



## BioMAT Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. BASICS

##### **What is the BioMAT Program?**

The Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) is a renewable energy feed-in tariff (FIT) established by California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Participation in BioMAT by Community Choice Aggregators (CCA) was established by [D. 23-11-084](#) to implement Assembly Bill 843. BioMAT offers 10, 15, or 20-year power purchase agreements (PPAs) to purchase wholesale power generated from small renewable bioenergy projects with nameplates up to 5 MW, provided that not more than 3 MW is delivered to the grid at any time. Details on the program are posted on the central [CCA BioMAT site](#).

##### **What is a feed-in tariff?**

A feed-in tariff is a contracting mechanism for small renewable generators to sell power at predefined terms and conditions.

##### **What is biogas?**

Biogas is a fuel that is created by the breakdown of organic matter by microorganisms in the absence of oxygen. It is often created in wastewater treatment plants and municipal organic waste facilities. More information on sources of biogas that are eligible for the BioMAT program can be found in 3CE's BioMAT tariff, available on our [BioMAT online portal](#).

##### **What types of projects are eligible for BioMAT?**

Under the BioMAT program, small-scale bioenergy projects can be procured in three categories based on their fuel sources. Category 1 projects use biogas from wastewater treatment, municipal organic waste diversion, food processing, and co-digestion. Category 2 are projects utilizing dairy and other agricultural bioenergy. Category 3 projects derive fuel from byproducts of sustainable forest management.

##### **What type of agriculture waste is used as fuel?**

The parts of plants not consumed as food can be used as biomass energy. These often include rice husks, corn husks, and straw. Agricultural waste also includes crop residues, prunings, and by-products from agricultural drying, hulling, shelling, and ginning operations. More information on sources of biogas that are eligible for the BioMAT program can be found in 3CE's BioMAT tariff, available on our [BioMAT online portal](#).



### **What are high hazard zones?**

High hazard zones are areas where tree mortality directly coincides with critical infrastructure. A map of high hazard zones in California can be found [here](#).

### **How many megawatts are available under the BioMAT program?**

Available capacity (along with current pricing) is available on the central [BioMAT online portal](#). Capacity is allocated to the three investor-owned utility (IOU) territories, so the available capacity for each category will depend on whether the project is located in PG&E territory or SCE territory.

### **Can I see a list of projects that have been awarded a PPA?**

Yes, a list of executed PPAs will be made available on the [BioMAT online portal](#) within 10 business days of execution. Currently, this report is posted under the Program Documents tab.

### **Where can I find information on the BioMAT queues?**

Depending on the “market depth” (i.e. the number of unaffiliated applicants in the applicable statewide pricing queue) and number of projects in the statewide pricing queue, CCAs may or may not disclose queue information. See Queue Disclosure Policy and Queue Information reports on the [BioMAT online portal](#) under the Program Documents tab.

### **I have a property upon which I would like to develop a bioenergy project to sell power. Would 3CE be interested in installing a project on my property or be willing to recommend a developer to install it?**

Under BioMAT, 3CE purchases power and associated regulatory products from a third-party that owns/operates a renewable energy facility. 3CE is not a developer or operator of energy generation facilities.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY**

### **How do I know which category my proposed project qualifies for?**

You can find the category definitions in the Definitions section of 3CE’s BioMAT tariff. If you still have questions, please contact 3CE through the messaging feature available on the [3CE BioMAT web portal](#). If you have difficulties registering with the 3CE BioMAT web portal, please email [info@3ce.org](mailto:info@3ce.org) for assistance.

### **Can I use any feedstock/fuels that are not described in the Fuel Resource Category definition I am applying for?**

It depends. Category 2 (Dairy) must use 100% of its feedstock from dairy digester gas. All other categories may utilize up to 20% of their feedstock from another qualifying BioMAT category.

### **Can I use a small amount of non-renewable fuels as normally allowed by the California Energy Commission?**

No. See above.



**Can I switch Fuel Resource Categories for my project after I receive a queue number?**

No, not without withdrawing your PPR from the queue and reapplying.

**Is landfill gas eligible for BioMAT?**

The CPUC has stated that while landfill gas is deemed an Eligible Renewable Resource by the California Energy Commission and is thus included in the language of the CPUC’s “biogas” definition, it is not eligible for BioMAT because it is not on the list of resources set out in SB 1122 for the biogas category. The feedstock listed in SB 1133 for the biogas category include wastewater treatment, municipal organic waste diversion, food processing, and codigestion.

