-Income Community Solar Project Initiative, Incentives for Non-Profits and Public Facilities, and Low-Income Community Solar Pilot Projects as seen in the table below. At least 25% of the programs must also be applied to environmental justice communities.

Table 3: Illinois Solar For All Program Carve Outs

Programs	% of Funding
Low-Income Distributed Generation Incentive	22.5%
Low-Income Community Solar Project Initiative	37.5%
Incentives for Non-Profits and Public Facilities	15.0%
Low-Income Community Solar Pilot Projects	25.0%

- **Renewable Portfolio Standard:**
 - RPS planning and compliance are now unified under the IPA. In conjunction with ongoing standard procurement planning cycles, every two years the IPA will review and revise a long term renewable energy procurement plan.
 - The RPS goals will remain at the current escalation of 25% renewable energy by 2025, with at least 75% of each year’s goals to be sourced from wind and solar.
 - RPS carve-outs will be secured through an adjustable block program for distributed renewable energy projects with initial requirements of: 25% from projects of less than 10kW nameplate capacity; 25% from projects greater than 10kW but no more than 2MW of capacity; 25% from community solar projects; and 25% as specified in the long-term renewable plan. Additionally, 15% of RECS procured must benefit low-income households or organizations/agencies that serve them.
 - The IPA is also now directed to meet the following volume purchase goals on wind and new solar PV installations (50% of PV from the new adjustable block program, 40% from utility scale solar, and 2% from Brownfield site projects) through long term REC purchase agreements:
 - **2020:** 2 million REC’s each year from new wind installations, and 2 million REC’s each year from new solar PV installation.
 - **2025:** 3 million REC’s each year from new wind installations, and 3 million REC’s each year from new solar PV installations.
 - **2030:** 4 million REC’s each year from new wind installations, and 4 million REC’s each year from new solar PV installations.

PA 99-0906 is expected to lead to significant growth in solar and wind development in the coming years. Proponents of the legislation stated that there should be an additional 1,300 MW of wind energy and 3,000 MW of solar energy by 2030.

Biogas and Biomass

Biogas refers to the methane produced by livestock manures and wastes, municipal waste water sludge, and segregated organic wastes. Biogas produced by anaerobic digestion is a potential source of energy, and can destroy disease causing pathogens and reduce the volume of disposed waste products. Biomass refers to plant and plant-derived material that can be used either as a source of energy or for its chemical components and includes dedicated crops grown for energy production as well as agricultural residues. Biomass commonly refers to organic material grown to produce biofuels but also includes organic materials combusted to produce heat energy.

Although much of the resource is highly cost-constrained for electric generation in the near future (though not for transportation fuels, e.g., ethanol), the economics of biogas and biomass to energy systems are improving. Gasification and co-firing technologies with combined heat and power are technologically feasible for large-scale electric generation in Illinois. While such systems would likely create new markets for farmers, and reduce pollution levels for all traditional power plant pollutants, the economic feasibility of the systems, particularly in competition with other renewable energy resources such as wind energy, will hinge on further improvements that reduce collection and transportation costs.

The continued support through the Renewable Energy Resources Program and other state and federal incentives, as well as research and development support through the Department of Agriculture and Illinois' universities will be crucial in the further development of biogas and biomass resources in Illinois.

Part III: Report on Program Implementation

RERP Implementation Summary- January 1997 to December 2016

With the passage of the law in December 1997, the Department developed draft grant and rebate program guidelines and established eligibility criteria. The Department developed final program guidelines and released the program in November of 1998, with the first RERP grants and rebates awarded in March of the following year. As of December 2015, the Renewable Energy Resources Program has awarded a total of 242 grants and over 2021 rebates totaling more than \$65 million in incentives for renewable energy projects in Illinois.

2016 Renewable Energy Resources Program

Solar and Wind Energy Rebate Program

In January 2015, an executive order was issued to freeze “non-essential” state spending, as a result of the existing state budget crisis. This included freezing the funds for the Solar and Wind

Rebate program. Furthermore, since no funding was appropriate from the Renewable Energy Resources Program in FY2016 or 2017, the program was closed to new applications in 2016.

