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New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is a public benefit corporation created in 1975 under Article 8, Title 9 of the State Public Authorities Law through the reconstitution of the New York State Atomic and Space Development Authority. NYSERDA's earliest efforts focused solely on research and development with the goal of reducing the State's petroleum consumption. Subsequent research and development projects focused on topics including environmental effects of energy consumption, development of renewable resources, and advancement of innovative technologies.

Currently, NYSERDA is primarily funded by state rate payers through the System Benefits Charge (SBC), which was established on May 20, 1996, and was specified funding from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2001. These SBC funds were allocated towards energy-efficiency programs, research and development initiatives, low-income energy programs, and environmental disclosure activities. Part of this funding went into the creation of **New York Energy Smart**SM which helps to maintain momentum for the State's efforts to develop competitive markets for energy efficiency; demand management; outreach and education services; research, development, and demonstration; low-income services; and to provide direct economic and environmental benefits to New Yorkers. The SBC was extended through June 30, 2006, and most recently until June 30, 2011.

NYSERDA strives to facilitate change through the widespread development and use of innovative technologies to improve the State's energy, economic, and environmental wellbeing. In fulfilling its mission, NYSERDA's workforce reflects its public service orientation, placing a premium on objective analysis and collaboration, as well as reaching out to solicit multiple perspectives and share information. NYSERDA is committed to public service, striving to be a model of efficiency and effectiveness, while remaining flexible and responsive to its customers' needs. NYSERDA's programs and services provide a vehicle for the State to work collaboratively with businesses, academia, industry, the federal government, environmental community, public interest groups, and energy market participants. Through these collaborations, NYSERDA seeks to develop a diversified energy supply portfolio, improve market mechanisms, and facilitate the introduction and adoption of advanced technologies that will help New Yorkers plan for and respond to uncertainties in the energy markets.

NYSERDA is governed by a board consisting of 13 members, including the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Chair of the Public Service Commission, and the Chair of the Power Authority of the State of New York, who serve *ex officio*. The remaining nine members are appointed by the Governor of the State of New York with the advice and consent of the Senate and include, as required by statute, an engineer or research scientist, an economist, an environmentalist, a consumer advocate, an officer of a gas utility, an officer of an electric utility, and three at-large members.

For more information, contact the Communications unit, NYSERDA, 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, New York 12203-6399; 1-866-NYSERDA or (518) 862-1090.

The New York Renewable Portfolio Standard

A Clean, Green Tomorrow Starts Today

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- Current Solicitation - RFP 1681

A Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a policy that seeks to increase the proportion of renewable electricity used by retail customers. New York State's goal is to reach 25% by 2013. NYSERDA is responsible for getting to 24% of the ultimate 25% goal. The remaining 1% is expected to come from individuals and businesses who choose to pay a premium on their electricity bill to support renewable energy.

Higley hydroelectric station - *Photo Courtesy of Brookfield Power*

RPS energy targets for the 24% goal fall into two groups:

- **Main Tier or Large Scale Generators** - Large scaled generators that sell power to the wholesale grid
  - **Eligibility**
  - **Current/Past Solicitations**
- **Customer-Sited Tier** - small scaled generators such as a photovoltaic (PV) system on a residence

Main Tier / Large Scale Generators

Maple Ridge Wind Farm - Photo Courtesy of Horizon Wind Energy/IBERDROLA RENEWABLES Inc.

As of March 31, 2009, NYSERDA has completed three competitive Main Tier solicitations which have resulted in twenty-eight large-scale electricity generators participating in the RPS. The total new renewable capacity associated with these 28 large-scale renewable generators could reach 1,164 megawatts (MW) by late 2009. Of these 28 renewable electricity generators, 24 are now operating, and four are under construction and expected to be operating by the end of 2009.

For a generating facility to be eligible for Main Tier program procurements, it must meet the generation type and fuel source eligibility requirements as defined and clarified by the PSC in its **June 28, 2006 Order**. The **PSC orders issued for Case 03-E-0188** are the controlling authority for all determinations of eligibility of projects participating in the NYS RPS.

Please see our **eligibility requirements** for more Main Tier information.

Customer-Sited Tier

The RPS program supports active open-enrollment incentive programs for photovoltaics (PV), anaerobic digester gas (ADG) systems at farms and wastewater treatment facilities, fuel cells and small wind turbines. These “behind-the-meter” renewable systems are supported through the following initiatives:

- Customers interested in installing **PV** or **small wind** can work with one of NYSERDA's eligible installers through **Power...Naturally**. Incentives are available through the solar and wind installers.
- Up to $1 million per anaerobic digester is available through **PON 1146**.
- Up to $1 million per fuel cell system is available through **PON 1150**.