**3. INTERCONNECTION**

**Can I apply for BioMAT without a valid interconnection study?**

No, unless you are applying for Category 3. Category 3 projects without an active interconnection study can remain eligible to participate in the BioMAT queue if the applicant provides a deposit as described in Section E.2(b) in 3CE’s BioMAT Tariff. For Category 1 and Category 2 projects, interconnection studies must correspond to an active status in the public distribution interconnection queue. All projects must promptly notify 3CE if the project no longer meets the eligibility requirements for the BioMAT program.

**My project has not met the eligibility criteria for interconnection yet but will soon.**

**Can I apply now and submit interconnection documentation later, when my project becomes eligible?**

No. An applicant must have an interconnection study as outlined in the Eligibility section of 3CE’s BioMAT Tariff. Further, except for Category 3 projects, the study must correspond to an “active” status in the public interconnection queue. If these eligibility criteria cannot be met with interconnection documentation dated on or before the PPR submission date, the PPR will be rejected. An applicant can submit a new PPR for a project that has been rejected once the eligibility criteria are met.

**4. SIZING**

**Can I have a 5 MW project and export only 3 MW to qualify for BioMAT?**

Yes, Assembly Bill 1923 allows a project nameplate up to 5 MW to qualify for the BioMAT program, provided that no more than 3 MW is delivered to the grid at any time.

**If I have two separate meters, can I break up my 6 MW project into two parts and secure two PPAs?**

No. That would violate the Daisy Chaining provision in 3CE’s BioMAT Tariff. The project being considered must be the only exporting project by the applicant or applicant affiliates on any single or contiguous pieces of property. This does not preclude co-located net energy metering (NEM) projects.



## 5. INCENTIVES

**I have a generator currently under a net energy metering (NEM) agreement. Can this generator participate in BioMAT?**

Yes. You may apply for BioMAT but must terminate your NEM agreement for the project prior to achieving commercial operation under 3CE's BioMAT PPA.

**My project has received Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) funds. Can the project participate in BioMAT?**

It depends. A project is ineligible for the BioMAT tariff if the generator has received SGIP incentives in the past 10 years.

## 6. COMMERCIAL OPERATION DATE

**Can I repower an existing facility to qualify for BioMAT given the requirement to commence operations on or after June 1, 2013, per Section 4.14 of the BioMAT Tariff?**

Yes, provided it meets the requirements for repowering a facility under the California Energy Commission's RPS Eligibility Guidebook. Repowered facilities can secure a new commercial operations date.

## 7. HOW TO APPLY

**Where can I find an application?**

The BioMAT application is called a Program Participation Request (PPR) and can be submitted through 3CE's [BioMAT online portal](#). A PPR includes a PPR form, supporting documentation, and a non-refundable PPR fee.

**How do I apply to 3CE's specific BioMAT queue?**

Navigate to the central [CCA BioMAT webpage](#), and click on "3CE BioMAT" next to 3CE's logo. From there, click "Register" at the top. When you go through the registration process, select 3CE from the list of CCAs on the dropdown list.

**When can I apply?**

PPRs can be submitted at any time while the BioMAT program is open. The program is currently set to end on December 31, 2025.

**Do I need to pay a fee? If so, how do I pay for it? Is it refundable?**

Yes. There is a fee of \$2/kW to submit a BioMAT PPR. More detailed instructions regarding payment will be communicated upon PPR submittal. The fee is not refundable. In addition, Category 3 projects with an inactive interconnection study must submit a deposit as described in Section 5.2 (b) of 3CE's BioMAT Tariff.



### **What happens after I apply?**

If the PPR is deemed complete, a BioMAT queue number will be assigned based on the project's fuel resource category and the time of the initial submission, provided it contained only minor deficiencies. If the PPR is incomplete, 3CE may allow the applicant to cure minor deficiencies within 10 business days of being notified of the deficiencies.

### **Can I submit a PPR for the same project to both the 3CE BioMAT program and the PG&E or SCE BioMAT program?**

No. An applicant may only submit one PPR per project to BioMAT and may not submit a PPR or maintain a position in the queue for the same project in multiple BioMAT programs.

### **Can I submit a PPR for the same project in both the BioMAT program and the Renewable Market Adjusting Tariff (ReMAT) program?**

No, an applicant may not submit a PPR or maintain a position in the queue for the same project in both the BioMAT program and the ReMAT program.