However, in FY2016, \$233,499 in Federal SEP funding was utilized to cover leftover FY2015 rebates, providing rebates for forty-two solar PV projects and 228 kW of solar capacity. Rebates were offered to those rebate applicants from the previous year that had received a Notice to Proceed letter before the program was suspended in January 2015.

Before the rebate program was suspended, there was still very strong demand for rebate funds. The Department received a record number of over 600 rebate applications in FY2015, (accepted applications from August to mid-October 2014), and the Department has received well over 700 request for program updates in the last year.

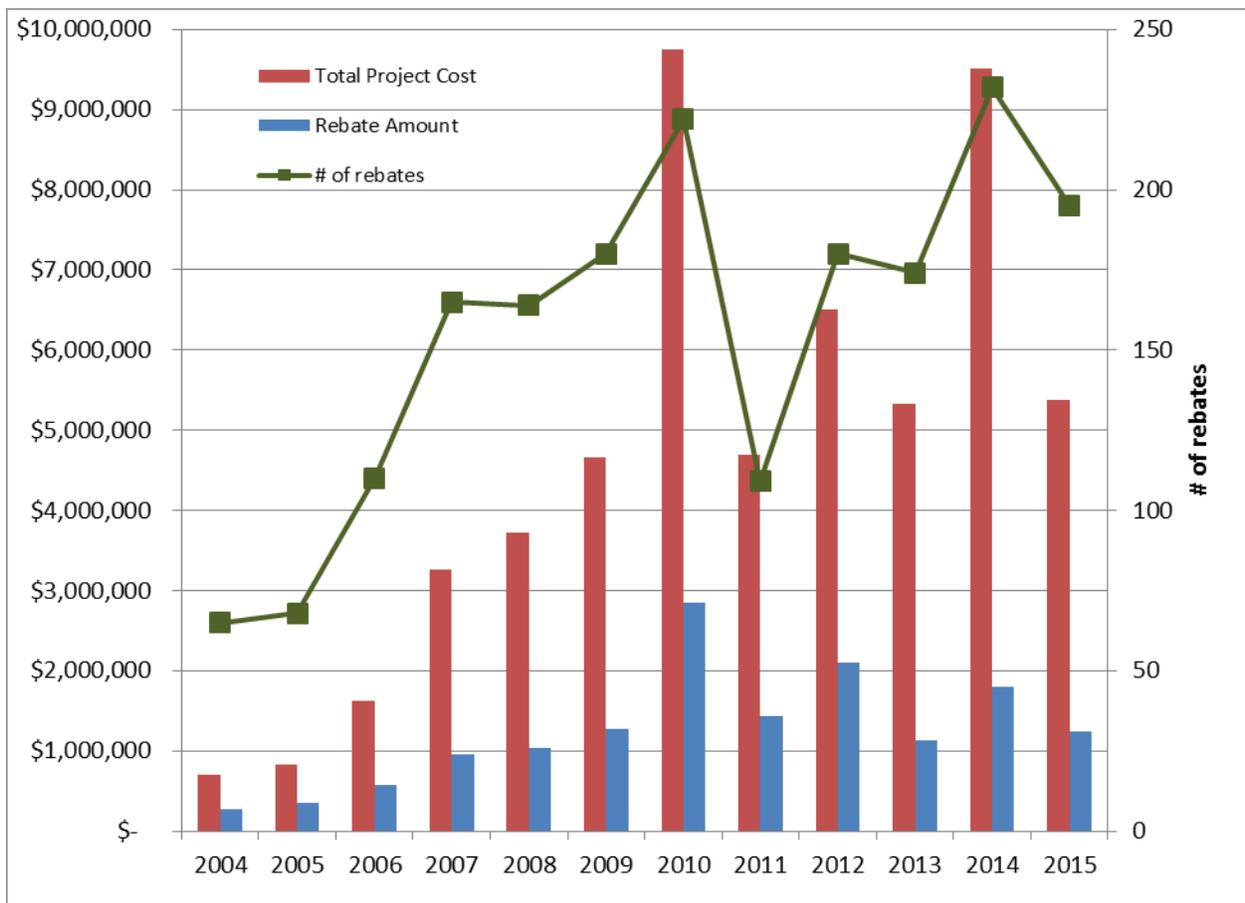


Figure 2: DCEO Solar and Wind Rebates Distributed by State Fiscal Year

Large Distributed Solar and Wind Grant Program

This program offers incentives to businesses, non-profit organizations and public sector entities interested in solar or wind energy systems to meet a portion of their energy needs. The Department did not issue a request for application for this program given that no funding was available in 2016.

Other Renewable Energy Programs

The Department did not provide any grants under the Renewable Energy Business Development Program or the Biogas and Biomass to Energy Grant Program in 2016. The Renewable Energy Business Development program provides grants to promote the utilization of renewable energy in Illinois through research, education, outreach, and training programs. The biogas and biomass to energy grant program provides funding for feasibility studies and the installation of biogas and biomass to energy projects.

Future of Renewable Energy Resources Program

The Department may consider several changes to the program offerings, depending upon how PA 99-0906 is implemented, and the FY2017 and FY2018 budgets for the Renewable Energy Resources Program.

The new energy bill provides the Department an opportunity to rethink the Department's role in renewable energy policy and how we can support the goals of the new energy law. The Department could use RERP funds to support several complementary measures to the new energy law, making it easier to meet the renewable energy goals of the law, and to address any gaps in existing renewable energy policies and programs. Complimentary measures could include renewable energy finance, providing consumer education on new programs and policies, developing consumer protection and industry standard strategies, considering approaches for reducing the soft costs of solar (e.g., reducing permitting timelines, bulk solar purchase program), supporting integrated solar-energy storage projects, and leading by example with renewable energy at state facilities.

In 2016, the Department started examining an innovative approach to supporting renewable energy beyond rebates and grants. The Department worked with Harcourt Brown & Carey, national experts on clean energy finance, to conduct a baseline assessment of the potential for implementing a renewable energy finance program based on independent research and Illinois stakeholder engagement, and developed recommendations on target markets and design criteria. HB&C recommended that the Department consider an interest-rate buydown finance program for residential solar. The next step is to use these findings, and working with the solar industry, to design a renewable energy finance program that can hopefully be piloted in 2017, using federal funds. If the pilot is successful, the Department could get a much larger bang for its limited public funds and could support several times more renewable energy projects.

Should FY2017 or 2018 RERP funding become available, the Department will start taking steps towards further implementation of a renewable energy finance program and the other complementary measures mentioned above. The Department will also take a closer look at whether they should continue offering, at a reduced scale, the standard rebate and grant programs, and if so how they should be revamped. The Department may also want to focus programs more on specific market segments (low-income housing and public sector), areas (electric coops) and technologies (distributed wind energy) that may need stronger incentives than other segments.

Part IV: Report on Legislative Recommendations

Before the state budget crisis and the suspension of the Renewable Energy Resources Program, demand for funds had continually grown, especially over the last five years. In each of the last five program years, the rebate program had overwhelming demand for the limited program funds. Given the fixes made to the RPS and the addition of other renewable energy programs in PA 99-0906, there will be significant growth in solar and wind energy in Illinois. Thus, should funds be made available again for RERP, the Department may want to change its emphasis, by moving away from direct incentives such as rebates and grants, and towards other options such as a finance program. The Department should also consider using these funds to provide complementary measures to support the programs and policies resulting from the new energy law, such as more job training for this sector.

The Department is also currently leading an Illinois Energy Roadmap initiative with our fellow state agencies and energy industry stakeholders to develop a plan that will address: (1) the future direction of the electric power sector in the state/region, in light of the recently enacted energy legislation, and (2) how energy efficiency and renewable energy fit into the vision for the future. In the coming months, an inter-agency advisory group will identify the key next steps in implementing PA 99-0906, and then prioritize possible options and determine medium-term and long-term actions that could support the new energy legislation, and other policy actions that will fill gaps in the new renewable energy offerings. The findings will be consolidated into a report to be completed by the June 2017. Consequently, the findings from the Energy Roadmap project will likely lead to further policy recommendations for renewable energy and RERP programs.

Between the complementary measures the Department has already identified, and any additional recommendations that come out of the Energy Roadmap project, the RERP funds can provide critical support in implementing the new energy law, and strengthening the renewable energy market in Illinois.