

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held in the City of
Albany on December 18, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Rory M. Christian, Chair
James S. Alesi
David J. Valesky
Uchenna S. Bright
Denise M. Sheehan, recusing
Radina R. Valova

CASE 15-E-0302 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to
Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a
Clean Energy Standard.

ORDER APPROVING ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING

(Issued and Effective December 19, 2025)

BY THE COMMISSION:

INTRODUCTION

The CES Framework Order designated the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) as the central administrator of the Clean Energy Standard (CES), which is comprised of the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) and Zero-Emission Credit (ZEC) programs.¹ As the administrator, NYSERDA must file an annual petition with the Public Service Commission (Commission) for recovery of the costs associated with administering the CES programs.

On July 31, 2025, NYSERDA filed a petition seeking authorization for \$34,784,598 in funds for CES administration for the upcoming 2026 Compliance Year (Petition). This request

¹ Case 15-E-0302 et al., Order Adopting a Clean Energy Standard (issued August 1, 2016) (CES Framework Order).

represents a decrease of approximately six percent from its current 2025 administrative budget. In this Order, the Commission approves the requested administrative funding covering the 2026 CES Compliance Year, with the modifications described below.

BACKGROUND

In the CES Framework Order, the Commission established the CES to increase the State's renewable energy supply and to preserve New York's existing zero-emissions generation. The Commission divided the CES into a RES and ZEC requirement. The RES includes a Tier 1 component that obligates each load-serving entity (LSE) to serve its retail customers by supporting the procurement of new renewable resources, evidenced by the procurement of qualifying Tier 1 Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from NYSERDA or other sources. Prior to the 2024 budget year (calendar year basis), LSEs had the option of making Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) in lieu of purchasing Tier 1 RECs. With the load-share approach approved by the Commission in 2023, there was no longer a pre-determined compliance obligation and therefore no need for ACPs.² The RES also includes a Tier 2 Maintenance program to provide financial support for existing baseline eligible renewable facilities that are at risk of ceasing operations. Under the Zero Emission Credit (ZEC) program (also known as Tier 3), each LSE that serves end-use customers in New York must purchase ZECs from NYSERDA in proportion to the load they serve relative to the total statewide load. NYSERDA administers this program by purchasing ZECs from qualifying nuclear generators during each compliance year and duly billing LSEs for their share.

² Case 15-0302, Order Modifying Clean Energy Standard Tier 1 Obligations (issued April 20, 2023) (Tier 1 Transition Order).

The Commission further established the offshore wind (OSW) program and accompanying standard in 2018 by requiring LSEs to support the procurement of 2,400 megawatts (MW) of OSW resources by 2030.³ As with Tier 1, the OSW standard obligates each LSE to serve its retail customers by supporting the procurement of new OSW resources, evidenced by the procurement of OSW Renewable Energy Certificates (ORECs) from NYSERDA.

On October 15, 2020, the Commission issued the CES Modification Order, which adopted the clean energy deployment targets found within the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), including a goal to serve at least 70% of statewide load with renewable energy resources by 2030, and that 9,000 MW of OSW be procured by 2035.⁴ The CES Modification Order also created two new programs to facilitate achievement of these goals. The first was the Competitive Tier 2 program designed to support non-state-owned wind and run-of-river hydroelectric generating facilities that commenced operation prior to January 2015. The second was the Tier 4 program designed to support renewable energy delivered into New York City.

The CES Modification Order authorized a REC and ZEC administrative adder to recover NYSERDA's anticipated administrative costs for 12 months, adjusted to account for any shortfall or surplus from the previous year. Through the adder mechanism, administrative costs are allocated across the attributes NYSERDA annually sells to LSEs each year via a commensurate attribute price or an adjusted LSE rate, depending

³ Case 18-E-0071, In the Matter of Offshore Wind Energy, Order Establishing Offshore Wind Standard and Framework for Phase 1 Procurement (issued July 12, 2018) (OSW Framework Order).

