

Executive Director's Report March 2024

Delmarva Memorandum of Agreement – The MOA agreement with Delmarva Power has been signed and the energy efficiency partnership through the Home Energy Counseling and Checkup program is set to launch April 1st. This program supports eligible low-income customers with an average of \$240 in direct install measures, energy education, and information on other program opportunities such as Weatherization and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Energy Efficiency Investment Fund Non-Profits (EEIF Non-Profits) – The contract with Applied Energy Group (AEG) has been signed. The program is available to entities that do not pay the public utility tax and mirrors DNREC's EEIF program. There has been tremendous collaboration with DNREC and their program administrator, NV5, in setting up EEIF Non-Profits.

Farm Rebate – We recently provided a farm incentive for insulation, brood curtains, vent boxes, air sealing, and other efficiency within the 9 poultry houses. The insulation has been completed and the total avoided emissions is 263 metric tons of CO₂. This is equivalent to 58 vehicles for one year or 51 homes' electricity usage for a year. It is one of the largest savings we have seen in farm efficiency on a single project.

State Collaboration –

DNREC Revolving Loan Fund - We continue to collaborate with DNREC on matching the commercial loan program with their revolving loan funds. There is a project application underway where both programs would provide funding for a commercial entity. If approved and finalized, the project would be one of the largest roof-mounted net metered projects in the state.

Value of Solar Study – Senate Joint Resolution 3, sponsored by Senator Hansen, has been signed by the Governor. This legislation requests the DESEU to perform a Value of Solar Study for the state's utilities utilizing an RFI and RFP. We will not know the cost of this research until an RFP is considered and thereafter presented to the Board.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Rebate – House Substitute 1 for House Bill 13, sponsored by Representative Phillips, has been introduced in the House and is awaiting action by the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee. This legislation requests the DESEU to initiate a rebate program for installation of electric vehicle supply equipment.

EV Education Website – With the state's push towards electrification, we saw a gap in education for customers interested in electric vehicles. Similar to the Solar Delaware website, the EV website will provide educational resources to the public before purchase. The website should go live this month.

Research and Development Guidelines – We continue to review R&D guidelines to present to the Board and hope to provide more information during the Board Retreat on April 19th. One challenge is the federal definition of R&D, which can vary by agency, versus pilot programs. For instance, the Value

of Solar Study could be considered R&D; however, Climate Smart Homes or Passive House would not. Additionally, a majority of R&D funding in Delaware has been provided to academia for research. We will continue to work on guidelines and defining R&D projects.

Annual Report – The 2023 annual report is being finalized and sent to the printers. Hard copies should be available to the Board at the April 19th Board Retreat.

Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC) Prebuy Program – The DEC Prebuy program is set to launch in the next few weeks. This program provides up to \$2,000 to residential customers and up to \$10,000 to commercial customers in exchange for their Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) rights. This program is similar to the Delmarva Power Prebuy program but with overall lower rebate amounts since it is not attached to each customer's utility bill.

Energy Star® Award Update – With the fluctuation in Energy Star® from the Department of Energy to Environmental Protection Agency, we were not awarded the Energy Star® Partner of the Year Award. This is the first time in seven years where we have not received the award. We did inquire as to why we were not awarded and what we can do better in the future to obtain the partner honor.

Office Building – We continue to have no action from the building management in relation to water leaks in Suite 450 despite my near weekly follow up requests with management.