



C&I CUSTOM PROGRAM UPDATE – Summer 2025

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?

Compressed Air Leak Survey Program Launch – The Custom Program launched a compressed air leak survey program on July 1, 2025, that provides 50% of the costs to identify and fix leaks at facilities with compressors larger than 90 HP. Interested customers can review the program and submit an application [here](#).

Triennial Plan VI Update -- The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has approved Triennial Plan VI that outlines Efficiency Maine Trust's operating plan for the next three years. Interested parties can see the full plan and supporting documents [here](#).

FY26 Custom Program Opportunity Notices (PONs) – The Custom Program has been allocated approximately \$7.4 million for FY26. Updated PONs have been posted to the Custom Program webpage for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Incentive levels remain the same as in FY25.

Success Stories

MaineHealth – Multiple Facilities – Steam System Insulation Jackets

[MaineHealth](#) is a not-for-profit integrated health system that is committed to providing high-quality affordable care. Among its community strategic priorities is a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2027 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Working with American Plant Maintenance (APM), MaineHealth engaged Efficiency Maine's Custom Program to support a project to reduce its steam losses by adding insulation to uninsulated mechanical piping components. Steam piping is typically insulated for straight piping runs, but components such as valves and steam traps are often left uninsulated due to their shape. The Custom Program awarded MaineHealth an incentive to offset the costs associated with manufacturing custom insulation jackets for steam system components across 10 of MaineHealth's facilities. The jackets are designed to be removed and replaced easily for maintenance purposes.

Steam systems are widely used for heat distribution at larger facilities. They are also high temperature, which results in larger heat losses from uninsulated piping or components than hot water systems. The Custom Program has provided incentives for steam system insulation retrofits at a number of facilities in Maine. Typically, simple paybacks after incentives are less than five years.

- Total installed cost for steam system insulation jackets: \$770,000
- Custom Program incentive award: \$255,800
- Estimated Custom Program annual energy savings: 10,000 MMBtus across 10 facilities

Steam System Insulation Jackets



Northern Light Health – Presque Isle – Chiller Replacement

Northern Light Health (NL Health) is an integrated healthcare system comprised of 10 hospitals, eight nursing homes, and 37 primary care locations throughout Maine. They employ more than 10,000 people and have committed to reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 and to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

To reduce fuel use and improve efficiency across their facilities, NL Health identified an inefficient absorption chiller at their AR Gould facility that was resulting in excessive fuel use during the summer months. Absorption chillers use heat to generate cooling rather than electric motors used in traditional chillers. Working with Mechanical Services, NL Health applied for and was awarded an incentive to offset the cost of a high-efficiency magnetic bearing chiller to replace the existing absorption chiller.

Absorption chillers are best suited for situations where waste heat is readily available or where electricity is unreliable. They are less efficient than electrically driven vapor compression chillers and can represent a significant opportunity for fuel reductions. Generally, magnetic bearing centrifugal chillers are the most efficient chiller. They also are eligible for Custom incentives under most scenarios and offer an attractive payback against their incremental cost over a baseline code-compliant chiller.

- Total project cost: \$682,500
- Efficiency Maine incentive: \$321,200
- Estimated annual energy savings: 13,000 MMBtus oil, -250,000 kWh



Magnetic Bearing Centrifugal Chiller



Get Started

- Contact the C&I Custom Program at 207-620-0002 or custom@efficiencymaine.com for potential inquiries.
- Review additional C&I Custom Program eligibility and incentive information on our [website](#).
- 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 develop project designs.