⁴ Case 15-E-0302, Order Adopting Modifications to the Clean Energy Standard (issued October 15, 2020) (CES Modification Order).

on the program. The Commission also directed NYSERDA to combine administrative funding requests for all CES programs into one comprehensive annual funding petition for years 2022 and beyond.

THE PETITION

2026 CES Compliance Year Budget Proposal

NYSERDA requests an administrative budget of \$34,784,598 for the 2026 CES Compliance year. As in previous years, the administrative budget includes CES staff salaries, fringe benefits, and other direct program operating costs and allocated general and administrative expenses. The formal administrative budget categories include Salaries and Overhead, Technical Support, System Development, and the New York State Cost Recovery Fee.⁵

Regarding Salaries and Overhead, NYSERDA notes that the Petition includes an overall net reduction of four full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and that it will not backfill current OSW program vacancies. NYSERDA also states that there is a slight increase in Tier 4 staffing due to the significant programmatic activity necessary to prepare for the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) transmission line commercial operation in 2026. Table 1 represents the proposed CES 2026 staffing positions by program.

⁵ The New York State Cost Recovery Fee is a fee assessed to NYSERDA and other public authorities by New York State for an allocable share of State governmental costs attributable to the provision of services to public benefit corporations pursuant to Section 2975 of the Public Authorities Law.

Table 1. Proposed CES Year 2026 Full Time Equivalent Positions by Fund						
Fund	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3/ZECR	Tier 4	OREC	FTE Total
2025 FTE	24.18	0.40	2.09	3.54	17.04	47.25
Proposed 2026 FTE	23.33	0.40	2.09	3.99	13.44	43.25
Change* (#)	-0.85	--	--	+0.45	-3.60	-4.00

*Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

The System Development budget item includes annual costs of the administration, operation, and maintenance of the New York Generation Attribute Tracking System (NYGATS) as well as costs of the Salesforce program license and development costs which is the primary business system utilized for CES program operations and solicitation processes and managing all the CES data, plus Open NY reporting. NYSERDA notes that the System Development budget is a 37% decrease from the 2025 budget. The proposed System Development budgets for Tier 4 and OREC programs are reflective of the anticipated start of the programs' first projects and the associated costs, according to NYSERDA.

The Technical Support budget item includes costs associated with implementation of CES programs. This includes ongoing program consultant support, development and issuance of procurements, technical and policy analysis, and evaluation panels for NYSERDA procurements. The Technical Support budget request for Tier 1 remains flat from the 2025 budget year reflecting the program's need to be able to respond to the evolving market, particularly given changing federal policies, the administration of the RES solicitation in accordance with the 2025 Biennial Review Order, and the program's focus on affordability. NYSERDA states that this category also includes

support for and coordination with DPS Staff's work on transmission planning, supporting workstreams related to OSW siting, and direct participation in and support for the Coordinated Grid Planning Process. The proposed budget also includes funding to support the New York State Agricultural Technical Working Group (A-TWG) which guides and informs efforts in advancing renewable energy development in proximity to farmland.

The Technical Support category also supports Tier 4 activities including a third-party contractor for subject matter expertise in energy accounting to ensure industry best practices are implemented with the review of the Demand Side Management Accounting plan by H.Q. Energy Services. NYSERDA adds that this budget category has been reduced from the prior year for the OSW program. The funding includes continued oversight of the 1.7 gigawatts (GW) of projects under construction, support for the advancement of over \$500 million in other state investments in the offshore wind supply chain and to deliver workforce development and project impact analysis. Funding will also provide continued engagement with industry stakeholders, including labor, environmental groups, academics, the fishing industry, environmental justice communities, students, and elected officials. NYSERDA states that maintaining the core offshore wind program functions and flexibility is essential to respond to a dynamic market.

