



**CLEAN ENERGY NH**

Your Voice in All Energy Matters

54 Portsmouth Street | Concord, NH 03301 | 603.226.4732

## **North Country Energy Circuit Rider Program**

### **FACT SHEET**

*January 2019*

#### **What is the North Country Energy Circuit Rider (ECR) Program?**

In December 2018, Clean Energy NH was awarded a three-year grant from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund to deliver technical assistance for energy projects to North Country municipalities and communities. The program will focus on four areas of energy project development: *(1) Energy Use/Cost Tracking and Benchmarking; (2) Project Identification; (3) Funding and Financing; and (4) Implementation.*

#### **What is an Energy Circuit Rider?**

An Energy Circuit Rider is a shared staff person providing services to multiple cities and towns across a region. The Energy Circuit Rider will help municipalities plan, finance, and implement energy-saving upgrades to buildings and infrastructure as well as projects that focus on renewable energy technologies. Working side-by-side with municipal officials, ECRs provide capacity and expertise to support informed decision-making.

#### **Why is the Energy Circuit Rider program needed?**

The need for the North Country ECR Program was identified during a series of stakeholder workshops organized by the Tillotson Fund and Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. North Country communities experience higher energy burdens (proportion of income spent on energy) than the rest of the state. Municipalities often lack dedicated staff capacity necessary to implement beneficial energy projects. While energy funding, financing, and technical assistance services exist, there is often a gap between the organizations offering these services and the demand. The ECR program will address these challenges.

#### **What are the benefits of the ECR Program?**

The ECR Program will result in energy projects that reduce energy costs for participating municipalities and stimulate economic activity in the local energy economy. The ECR Program will also build the capacity of municipalities to implement future beneficial energy projects.

#### **Who will implement the ECR Program?**

Clean Energy NH will manage the ECR Program. In the first Quarter of 2019, Clean Energy NH will conduct a hiring process for an Energy Circuit Rider. The Energy Circuit Rider will be



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located in the North Country. Once the hiring process is complete, the Energy Circuit Rider and Clean Energy NH Staff will work together to (1) identify municipalities interested in participating in the ECR program; and (2) work with community leaders in those municipalities to identify and implement energy projects that provide value to the communities, economic and otherwise.

**Who are the partners contributing to the ECR program?**

Energy projects are complex and often involve numerous entities including utilities, state agencies, funding and financing institutions, contractors, and more. Clean Energy NH has established relationships with many of these organizations and will work to coordinate resources and information among them to streamline municipal energy projects.

**What kinds of energy projects will the ECR Program pursue?**

Any energy projects that reduce costs for municipalities and provide other local benefits will be considered. Oftentimes it will make sense to prioritize energy efficiency projects, including lighting and appliance upgrades, building weatherization, and retrofits. The program will examine the potential for fuel switching, beneficial electrification, modern wood heating, solar energy, etc. The program will also seek to create economies of scale through project aggregations and partnerships.

**Which municipalities are eligible to participate in the ECR program?**

The ECR Program will partner with up to eight municipalities in a phased approach over the course of the three year program. All municipalities in Coös County are eligible to participate. Municipalities will be selected for participation based on need and willingness to work collaboratively to realize the benefits of local energy projects in their communities.

**How do I learn more about the ECR Program?**

To learn more about the ECR Program, please contact Clean Energy NH's Director of Local Energy Solutions, Henry Herndon at [henry@cleanenergynh.org](mailto:henry@cleanenergynh.org) or 781-439-2177.