



Sustainable Energy Trust Fund

Incentive Type: Public Benefits Fund

Eligible Efficiency

Technologies: Yes; specific technologies not identified

Eligible Renewable/Other Solar Water Heat, Solar Space Heat, Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Wind, Biomass,

Technologies: Hydroelectric, Anaerobic Digestion, Tidal Energy

Applicable Sectors: Commercial, Industrial, Residential, General Public/Consumer, Utility, Institutional

Types: Energy efficiency, low-income assistance, renewables

Total Fund: \$7.5 million in 2009

\$15 million in 2010

\$17.5 million in 2011

\$20 million in 2012 and each subsequent year

Charge: Non-bypassable surcharge based on kWh use

Authority 1: [D.C. Code § 34-1514](#)

Date Enacted: 5/9/2000

Effective Date: 1/1/2001

Authority 2: Council Bill 17-492

Date Enacted: 10/6/2008

Effective Date: 10/6/2008

Summary:

The District of Columbia's Retail Electric Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1999 required the DC Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish a public benefits fund to provide energy assistance to low-income residents, and to support energy-efficiency programs and renewable-energy programs. This fund, known as the Reliable Energy Trust Fund (RETF), took effect in 2001. In October 2008, the District of Columbia enacted the Clean and Affordable Energy Act, which effectively eliminated the RETF and replaced it with the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund (SETF). This program will be administered by a third-party "Sustainable Energy Utility" (SEU) which will be selected to develop, coordinate, and provide programs for the purpose of promoting the sustainable use of energy in the District of Columbia.

The SETF is financed by a non-bypassable surcharge on the electric and natural gas bills of utility customers who are not Residential Aid Discount (RAD) or Residential Essential Service customers. The surcharge for natural gas customers is calculated on a per therm basis and is assessed at \$0.011 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, \$0.012 in FY 2010, and \$0.014 in FY 2012 and each subsequent year. The surcharge for electric customers is calculated on a per-kilowatt-hour basis and is assessed at \$0.0011 in FY 2009, \$0.0013 in FY 2010 and \$0.0015 in FY 2011 and each subsequent year.

In the past, the RETF program supported weatherization measures; appliance replacements for low-income residents; RAD extension; LIHEAP expansion and education; energy efficiency for small businesses, institutions and non profits; Energy Star appliance and lighting rebates, home energy ratings and loan promotions, public education and outreach, distributed generation and net metering; and renewable-energy demonstration projects.

This fund is projected to eventually amount to about \$20 million a year, plus any money from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Like the RETF that it replaced, unused SETF funding will carry over to the following year rather than lapsing at the end of the fiscal year.

Contact:

Ralph McMillan
District Department of the Environment
Energy Division
2000 14th Street, NW, 300 East
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 535-2460
Fax: (202) 673-6725
Web site: <http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe>