

Environment & Energy

Maine, Rhode Island Join New York's Regional Hydrogen Hub Plan

By Zach Bright

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- Coalition to submit infrastructure funding plan
 - Proposals could receive up to \$1.25 billion each
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Maine and Rhode Island joined a New York-led multistate agreement to submit a hydrogen hub proposal to the US Department of Energy.

The two states announced Thursday they will be joining New York's coalition—which includes Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey—to apply for a portion of the \$8 billion available through the federal Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program.

“Building a robust and connected clean hydrogen market across the northeast will provide a game-changing clean energy alternative that will transform our ability to meet our shared climate goals while advancing 21st century innovation and stimulating strong economic growth throughout the region,” New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) said in a release.

The program aims to establish at least four regional hydrogen energy sites across the country. Each proposal could receive up to \$1.25 billion, using funds from last year's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

At least \$6 billion in initial funding for up to 10 hydrogen funds is expected to be made available by the Energy Department in September or October and awarded next year. Remaining money will be available in subsequent announcements or for supporting activities.

Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee (D) said in the release he's “proud to have Rhode Island join the New York-led Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub” and “the fight against climate change hinges on interstate and international collaboration.”

Dan Burgess, director of the Maine Governor's Energy Office, said in the statement that clean hydrogen was an “exciting technology with potential for economic growth that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels,” adding that Maine looks “forward to working with regional partners to advance opportunities for clean hydrogen.”

The states are joined by about 60 clean hydrogen partners who are laying the groundwork for an application. They include state agencies, utilities, manufacturers, private sector groups, universities, and nonprofit organizations.

New York will continue to work with other states and entities interested in joining the proposal, Hochul's office said.

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