

DOER AMP Straw Proposal Stakeholder Questions

Introduction:

To evaluate potential program offerings and design components of the Advancing Massachusetts Power (AMP) energy storage grant program, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) seeks stakeholder feedback on the following questions.

The document includes questions applicable to more than one subprogram within AMP (i.e., “General / All Subprograms”) as well as questions specific to AMP’s subprograms (i.e., “Community Resilience,” “Safety & Education,” and “LDES Commercialization”). DOER understands that not all questions will be applicable to all stakeholders and does not require stakeholders to respond to all questions in order to submit responsive comments. Please be sure to indicate the corresponding question number(s) in your response so we can accurately identify which question(s) your comments address.

The deadline for submitting written comments on the questions for the AMP energy storage grant program is **Tuesday, July 15, 2025 by 5:00 P.M. Eastern time**. Written comments should be submitted to Thomas.Ferguson@mass.gov with “AMP Stakeholder Feedback” in the subject line. All comments will be posted to DOER’s website, so please do not share any confidential information in your comments.

General / All Subprograms

1. Are there any program areas currently not included that you feel should be included? If so, what are those areas and why should they be included?
2. Are the rough maximum grant levels by subprogram and the estimated number of projects sufficient to motivate you to apply? If not, what would be?

Community Resilience	Safety & Education	LDES Commercialization
\$2.5 million	\$400-800 thousand	\$5 million

3. Based on the project milestones in the straw proposal, does the proposed timing of financial disbursements align with your project’s needs? If not, how would you recommend the timeline be adjusted? In your response, please indicate the subprogram to which your comments refer.
4. Please provide comments on the following elements common to all subprograms. In your comments, please indicate the subprogram to which your comments refer:

- a. Project eligibility
 - b. Project evaluation criteria
 - c. Project requirements
5. For Community Resilience and LDES Commercialization projects, what is reasonable to expect around interconnection status at the time of application? What are typical determinants of longer interconnection processes? (please indicate the subprogram to which your comments refer)
6. For Community Resilience and LDES Commercialization projects **specifically in EJ/LMI communities** (please indicate the subprogram to which your comments refer):
- a. What existing funding sources have you pursued or secured for clean energy or resilience projects? What barriers have you encountered in pursuing or securing those funds?
 - b. What cost-sharing arrangements would be reasonable or feasible for your community or organization? Are there innovative or non-financial approaches to cost-sharing that you would recommend?
7. For Authorities Having Jurisdiction (permitting and safety review boards, fire departments): what is the minimum level of technical and project detail required to conduct an initial review of an energy storage project application? What are the key data points or documents that must be included in a complete submission?
- a. At what point should a revised project scope trigger a new review or resubmission? What types or magnitudes of changes (e.g. technology, size, location, use case) should be considered significant enough to warrant re-evaluation?
8. Please provide any additional feedback that is not covered by these questions or any of the questions under the subprogram categories below.

Community Resilience

We invite your input to help ensure this program effectively serves communities across the Commonwealth, particularly EJ and LMI populations. Your perspective will guide program design, funding priorities, and technical assistance efforts.

Project Benefits

9. What specific benefits (resilience and non-resiliency) do you expect an energy storage project to deliver to your community, and who would be the beneficiaries?
10. What site/site loads would you be most interested in making more resilient by installing an energy storage system? What duration of operation (e.g. during a grid outage) would be most valuable?
11. How do you balance resilience needs with revenue opportunities (e.g. market participation vs. emergency reserve requirements)?
 - a. Is it reasonable to expect these projects to maintain a high state of charge (e.g., 90%) before severe weather events to ensure resilience? How might this affect your project's revenue potential?

Community Ownership and Project Feasibility

12. What barriers do EJ or LMI communities face in owning and operating energy storage projects? What technical, financial, or operational support is needed to overcome those barriers? What ownership and business models help communities realize the benefits of energy storage systems?
 - a. What types of support (e.g. technical assistance, training, partnerships) would increase your community's capacity to own and manage these systems?

Safety & Education

We are seeking input to help design a program that supports the safe and effective deployment of energy storage systems. Your expertise is critical in ensuring local authorities and first responders are well-equipped to evaluate proposed projects and ensure that codes, standards, and best practices are followed so that systems operate safely.

13. From your organization's point of view, what are the most significant challenges to the following, and what types of programs or support (e.g., technical assistance,

funding, coordination) would be most useful to your organization in addressing the following:

- a. Energy storage permitting and safety
- b. Energy storage education

14. Are there currently available energy storage safety programs that your organization would consider taking advantage of if funding was available to do so? Please list those programs and describe their benefits.

15. Are there energy storage safety and education objectives beyond those listed in the straw proposal presentation that DOER should consider pursuing through this subprogram?

16. How could projects funded through this program have broad impacts across the Commonwealth?

LDES Commercialization

We aim to better understand the potential and limitations of proposed LDES projects under this funding opportunity. Your insights will help calibrate expectations and improve program effectiveness.

17. Based on your experience, what scale or type of LDES project (e.g. system size, duration, customer class) can realistically be developed with \$5M in grant funding, assuming it covers up to 50% of costs? Please consider both capital and soft costs in your response

18. Do you currently have LDES (10+ hr.) projects in Massachusetts in your development pipeline? Please only share non-confidential information and remember that DOER makes all comments received publicly available.

- a. What is the scale and timeframe of those projects to achieve deployment?
- b. Please describe the purpose of the project. If it is a demonstration project, please describe the objectives and goals for the project and how it will further technology commercialization. If it is a commercial project, please describe the use case and sources of revenue.