NYSERDA proposes a total administrative budget of \$34,784,598 for the CES 2026 compliance year as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Proposed CES Year 2026 Budget						
Program Area	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3/ZECR	Tier 4	OREC	Totals
Salaries & Overhead	\$8,785,926	\$182,422	\$789,547	\$1,453,501	\$5,233,797	\$16,445,193
Technical Support	\$2,817,500	\$0	\$125,000	\$2,160,000	\$5,678,000	\$10,780,500
System Development	\$395,333	\$0	\$150,000	\$420,333	\$395,333	\$1,360,999
Subtotal	\$11,998,759	\$182,422	\$1,064,547	\$4,033,834	\$11,307,130	\$28,586,692
NYS Cost Recovery Fee	\$698,767	\$1,642	\$3,663,442	\$1,732,291	\$101,764	\$6,197,906
Total*	\$12,697,526	\$184,064	\$4,727,989	\$5,766,125	\$11,408,894	\$34,784,598

*Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

2024 Budget Reconciliation

As provided by the Petition, Table 3 shows the reconciliation of the CES 2024 compliance year administrative budget.

Table 3. Unspent CES Compliance Period Funds – 2024			
Program Expenses	Compliance Year Budget	Compliance Year Committed	Uncommitted Funds
Tier 1/RES Salary and Overhead	\$6,659,230	\$7,129,129	(\$469,899)
Tier 1/RES NYS Cost Recovery Fee	\$845,688	\$790,795	\$54,893
Tier 1/RES Technical Support	\$2,847,992	\$5,403,048	(\$2,555,056)
Tier 1/RES System Development	\$426,487	\$805,110	(\$378,623)
*Total	\$10,779,397	\$14,128,082	(\$3,348,685)

Tier 3/ZECR Salary and Overhead	\$679,498	\$624,734	\$54,764
Tier 3/ZECR NYS Cost Recovery Fee	\$5,060,596	\$4,044,819	\$1,015,777
Tier 3/ZECR Technical Support	156,600	\$0	\$156,600
Tier 3/ZECR System Development	592,042	\$0	\$592,042
Total	\$6,488,736	\$4,669,553	\$1,819,183
Tier 2 Salary and Overhead	\$374,478	\$337,110	\$37,368
Tier 2 NYS Cost Recovery Fee Expenses	\$4,911	\$5,498	(\$587)
Tier 2 Technical Support	\$116,600	\$47,785	\$68,815
Tier 2 System Development Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$495,989	\$390,393	\$105,596
Tier 4 Salary and Overhead	\$661,094	\$567,352	\$93,742
Tier 4 NYS Cost Recovery Fee	\$21,969	\$8,970	\$12,999
Tier 4 Technical Support	\$1,510,600	\$1,607,082	(\$96,482)
Tier 4 System Development	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Total	\$2,218,663	\$2,183,404	\$35,259
OREC Salary and Overhead	\$5,546,437	\$4,774,617	\$771,820
OREC NYS Cost Recovery Fee	\$134,339	\$102,071	\$32,268
OREC Technical Support	\$7,836,100	\$8,171,767	(\$335,667)
OREC System Development	\$50,000	\$86,600	(\$36,600)
**Total	\$13,566,876	\$13,135,055	\$431,821

* Totals represent the utilization of prior year budgeted funding being committed in the current compliance year.

** Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Sources of Funds and Funding Proposal

NYSERDA proposes to fund its 2026 administration of the Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 4, and OREC programs with revenues

received in the previous years including bid fees, contract forfeitures, and interest income. The Petition notes that the Commission has previously authorized NYSERDA to use these funds to offset the costs of administering these programs, and NYSERDA anticipates ending calendar year 2025 with approximately \$32,573,318 in current year surplus resulting in an overall surplus of \$172,447,539 as shown in Table 4. This sum includes \$40,400,000 in ACP collections which will no longer be collected as of the 2025 compliance year per the Tier 1 Transition Order referenced above. Table 4 also illustrates the necessary transfers to the OREC, Tier 2, and Tier 4 programs to mitigate the ratepayer impact of CES program costs through funding the administrative costs of these programs with surplus Tier 1 program funds. NYSERDA proposes to continue funding the Tier 3/ZEC program through an administrative adder.

