

CHAPTER 38

BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION POLICY ACT

§3801. Short title

This chapter may be known and cited as "the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act." [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).

§3802. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

1. Beneficial electrification. "Beneficial electrification" has the same meaning as in section 10102, subsection 3-A. [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

1-A. Beneficial load. "Beneficial load" means:

A. An increase in electric load that is consistent with the principles of beneficial electrification; or [PL 2023, c. 553, §2 (NEW).]

B. The excess electrical capacity within the grid, the use of which is consistent with beneficial electrification and, when feasible, avoids the need for significant investment in or expenditures for additional grid infrastructure. [PL 2023, c. 553, §2 (NEW).]

"Beneficial load" includes electric load that is used to reduce peak demand or shift the demand to lower cost time periods.

[PL 2023, c. 553, §2 (NEW).]

2. Office. "Office" means the Governor's Energy Office.

[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

3. Renewable resource. "Renewable resource" has the same meaning as in section 3210, subsection 2, paragraph C.

[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

4. Trust. "Trust" means the Efficiency Maine Trust.

[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 553, §2 (AMD).

§3803. Support for policy of beneficial electrification

1. Petition for renewable resources procurement. The office may petition the commission to procure energy from renewable resources to achieve the emission reduction and renewable energy goals of the State and to meet reasonably expected growth in electric demand.

A. In developing a petition for procurement of energy from renewable resources, the office shall consult with relevant departments and agencies. [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

B. The commission shall evaluate a petition submitted by the office in accordance with section 3804 and may through a competitive procurement process established by the commission by rule procure energy from one or more renewable resources. The commission may direct a transmission

and distribution utility to enter into a long-term contract for the energy procured. Rules adopted to implement this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

2. Plan for promoting beneficial electrification for end uses of energy. The trust shall develop a 3-year beneficial electrification plan for end uses of energy as part of the trust's triennial plan in accordance with section 10104, subsection 4 and provide annual updates to the plan in accordance with section 10104, subsection 6.

A. In developing its beneficial electrification plan for end uses that promotes beneficial electrification, the trust shall:

- (1) Consult with relevant departments and agencies;
- (2) Consider incentivizing the appropriate placement of and promoting commercial or industrial beneficial load; and
- (3) Integrate the ongoing energy planning efforts of the office as appropriate. [PL 2023, c. 553, §3 (NEW).]

B. In developing its beneficial electrification plan under this subsection, the trust shall consider:

- (1) Incorporating the assumptions and advancing the findings and recommendations of the office in its "Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040" study launched in August 2023, part of the comprehensive state energy plan required by Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C;
- (2) Whether, in order to enable more efficient generation and transmission planning, a certain type or location of electric load is beneficial load;
- (3) Integrating with and informing the commission's consideration of grid planning priorities pursuant to section 3147; and
- (4) Seeking input from transmission and distribution utilities and relevant agencies and organizations in the State. [PL 2023, c. 553, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 553, §3 (AMD).]

3. Funding and reporting. Notwithstanding sections 116 and 117, at the request of the office, the commission may transfer money from funds in the Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund or the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund to the office to pay for the costs associated with a petition for a procurement of energy from renewable resources under subsection 1 and, at the request of the trust, to the trust to implement the 3-year beneficial electrification plan included in the triennial plan under subsection 2. At the end of any year in which the commission has transferred money under this subsection to the office or the trust, the office or the trust, respectively, shall provide a report to the commission detailing its fund requests, money received and expenditures.

[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

4. Monitoring beneficial electrification trends and opportunities. To the extent possible through readily available information, the office, the commission and the trust shall coordinate to monitor:

- A. All beneficial electrification activity in the State and the effect of the commission's actions under section 3804; [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Trends in beneficial electrification in the State and in other jurisdictions; and [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]
- C. The estimated costs and benefits for ratepayers of beneficial electrification programs occurring as a result of this chapter and other programs that have been implemented in the State. [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 553, §3 (AMD).

§3804. Commission advancement of clean energy and beneficial electrification

The commission shall advance through its decisions and orders beneficial electrification in order to achieve the emission reduction and renewable energy goals of the State, reduce energy costs to consumers and provide economic and climate benefits for all ratepayers. The commission shall seek to procure energy under section 3803, subsection 1, paragraph B in a manner that is consistent with beneficial electrification. To the extent practicable, the commission shall seek to ensure that the acquisition of energy from renewable resources under section 3803, subsection 1, paragraph B is designed to procure sufficient energy to meet the portfolio requirements under section 3210 for the reasonably expected increase in use of electricity by retail electricity consumers. [PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).

§3805. Reporting

1. Commission report. The commission shall include in its annual report under section 120, subsection 7 a summary of its activities in accordance with this chapter.

[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

2. Office report. The office shall include in its annual report under Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C-1 a summary of its activities in accordance with this chapter.

[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

3. Trust report. The trust shall include in its annual report under section 10104, subsection 5 a summary of its activities in accordance with this chapter.

[PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 328, §1 (NEW).

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