



C&I CUSTOM PROGRAM UPDATE – February 2024

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?

Triennial Plan VI Planning – Efficiency Maine is hosting a series of planning workshops on the Triennial Plan VI. For a full list of upcoming workshops, please visit <https://www.energymaine.com/triennial-plan-vi/>.

Manufacturer PON Deadline Reminder – Time and funding is running out for manufacturing facilities to access enhanced 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 incentive applications. For more information, visit [energymaine.com/manufacturer-thermal-efficiency-projects/](https://www.energymaine.com/manufacturer-thermal-efficiency-projects/).

Technical Assistance Program Changes – The Custom Technical Assistance (TA) Program, which provides a 50% cost share up to \$25,000 to support the engineering needed for more complex potential Custom Program projects, has recently been revised in several ways to better support developing projects:

- The cost share cap has been increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000.
- Eligible studies have been broadened to include design and development of construction bid documents, battery system designs and interconnection studies, and investment-grade engineering analysis.

Eligible studies must focus on projects that require engineering to proceed and are found likely to be eligible for Custom Program funding. For more information, visit [energymaine.com/technical-assistance/](https://www.energymaine.com/technical-assistance/).

Success Stories

Robbins Lumber – Dust Collection Heat Recovery and Micro Steam Turbine

[Robbins Lumber](#) produces fine Eastern White Pine lumber products at four locations in Maine. Products include exterior and interior siding products, as well as flooring and specialty pre-coated lumber. The company is owned and managed by fifth-generation family members and has been in business for more than 140 years.

Robbins Lumber has a long history of collaboration with Efficiency Maine highlighted by two recently completed projects that received Custom Program incentives: a high-efficiency dust collection system and a 275-kW micro-steam back pressure turbine. The dust collection system (installed by AQuest Corporation) produces savings over a cheaper baseline system by filtering and recirculating conditioned air and by using variable-frequency drives (VFDs) to control fan motors. The 275-kW turbine (installed by NLine Energy) generates power from high-pressure steam and exhausts steam at low pressure for use in the lumber drying kilns.

Both projects are great examples of common efficiency opportunities at sawmills, which typically have large dust collection needs and access to cheap biomass fuel as a bioproduct of lumber manufacturing. Both projects had simple paybacks significantly under five years after the incentive. Businesses that currently have conditioned air exhausting the building without heat recovery or that have access to competitively priced fuel and a high-pressure boiler, should consider engaging with the Custom Program to investigate if these might be attractive solutions for your facility.

- Additional cost for high-efficiency options: \$500,000
- Combined incentive award: \$248,000
- Estimated annual energy savings: 960,000 kWh plus 1,300 MMBtu propane

Dust Collection System



Micro Steam Turbine





Enterprise Casting – High Efficiency Power Supply

[Enterprise Casting](#) is a leading supplier of iron castings to a wide variety of equipment manufacturers and end users. The facility uses induction furnaces, which draw significant electric power to melt metal for their products.

In 2021, Enterprise Casting contacted Efficiency Maine looking for help in purchasing a high-efficiency power supply for their furnaces. Working with Enterprise and their vendors, Efficiency Maine's Custom Program was able to award Enterprise a \$33,118 incentive to offset the additional cost of a high-efficiency power supply unit over a less expensive baseline unit, hastening the simple payback for the upgrade to less than a year.

Large expenditures for energy-intensive equipment like this example, represent key opportunities to upgrade to premium, high-efficiency equipment options. Efficiency Maine's Custom Program helps offset the additional cost of high-efficiency options at a level commensurate with the annual energy use of the equipment, additional cost, and verifiable efficiency gains.

- Additional cost for high-efficiency system: \$45,000
- Efficiency Maine incentive: \$33,118
- Estimated annual energy savings: 167,000 kWh

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.