Table 4. Preliminary Estimate of CES RES Surplus Funding	
	Amount
Beginning Surplus/(Deficit), January 1, 2025	\$139,874,221
Revenue/Source of Funds (Tier 1)	
Renewable Energy Credit Proceeds	\$55,867,000
Alternative Compliance Payments	\$40,400,000
Voluntary Compliance Payments	\$360,000
Management/Bid Fees	\$3,000,000
Contract Security and Bid Deposits	\$11,224,193
Investment Income	\$7,484,311
Total Tier 1 Revenue	\$118,335,504
Expense/Use of Funds (Tier 1)	
Program Administration	\$7,935,709

Program Support	\$2,817,500
System Development Costs	\$710,000
REC Payments to Generating Facilities	\$55,867,000
NYS Cost Recovery Fee	\$825,319
Total Tier 1 Expense	\$68,155,528
Transfers to Other Funds	
Transfer to OREC	\$13,925,232
Transfer to Tier 2	\$159,498
Transfer to Tier 4	\$3,521,928
Total Transfer from Tier 1 to Other Funds	\$17,606,658
Surplus/(Deficit), 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	\$32,573,318
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit), December 31, 2025*	\$172,447,539

*Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Pursuant to the State Administrative Procedure Act (SAPA) §202(1), a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice) was published in the State Register on August 27, 2025 [SAPA No. 15-E-0302SP70]. The time for submission of comments pursuant to the Notice expired on October 27, 2025. Comments were received by the Alliance for Clean Energy New York, the New York Offshore Wind Alliance, and Advanced Energy United (collectively, Environmental Entities), and the Public Utility Law Project (PULP), and are summarized below.

COMMENTS

The Environmental Entities support NYSERDA's petition for the proposed CES 2026 administrative budget. They maintain that having a fully staffed agency is critical for NYSERDA to

meet the State's climate objectives. They note the budget is six percent lower than last year and reducing the budget any further would have adverse impacts. They support a modest increase in the CES workforce especially the land-based renewables and its ability to meet current and growing needs of procurement. Further, the Environmental Entities suggest that the Clean Energy Siting team should have the appropriate resources and staffing to effectively carry out its work related to the support NYSERDA offers to local governments to manage responsible clean energy development in their communities.

PULP urges the Commission to grant a one-time allocation of \$50 million from the CES RES surplus funds toward direct bill relief for low-income customers enrolled in their utility's Energy Affordability Program (EAP). PULP notes that in 2024, the Commission rejected their proposal to direct a portion of then-approximately \$147 million in CES RES surplus funds to provide targeted relief to low-income customers. PULP adds that the Commission cited concerns that the use of surplus CES RES funds for bill credits would require future collections to cover NYSERDA administrative costs. However, PULP states the petition shows the surplus has grown by \$32 million, mostly due to collections of ACPs. PULP adds that even without the collection of ACPs, NYSERDA is still projected to have a surplus of \$132 million, four times more than the proposed CES 2026 administrative budget. PULP argues that the Commission's concerns about future collections from ratepayers has not materialized, and NYSERDA has more than sufficient reserves to cover multiple years of administrative costs without additional collections from ratepayers. PULP asserts that Solar for All and the New York Power Authority's Renewable Energy Access and Community Help program (REACH) are important, but they only

provide modest assistance and do not reach all EAP-eligible households.

