

COMMISSIONER
Jared S. Chicoine

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-1526

Website:
www.energy.nh.gov

August 23, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) requests authority to continue its membership and participation in the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), Vendor # 218801, for an amount of \$17,800, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024. **100% Other (Renewable Energy Fund)**

Funding is available in account Renewable Energy Fund, Organizational Dues, as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>
02-52-52-520510-18900000-026-500251	Membership Fees	\$17,800.00

EXPLANATION

CESA is a national nonprofit organization that works with municipal, state, and federal agencies as well as other organizations to promote and develop clean energy technologies, and to create and expand the market for these technologies. It facilitates and supports collaborative initiatives, provides technical assistance, coordinates multi-state collaborative projects, and develops analysis and studies designed to accelerate clean energy deployment. Department membership in CESA provides the Department with a range of services and technical support. Such services and support are provided as an integral part of membership participation. Of particular benefit is the support CESA provides to member states as they develop and refine programs such as the low moderate income solar program and the development of offshore wind. This type of support will be particularly critical as the state receives large amounts of one-time money from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. CESA's approach is to emphasize strategies and best practices that effectively address financing challenges, promote technological innovation, and encourage economic development.

Membership dues are paid from the Renewable Energy Fund, established pursuant to RSA 362-F:10. The amount budgeted for this membership was established during the biennium budget process but the annual dues are determined based on the proceeds directed to the Renewable Energy Fund (i.e. alternative compliance payments). Revenues for fiscal year 2023 were approximately \$7.3 million (unaudited).

The Department has now aligned with CESA's billing cycle, so this request is for a full year of annual dues, while last year's request only covered six months of dues.

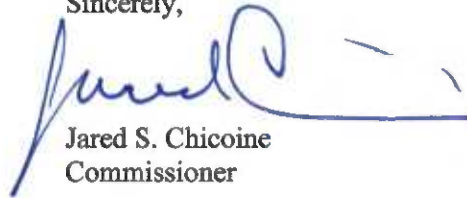
CESA Membership Dues Questions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization? **Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) was founded in 2002. NH has been a member since 2010**
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to? **There is no other organization that provides the same or similar benefits to the Department**
3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member? **18 other states and the District of Columbia belong. The Department is the sole state agency that is a member, although as the primary member, the Department can designate up to two (2) other agencies as affiliate members.**
4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.) **Membership fees are based on the member's annual renewable energy program budget, with tiered dues levels. New Hampshire is in the fourth tier group (annual budget of \$3 million or greater, but less than \$9 million) with dues of \$17,800.**
5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership? **As a member of the CESA organization, the state will have access to the collective expertise of a national network of experts to study clean energy challenges and develop solutions including, for example, through direct assistance on program design, and information sharing through CESA projects focused on Low-Moderate Income Community Solar, Energy Storage, Off-Shore Wind, Grid Modernization, Renewable Heating and Cooling, and Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). In addition, through CESA, state clean energy program managers are able to learn about and evaluate innovation and best practices from across the country to continually improve the effectiveness of clean energy program investments.**
6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail. **The cost for training and educational/research materials is included in the membership. CESA hosts informational webinars so CESA members can receive updates on project initiatives and results, recent developments in the clean energy field including offshore wind, and timely clean energy updates and opportunities for inter-member and member-federal collaborations. CESA also maintains a Members-Only section of the CESA website, which contains news updates exclusively compiled for Members, important notices relevant to CESA member programs, notices of upcoming members-only webinars, and presentations and recordings from member webinars and in-person meetings. In addition, CESA hosts collaborative session(s) annually where members can meet (in-person or virtually) with their national colleagues, discuss successes and challenges in their programs, develop new joint projects, and learn about the opportunities available to their programs through innovative finance, policy, and market initiatives. The meeting(s) also feature advice from and dialogue with leading representatives of clean energy finance, storage technologies, industry, federal agencies, and other stakeholders. Members receive complementary registration to these meeting(s), including meals. Also included is ongoing access to the meeting materials.**
7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain. **No, membership in CESA is not required in order to receive federal grants or participate in licensing or certification exams.**
8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips. **No travel is included with this membership fee.**

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization?) **All staff can be involved in CESA activities such as training and seminars, although primarily staff of Sustainable participate. Currently, the Department does not have any members on the CESA Board, and therefore, does not vote in CESA Board meetings.**
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization. **The Department manages the state's Renewable Energy Fund (REF), which finances renewable energy projects and initiatives through grant and rebate programs. The Department relies on CESA for guidance in designing and implementing these programs, benefitting from the collective experience of the other members states as well as CESA's staff. If the Department did not belong to CESA, the State would not have access to research on clean energy matters, extensive training opportunities, collaborative sessions with colleagues in federal agencies and other states, and nationwide information on best practices to use in administering the REF and implementing programs.**

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared S. Chicoine", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

Attachment: CESA Invoice



50 State Street, Suite 1
 Montpelier, VT 05602
 USA
 EIN: 27-0029803
 Voice: 802-223-2554

Contact us for electronic payment information.

INVOICE

Invoice Number: FY 24 MBR-NH
 Invoice Date: Jul 1, 2023
 Page: 1

Duplicate

Bill To:
NH Department of Energy Joshua Elliott 21 Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

Ship to:
Joshua Elliott NH Office of Energy & Planning 21 Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

Customer ID	Customer PO	Payment Terms	
NHOFEN01		Net 60 Days	
Sales Rep ID	Shipping Method	Ship Date	Due Date
	Electronic		9/1/23

Quantity	Item	Description	Unit Price	Amount
		Year 21 (Fiscal Year 2024) Assessment Core Member of Good Standing July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024		17,800.00
Subtotal				17,800.00
Sales Tax				
Total Invoice Amount				17,800.00
Payment/Credit Applied				
TOTAL				17,800.00

Check/Credit Memo No: