



## **C&I CUSTOM PROGRAM UPDATE – SUMMER 2023**

Efficiency Maine’s Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Custom Program provides Maine businesses and institutions with incentives for site-specific energy efficiency projects that are not otherwise covered by prescriptive incentives. Our newsletter keeps interested parties informed about important program updates and recently completed projects.

### **What’s New?**

---

**SAVE THE DATE! Efficiency Maine Annual Event 2023** — Efficiency Maine will host its Annual Event on September 14, 2023, at the Hilton Garden Inn Freeport, 5 Park St., Freeport, ME. The program will feature Recognition and Workshops from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and a Networking Reception from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. You are welcome to join us for all or part of the day, which will also include lunch. Registration details will be available in a few weeks.

**Energy Storage System (ESS) Program Opportunity Notice (PON) Update** – Maine customers (including commercial businesses, non-profits, institutions, and governments) that pay demand charges on their electricity bills are eligible for performance-based incentives for the deployment of battery systems during summer peak demand conditions. The Program is now open to all ESS projects greater than 20kW. For more information, visit <https://www.energymaine.com/energy-storage-system-projects/>.

**Manufacturer PON Update** – Maine manufacturing facilities are eligible for enhanced incentives for thermal efficiency projects that reduce the use of fossil fuels. The annual limitation per entity on incentive awards through this PON has now been increased from \$750,000 to \$1,500,000. For more information, visit <https://www.energymaine.com/manufacturer-thermal-efficiency-projects/>.

**Lead by Example Initiative PON** – Existing Maine State-occupied buildings (owned or leased) currently heated with oil or propane are eligible for beneficial electrification, weatherization, and HVAC controls incentives through this initiative. The initiative is tailored to the State’s procurement process and offers technical assistance funding for architectural and engineering firms to develop design and bid drawings. For more information, visit <https://www.energymaine.com/lead-by-example/>.

### **Recently Completed Projects**

---

#### ***Industrial Beneficial Electrification***

In 2018 a Maine manufacturer\* approached Efficiency Maine’s C&I Custom Program about options for saving energy in its production process. At that time, the company was using a significant amount of energy to remove water from (or “dewater”) its product using steam-driven evaporation.

The facility staff identified an industrial filtration technology that would allow the company to displace the majority of its steam-driven evaporation needs with filtration-based dewatering. The project had a



substantial upfront cost, but with the addition of a large incentive award from Efficiency Maine, local staff was able to secure corporate funding for the project.

After a rigorous design and testing process to identify a suitable design for its facility, the manufacturer successfully installed the new equipment. The filtration equipment is now fully operational, and the site staff reports that it is performing above expectations. The project has reduced most of the company's steam-driven evaporation needs, which has significantly reduced energy costs, helping support the long-term operational and environmental goals of the facility.

- Approximate project cost: \$5,000,000
- Incentive award: \$1,000,000
- Annual energy savings: 150,000 MMBtu of compressed natural gas

*\* This customer asked to remain anonymous due to the competitive nature of its industry.*

#### ***Maine Wild Blueberry – Refrigeration System Upgrades***

Maine Wild Blueberry Company harvests and processes wild blueberries in Machias. Throughout the year, the blueberries undergo various stages of frozen storage and packaging, requiring a large refrigeration driven electrical demand. Leveraging an Efficiency Maine C&I Custom Program incentive, Maine Wild Blueberries replaced two of its single-fan refrigeration condensers with one high-efficiency, three-fan condenser; installed variable frequency drives (VFDs) on all remaining condenser fans, and installed optimizing controls on the compressor plant.

The upgrades not only produced compressor and condenser fan energy savings, but also improved the performance of the refrigeration system.

- Approximate Project Cost: \$240,000
- Efficiency Maine Incentive: \$94,000
- Annual Energy Savings: 340,000 kWh

Photo 1 – Condenser



Photo 2 – VFD Controllers



## Get Started

---

- Watch our C&I Custom Program introductory [video](#).
- Review additional C&I Custom Program eligibility and incentive information on our [website](#).
- Are you interested in saving energy but not sure where to start? Consider a free [Scoping Audit](#).
- Do you have a project idea but need help conducting energy analysis and putting together an application? Consider a [Technical Assistance Study](#).
- Do not hesitate to contact the C&I Custom Program at 207-358-7957 or [custom@efficiencymaine.com](mailto:custom@efficiencymaine.com).