PULP maintains that the one-time appropriation is consistent with the Commission's original intent to offset the cost to ratepayers for RES programs. PULP also asserts that this approach would align with the equity and affordability goals outlined in Section 7(2) of the CLCPA, which obligates all state agencies, including the Commission, to ensure that disadvantaged communities are not disproportionately impacted by the clean energy transition. Finally, PULP notes that the Commission has exercised discretion in reallocating surplus funds in other contexts for energy affordability. Lastly, PULP supports NYSERDA's petition for the CES 2026 compliance year as it is essential that NYSERDA has adequate funding to continue its administration and oversight.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Commission's authority derives from the New York State Public Service Law (PSL), through which numerous legislative powers are delegated to the Commission. Pursuant to PSL §5(1), the "jurisdiction, supervision, powers and duties" of the Commission extend to the "manufacture, conveying, transportation, sale or distribution of ... electricity." PSL §5(2) requires the Commission to "encourage all persons and corporations subject to its jurisdiction to formulate and carryout long-range programs, individually or cooperatively, for the performance of their public service responsibilities with economy, efficiency, and care for the public safety, the preservation of environmental values and the conservation of natural resources." PSL §66(2) provides that the Commission shall "examine or investigate the methods employed by [] persons, corporations and municipalities in manufacturing,

distributing and supplying ... electricity ... and have power to order such reasonable improvements as well as promote the public interest, preserve the public health and protect those using such gas or electricity”

PSL §4(1) also expressly provides the Commission with “all powers necessary or proper to enable [the Commission] to carry out the purposes of [the PSL]” including, without limitation, a guarantee to the public of safe and adequate service at just and reasonable rates, environmental stewardship, and the conservation of resources. Further, PSL §65 provides the Commission with authority to ensure that “every electric corporation and every municipality shall furnish and provide such service, instrumentalities and facilities as shall be safe and adequate and in all respects, just and reasonable.” The Commission also has authority to prescribe the “safe, efficient and adequate property, equipment and appliances thereafter to be used, maintained and operated for the security and accommodation of the public” whenever the Commission determines that the utility’s existing equipment is “unsafe, inefficient or inadequate.” In addition to the PSL, the New York State Energy Law §6-104(5)(b) requires that “[a]ny energy-related action or decision of a state agency, board, commission or authority shall be reasonably consistent with the forecasts and the policies and long-range energy planning objectives and strategies contained in the plan, including its most recent update.”

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

It’s been a long-standing Commission policy to pursue renewable generation at the least cost and risk to the ratepayers. In each solicitation, NYSERDA and the Commission are mindful of the cost to ratepayers when awarding projects and that policy carries through all aspects of the CES and the CLCPA

implementation. Affordability for ratepayers is a top priority for the Commission and as part of its review, the Commission examined ways to reduce the costs of the administration of the CES, while providing NYSERDA with the appropriate level of funding to complete its workload. The Commission approves the RES and ZEC program budgets, with the modifications described below.

The NYSERDA-proposed administrative budget of \$34,784,598 represents a decrease of approximately six percent from the 2025 authorized budget of \$36,935,013. NYSERDA's 2026 proposed budget represents an overall net reduction of four FTE positions, mainly the result of not backfilling offshore wind vacancies. However, there is a slight increase in Tier 4 staffing (0.45 FTE) due to programmatic activity necessary to support the commercial operation of CHPE in 2026 that is not new staff, but the shifting of internal resources.

With the understanding that NYSERDA's CES administration includes direct labor, indirect labor, staff augmentation, and traditional general and administrative expenses, the Petition does not provide total clarity as to the allocation of these overhead/indirect costs within each department area (e.g., Land Based Renewables and Settlements). This information by department area is an important part of the overall budget for the Commission to review and understand clearly. Therefore, a breakdown of the various overhead components (e.g., rent/utilities, external legal support, staff augmentation and other contracted support, and other administrative expenses.) is warranted. Thus, NYSERDA is directed to file, within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, a breakdown of the overhead costs by category, grouped and segregated appropriately, that also breaks out the FTEs of each administrative department separately as is performed with

its program staffing schedule in alignment with Table B.1 in Appendix B of the Petition. Additionally, with affordability concerns top of mind, the Commission makes clear that NYSERDA shall not add additional staff on top of what is approved in this Order, or backfill any associated vacancies that occur during the 2026 Compliance Period.

The Technical Support budgets represent a large portion of the CES administrative budget. The main driver for the Tier 4 Technical Support budget is the contracting of subject matter expertise to support the review of the Demand Side Management Accounting Plan that H.Q. Energy Services is required to file prior to CHPE reaching commercial operation. The budget will also fund subject matter expertise to support the administration of the Minimum Delivery, the Supplier Greenhouse Gas Baseline, Additional Solar and Wind Resources, Qualified Renewable Energy Resource eligibility, Disadvantaged Communities benefits reporting, and metering compliance components of the Tier 4 agreement. The OREC Technical Support budget funding includes the oversight of the 1.7 GWs of projects under construction, the advancement of the offshore wind supply chain and providing workforce development and project impact analysis. Funding will also support continued engagement with industry stakeholders.

Regarding the Tier 1 program, the program budget must remain dynamic to reflect the recent developments in the renewable energy industry largely based on federal policy changes in 2025. NYSERDA continues to manage a portfolio of 100-plus land-based contracts for projects in operation, under development or under construction. NYSERDA has taken the appropriate steps to ensure that staffing remains at levels to support and manage the Tier 1 projects under contract through their various stages of development while being mindful of

ratepayer costs. NYSERDA reduced the Tier 1 system development budget by 44% as promised in the 2025 administrative budget once the NYGATS contractor administrator was chosen. NYSERDA also held the line on the Tier 1 Technical Support budget with no proposed increase.

A portion of the funds pertaining to Tier 1 is for continued support of the A-TWG which has been funded significantly in previous budgets. The A-TWG is an independent advisory body to the State that guides and informs efforts in advancing renewable energy development. The A-TWG has been funded through both the CES and the Clean Energy Fund (CEF) to support both distributed solar and onshore large-scale renewable projects. With recent NYSERDA announcements that highlight its funding of successful solar projects sited on agricultural lands, it appears NYSERDA has successfully integrated the concepts of the A-TWG into its operations. More specifically, NYSERDA recently announced awards for \$7 million of new funding: (1) \$5 million to support continued research by Cornell University to construct agrivoltaic projects at its Agricultural Experiment Station sites in the Hudson Valley and Finger Lakes that will conduct long term research on the dual-use of solar operations and agriculture practices across a range of growing conditions and crops relevant to State agricultural producers; and (2) \$2 million to support four demonstration projects that will enable NYSERDA and researchers to understand the costs, benefits, and lessons learned related to agrivoltaics, and share data that can be used to develop best practices. For these reasons, the Commission adopts a decrease in the Technical Support line item of \$500,000, bringing the revised 2026 budget line for this item to \$2,317,500. This reduction reflects significant new market activity just announced for agrivoltaics and the success of the A-TWG while still allowing NYSERDA to

continue to develop agrivoltaics and the other efforts related to Tier 1 and large-scale renewable projects, and reflects the appropriate level of work anticipated going forward.

Regarding the OSW program, the loss of three offshore wind projects is partially reflected in the reduction of OREC staffing levels and the Technical Support budget. However, the offshore wind's Technical Support budget is still over 50% of the total Technical Support budget in all four categories and has been allocated over \$37 million between 2020 and 2025. When the State had eight active OSW projects, the funding was appropriate to address the startup of a new industry in New York. But the landscape has drastically changed and there is no certainty as to when the industry will resume growing again in New York. At a time when ratepayers are concerned about affordability, it is our responsibility to protect ratepayers from unnecessary costs. Reducing the OSW Technical Support budget even further than the proposed \$5,678,000 to \$2,839,000 will provide continued support for the two remaining projects under construction and activities surrounding those projects, while taking a more measured approach on areas that should not continue until further certainty is reached.