### **How soon can I get a PPA?**

Six (6) megawatts of PPA capacity are made available in each fuel resource category within each bi-monthly program period. Applicants are awarded a PPA based on their acceptance of the posted price for the project and on the project's BioMAT queue number. The amount of time that it may take for a project to secure a PPA will depend on the price competitiveness of projects within the cumulative statewide pricing queue and a project's BioMAT queue number.

## **8. PRICE AND PAYMENT**

### **What is the contract price?**

While PPAs are awarded by BioMAT queue number in the applicable fuel resource category, the contract price is determined by a market adjusting mechanism applied to the statewide pricing queue.

### **How is the available price calculated?**

The price in each subsequent bi-monthly program period may adjust independently for each statewide pricing category based on the statewide subscription (i.e. the queue's total megawatt acceptance of the price offered in the previous program period). Prices cannot adjust if the "market depth" requirements are not met (i.e. there must be at least 3 or 5 unaffiliated applicants in the queue). For further details on pricing, see Section 8 (Pricing) and Section 14 (Definitions) of 3CE's BioMAT Tariff.

### **Where can I find the current contract price being offered?**

Prior to each program period, the contract price to be offered during that program period will be posted on the central [BioMAT online portal](#).



**Does the contract price escalate to account for inflation?**

No. The price is fixed over the delivery term of the PPA. Applicants must account for inflation when accepting a contract price.

**Does the price vary depending on the delivery term?**

No. The contract price offered applies to all delivery terms (10, 15 or 20 years).

**Are there Time of Delivery factors?**

Yes. 3CE's BioMAT PPA contains a set of time of delivery payment allocation factors ("TOD factors"). See Appendix C for more details.

**How often are payments made under the PPA?**

Sellers are paid on a monthly basis. See Section 2.7 of 3CE's BioMAT PPA.

**9. INTERCONNECTION PROCESS**

**How do I interconnect to the grid?**

Assembly Bill 1923 allows BioMAT projects to interconnect at the distribution or transmission level. Applicants must apply for interconnection with one of the IOU's generator interconnection processes or with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) as described in Section D.6 of 3CE's BioMAT Tariff.

**What is the difference between the distribution and transmission systems?**

The distribution system voltage is less than 60 kV, while the transmission system operates at higher voltages and is controlled by CAISO.

**What is the difference between Rule 21 and the Wholesale Distribution Tariff (WDT)?**

Rule 21 is a CPUC-jurisdictional interconnection process that is available to "PURPA" PPAs, selling energy to the IOU. The Wholesale Distribution Tariff (WDT) is a FERC- jurisdictional interconnection process for projects on the distribution system (no "PURPA" PPA requirement and no requirement to sell to the IOU). BioMAT applicants wishing to sell to 3CE should interconnect under WDT.

**10. OTHER PPA TERMS**

**Can I serve onsite load and export the remaining energy to CAISO?**

Yes. A project may serve "Site Host Load" and export remaining energy to 3CE under an "Excess Sale" transaction as per the terms in 3CE's BioMAT PPA. Notwithstanding an exception for "Site Host Load", you may not sell any "Product" from the facility to a third party. See the definitions of Site Host Load and Product in Appendix A of 3CE's BioMAT PPA.



**Can I sign a PPA with a 25-year delivery term?**

No. BioMAT only allows for 10, 15, or 20-year delivery terms.

**Do I get to keep the renewable energy credits (RECs)?**

No. RECs are part of the “Product” purchased under the terms of 3CE’s BioMAT PPA.

**Does the project need to obtain Full Capacity Deliverability Status (FCDS)?**

No. BioMAT sellers have the option, but not the obligation, to secure Full Capacity Deliverability Status. See Section 3.4.3 of 3CE’s BioMAT PPA. However, pursuant to Section 3.4.4 of 3CE’s BioMAT PPA, the seller shall cooperate in good faith with, and comply with unburdensome requests of, 3CE and the CAISO to enable 3CE and/or the CAISO to assign capacity attributes and resource adequacy (RA) benefits to the facility.

**What other contractual obligations are there?**

We encourage all interested parties to review 3CE’s BioMAT PPA closely to understand the entirety of seller obligations, but some key requirements include: performance (MWh delivery) obligations outlined under Guaranteed Energy Production (Section 11); Fuel Resource Requirements (Section 4.4.2); forecasting requirements for the expected generation output (Appendix D); insurance requirements (Section 9), collateral requirements (Section 12); requirements to achieve and maintain status as an Eligible Renewable Resource with the California Energy Commission, and the transfer of all RECs to 3CE.