

# 2018–2020 ESFB AND BUILDING TUNE-UP PROGRAM FUNDING UPDATES AND WAIT-LISTING PROCESS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. What programs are affected?**

The restrictions only apply to the Energy Solutions for Business and Building Tune-up Programs at this time, which covers all Prescriptive, Custom and New Construction/Major Renovation incentives.

### **2. Does this affect the Instant Discounts, Combined Heat and Power or Small Business Energy Solutions programs?**

No, not at this time. But, depending on the level of activity in those programs during the second half of the year, it may be necessary to restrict those programs. Please check the website for updates and monitor your emails for any future announcements.

### **3. I have a project that was pre-approved already – will this be affected?**

No. All projects that have already been pre-approved have incentives reserved and will be able to claim an incentive upon completion of the pre-approved scope of work. Please note that Prescriptive, Custom and Building Tune-up projects are only valid for six months from the date of pre-approval, while New Construction and Major Renovation projects are valid for up to one year from the date of pre-approval.

### **4. I am about to submit an application – will it be affected?**

Yes. All new applications will be wait-listed based on the date of application. It's still important to submit the application in order to obtain an Authorization to Proceed. Furthermore, BGE will continue to pre-approve projects on a limited basis as funds become available.

### **5. I recently submitted an application but haven't yet received pre-approval – will it be affected?**

Yes. All new applications will be wait-listed based on the date of application. It's still important to submit the application in order to obtain an Authorization to Proceed. Furthermore, BGE will continue to pre-approve projects on a limited basis as funds become available.

### **6. How might more funds become available?**

Funds for previously pre-approved projects may become available as some of the projects are canceled. Funds for canceled projects will then become available to apply to new applications for the purpose of issuing pre-approval reservations.

## **7. What does “at risk” mean?**

“At risk” means that customers and Service Providers can proceed with the installation work once they’ve applied and received an Authorization to Proceed. However, they do so with the understanding that no money is available to reserve for their project at this time. If they complete the project before funds are available and it has been pre-approved, then they will not be able to submit the project for close-out in order to receive an incentive payment. It also means that should the Public Service Commission decide not to approve funds for the new program cycle and no additional funds become available, the project will not receive an incentive. However, whether completed, underway or planned, should funds become available, a pre-approval reservation will be issued for the project at which point the project can claim its incentive payment upon submission of closeout documents.

## **8. Is the program running out of money?**

The Commercial and Industrial (C&I) portfolio still has adequate funding available to maintain operations and cover payments on all previously pre-approved applications. The restrictions are being considered due to the high volume of projects pre-approved and completed over the previous two-and-a-half years of the program cycle. Accounting for the rate of pre-approvals from past years and the approaching end of the current program cycle, BGE was concerned that it would reach a point at which the pipeline of pre-approved projects currently underway would exceed the available incentive budgets for the current cycle. In order to continue operations across all programs within the portfolio – and to ensure that all currently pre-approved and any newly pre-approved projects can receive committed incentive funds – BGE is using the waitlist to provide stricter control and better oversight of the remaining budget reserved for incoming applications.

## **9. Will the program shut down?**

BGE is not intending to shut down any programs completely this year, but it must preserve funds to continue operating its full portfolio and ensure payment of previously pre-approved projects. Filings for the 2021–2023 program cycle will be submitted to the Public Service Commission this year, but a decision on the new program cycle likely won’t be issued until the end of the year.

## **10. Will pre-approved projects that need revised pre-approval still be eligible?**

Yes. Any project that was previously pre-approved can still request revised pre-approval, although the program cannot guarantee that revised requests that increase pre-approved incentives will be granted. Some restrictions may apply depending on the scope and scale of the revised project and incentive.



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## **11. Will projects that need an extension be able to obtain one?**

BGE will apply a stricter level of scrutiny to requests to extend current pre-approvals. Projects that have already begun or for which installation is imminent may be eligible to request an extension for existing buildings Prescriptive or Custom projects. New Construction, Major Renovation and Combined Heat and Power projects that have long lead times may also be eligible for an extension. Projects that have not yet begun or are not planning to begin may not qualify for an extension to an existing pre-approval in order to free up funds for other projects in the waitlist. Customers and Service Providers can reapply for these projects at any time; however, the resubmitted application will be subject to the wait-listing procedure.

## **12. Will these restrictions apply to Pepco, Delmarva Power, SMECO or Potomac Edison?**

No, this announcement does not apply to other utilities. Please reach out to representatives of those programs for information.

This program supports the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act.

BGE\_CI\_092020



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