Bergey WindPower turbine -
Photo courtesy of Bergey Windpower Company and Michael and Shaun Lord

17 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-6399 Toll-Free: 1-866-NYSERDA or Local: 518-862-1090 Fax: 518-862-1091
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New York Energy $mart^{SM} Program

New York's public benefit program was established by order of the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) in January 1998. The first three-year, $175 million program, funded by the System Benefits Charge (SBC), ensured that certain consumer programs and general public policy goals were continued through the State's transition to a competitive electric market. The SBC charge included in utility bills for customers of Central Hudson, Con Edison, NYSEG, National Grid, Orange and Rockland, and Rochester Gas and Electric.NYSERDA was chosen by the PSC to administer the **New York Energy $mart^{SM}** Program.

The initial policy goals of the program were to promote competitive markets for energy efficiency services, and to provide direct benefits to electricity ratepayers and/or to be of clear economic benefit to the people of New York. The **New York Energy $mart^{SM}** Program portfolio was designed to meet the diverse needs of the State's energy consumers by stimulating the demand for energy-efficient products and services, and renewable resource technologies.

The SBC and **New York Energy $mart^{SM}** Program was renewed in 2001 for a five-year period at a funding level of approximately $150 million annually. Today's **New York Energy $mart^{SM}** Program has grown more dynamic, not only continuing to meet consumer interests but expanding to green energy issues as outlined in the State Energy Plan, Governor Paterson's Executive Order 111, and the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Under NYSERDA's current operating plan, the five-year $750 million SBC II allocation has been specified for the following goals: $436.3 million for energy efficiency programs, including $16.5 million for special consumer education and outreach programs; $113.7 million for low-income energy affordability programs; and nearly $200 million for research and development projects, with a focus on promoting renewable resources, distributed electric generation, and combined heat and power installations.

Programmatically, NYSERDA has sought to address these priority energy issues through four major interest areas: Energy Efficiency; Economic Development; Environmental Enhancement and Protection; and Securing an Energy Future. To date, some 2,700 projects in more than 40 individual programs have been funded by the SBC and made available through the **New York Energy $mart^{SM}** Program.

What has the New York Energy $mart Program meant to New York State?

In the last five years, the **New York Energy $mart^{SM}** Program has created a wealth of economic and environmental benefits:

- Approximately $198 million in annual energy savings
- 4,200 jobs retained or created
- A leverage of $2.50 in private investment for every New York Energy $mart Program dollar spent
- 1,400 GWh saved per year
- 860 MW in reduced demand
- Fuel savings of 3.3 TBtu

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- Annual carbon dioxide reduction equivalent to 200,000 fewer cars
- 1,300 farms benefited from the **New York Energy $mart**[SM] Program
- Significant annual greenhouse gas emission reduction (in tons)
  - Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) – 1,280
  - Sulfur dioxides (SO_x) – 2,320
  - Carbon dioxide (CO_2) – 1,000,000

Because of the successes achieved in lowering energy costs, reducing pollution and helping to create and retain jobs, the **New York Energy $mart**[SM] Program has received national and international recognition. Along with a long list of awards and acknowledgments, including a Local Public Service Announcement *Emmy Award*, NYSERDA was proud to have been awarded at ENERGY STAR Corporate Commitment Award in 2005 – the first in the nation to a public agency for its ENERGY STAR programs.

Indeed, NYSERDA's innovative programs, as well as its custom-designed analytical and measurement practices, have been used by other states and countries as a model for their emerging public benefit programs. New Yorkers can take great pride in the accomplishments of NYSERDA and the **New York Energy $mart**[SM] Program – helping to secure a brighter energy future for the Empire State for just pennies a day.

On December 21, 2005, the PSC issued an Order (Case 05-M-0900, In the Matter of the System Benefits Charge III, Order Continuing the System Benefits Charge (SBC) and the SBC-funded Public Benefit Programs) continuing the SBC program through June 30, 2011 and increasing the funding level to $175 million per year. The Order provided a thorough Review of comments from stakeholders and presented recommendations for continuing and modifying existing the existing program to more effectively serve the interests of the State. The Order required NYSERDA to prepare a five-year Operating Plan for SBCIII (503kb .pdf), which the NYS Department of Public Service staff approved on March 3, 2006.

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