



C&I CUSTOM PROGRAM UPDATE – December 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?

Electric Program Opportunity Notice (PON) Incentive Rate Increase – The Custom Electric savings program has increased its incentive rate for FY24 from \$0.28/kWh to \$0.30/kWh. Cost share and annual limitations remain unchanged. Project types, such as high efficiency compressed air systems, high efficiency chillers, process equipment, VFDs, etc., are eligible. For more information, visit <https://www.energymaine.com/custom-electric-projects/>.

Manufacturer PON Deadline Reminder – Time is running out for manufacturing facilities to access greatly increased incentives for fuel saving projects. The Manufacturer Thermal Efficiency PON closes June 30, 2024, and manufacturers are encouraged to reach out now to start developing project applications. For more information, visit <https://www.energymaine.com/manufacturer-thermal-efficiency-projects/>.

Energy Storage System (ESS) PON Webinar – Good news. If you missed the September 28 webinar about our ESS PON, you can review it [online](#). For program and application information, visit <https://www.energymaine.com/energy-storage-system-projects/>.

See "Success Stories" on following page.

Success Stories

American Unagi – Heat Recovery Ventilation and High-Efficiency Oxygenation

The [American Unagi](#) facility is designed to support the raising of Maine glass eels to adulthood. Historically these baby eels have been caught in Maine and then shipped to Asia to be raised to their adult size and sold to restaurants worldwide. The facility is the first of its kind in North America and began operations at their new facility in Waldoboro last fall. They provide local and nationwide restaurants with live and processed sushi grade eel.

American Unagi's consultant (Aquaculture Consultancy & Engineering) and Efficiency Maine staff worked together to identify two value-added equipment options that would reduce energy costs for the facility. One incentive was awarded for specialized energy recovery ventilators designed to operate in the high humidity conditions of an indoor aquaculture environment. The other incentive was awarded for high-efficiency oxygenation equipment that delivers pumping energy savings.

Both awards support the purchase of specialized equipment specific to the aquaculture industry and offset the additional costs of the high-efficiency equipment options. Process or industry-specific equipment upgrades and options are great candidates for Custom Program funding.

- Additional cost for high-efficiency options: \$200,000
- Combined incentive award: \$130,000
- Estimated annual energy savings: 250,000 kWh and 2,500 MMBtus propane

Heat recovery ventilator (center) with supply air ducting and oxygenators (black tanks) on either side.



Panolam Surface Systems – High Efficiency Compressed Air

[Panolam Surface Systems](#) is a renowned producer of laminate surface coating materials used in a wide variety of applications, including countertops, office furniture, and fixtures. The facility uses large amounts of compressed air to support multiple industrial process end uses and the dust collection system.

Panolam reached out to Efficiency Maine for help identifying and funding energy efficiency measures. This led to a collaboration between Compressor Energy Services and Panolam, who applied for and won a nearly \$180,000 incentive for a premium high efficiency compressed air system.

Compressed air is a major source of energy use and offers many opportunities for energy efficiency upgrades, including high-efficiency compressors, dryers, controls, and piping size increases that allow reduced operating pressures. All of these measures were implemented in this project.

- Additional cost for high-efficiency system: \$295,823
- Efficiency Maine incentive: \$179,138
- Estimated annual energy savings: 700,950 kWh

High-efficiency compressor



Get Started

- Contact the C&I Custom Program at 207-358-7957 or custom@efficiencymaine.com for potential inquiries.
- Review additional C&I Custom Program eligibility and incentive information on our [website](#).
- Watch our C&I Custom Program introductory [video](#).
- Consider a free [Scoping Audit](#) to help you assess where to start.
- Consider a [Technical Assistance Study](#) to help you conduct an energy analysis or project design.