Regarding PULP's request to allocate \$50 million to bill credits for EAP customers, the Commission reiterates its decision that surplus RES funds must be used to offset future RES costs to the ratepayers. Over the years, parties have expressed support of using the RES surplus funds for various reasons and the Commission has been consistent with its policy.⁶ PULP notes that the surplus grew by \$40 million due to the

⁶ See Case 15-E-0302, Order Approving Administrative Funding (issued December 20, 2024) and Order Approving 2020 Clean Energy Standard Administrative Budget (issued November 14, 2019).

collection of ACPs. While that is true, 2024 was the last year that ACPs were collected so ACPs will not have any impact on future RES surplus levels. Accordingly, the projected surplus of approximately \$172 million is anticipated to decrease in the coming years, and thus may require additional ratepayer collections to cover the CES administrative costs. We appreciate PULP’s suggestion to provide support to EAP customers and note that the Commission has been focused on energy affordability policies and recently enacted the Solar for All program and NYPA’s REACH program to provide bill credits to EAP customers. Moreover, the Commission’s enhanced EAP efforts are designed to provide energy bill relief for additional customers beyond those enrolled in EAPs, furthering relief for vulnerable ratepayers. The Commission thus rejects PULP’s proposal.

For the reasons described above, the Commission approves NYSERDA’s CES program budget at a reduced level of \$31,484,598 for the 2026 compliance year with modifications described in the body of this Order. The approved 2026 compliance period RES and ZEC budget is contained in Table 5 below. The Commission also approves the proposed reconciliation of CES compliance year 2024 administrative expenses.

Table 5. CES Year 2026 Budget						
Program Area	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3/ZECR	Tier 4	OREC	Totals
Salaries & Overhead	\$8,862,619	\$105,729	\$789,547	\$1,453,501	\$5,233,797	\$16,445,193
Technical Support	\$2,317,500	\$0	\$125,000	\$2,160,000	\$2,878,000	\$7,480,500
System Development	\$395,333	\$0	\$150,000	\$420,333	\$395,333	\$1,360,999
Subtotal	\$11,575,452	\$105,729	\$1,064,547	\$4,033,834	\$8,507,130	\$28,286,692

NYS Cost Recovery Fee	\$698,767	\$1,642	\$3,663,442	\$1,732,291	\$101,764	\$6,197,906
Total*	\$12,274,219	\$107,371	\$4,727,989	\$5,766,125	\$8,608,894	\$31,484,598

The Commission orders:

1. The 2026 Clean Energy Standard administrative budget of \$31,484,598 is approved, as discussed in the body of this Order.

2. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority is authorized to use previously collected revenues including bid fees, forfeited contract security funds, Alternative Compliance Payments received, and interest income to fund administration of the Renewable Energy Standard for the 2026 Clean Energy Standard compliance period, and is authorized to fund the Zero-Emission Credit program for the 2026 compliance period through the existing Zero-Emission Credit Adder, as discussed in the body of this Order.

3. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority shall undertake no new Clean Energy Standard hires or backfill vacancies for the remainder of 2025 or in 2026 without prior Public Service Commission approval.

4. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority shall file, within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, a breakdown of the overhead costs by category, grouped and segregated appropriately, that also breaks out the Full Time Equivalents of each administrative department separately as is performed with its program staffing schedule, as discussed in the body of this Order.

5. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority shall continue to file Quarterly reports containing itemized expenses associated with the administration of the Renewable Energy Standard and Zero-Emission Credit programs.

6. In the Secretary's sole discretion, the deadlines set forth in this Order may be extended. Any request for an extension must be in writing, must include a justification for the extension, and must be filed at least three days prior to the affected deadline.

7. This proceeding is continued.

By the Commission,

(SIGNED)

MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS
Secretary