



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6929

LCO No. 4652



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
(ET)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A THERMAL ENERGY NETWORK GRANT
AND LOAN PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Electric distribution company" and "participating municipal
3 electric utility" have the same meanings as provided in section 16-1 of
4 the general statutes;

5 (2) "Regional council of governments" means a regional council of
6 governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-
7 124p, inclusive, of the general statutes;

8 (3) "Thermal energy" means heating, or heating and cooling, derived
9 from (A) fuel sources that do not emit greenhouse gases when
10 combusted, or (B) geothermal energy; and

11 (4) "Thermal energy network" means all real estate, fixtures and
12 personal property operated, owned and used or to be used for, or in
13 connection with or to facilitate, a utility-scale distribution infrastructure

14 project that supplies thermal energy in the form of piped
15 noncombustible fluids used for transferring heat into and out of
16 buildings for any type of heating and cooling process, including, but not
17 limited to, comfort heating and cooling, domestic hot water and
18 refrigeration.

19 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall,
20 within available appropriations, establish a thermal energy network
21 grant and loan program to support the development of thermal energy
22 network projects. The commissioner shall develop and issue a request
23 for proposals from eligible recipients that shall include, but need not be
24 limited to, any local or regional governmental entity, municipal
25 corporation, regional council of governments, public authority, state
26 and federally recognized tribe, electric distribution company,
27 participating municipal electric utility, energy improvement district and
28 nonprofit, academic and private entity seeking to develop a thermal
29 energy network. Any such eligible recipient may collaborate with any
30 other such eligible recipient in submitting such proposal.

31 (c) The commissioner may award grants or loans under the thermal
32 energy network grant and loan program to any number of eligible
33 recipients. Such grants and loans may provide: (1) Assistance with
34 community planning that includes, but is not limited to, thermal energy
35 network project feasibility, including benefit-cost analyses, (2)
36 assistance to recipients for the cost of design, engineering services and
37 infrastructure for any such thermal energy network project, and (3)
38 nonfederal cost share for grant or loan applications for projects or
39 programs that include thermal energy networks. The commissioner
40 may establish any financing mechanism to provide or leverage
41 additional funding to support the development of thermal energy
42 network projects.

43 (d) Not later than January first, annually, for a period of three years
44 after receiving a grant or loan under the thermal energy network grant
45 and loan program, the recipient of such grant or loan shall submit a

46 report to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Office of
47 Consumer Counsel and the Commissioner of Energy and
48 Environmental Protection and, in accordance with the provisions of
49 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
50 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy
51 and technology. Such report shall include information concerning the
52 status of such recipient's thermal energy network project.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to establish a thermal energy network grant and loan program to provide funding for the development of thermal energy networks.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]