ARTICLE 7

CLIMATE AND ENERGY FINANCE

Section 1. APPROPRIATIONS.

The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund, or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.

The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROPRIATIONS</th>
<th>Available for the Year</th>
<th>Ending June 30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025</td>
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Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation

The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following subdivisions.

Subd. 2. Advanced Nuclear Technologies Study

$300,000 the second year is for the advanced nuclear technologies study under article 9, section 37. This is a onetime appropriation.

Subd. 3. Thermal Energy Network Site Suitability Study

$500,000 the second year is for the thermal energy network site suitability study under article 9, section 39. This is a onetime appropriation.

(a) $500,000 in fiscal year 2025 is for a study to identify suitable sites statewide for the installation of thermal energy networks. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until December 31, 2025.
(b) $500,000 in fiscal year 2025 is for transfer to the SolarAPP+ program account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.48, for the awarding of incentives to local units of government that deploy federally developed software to automate the review of applications and issuance of permits for residential solar projects. Incentives may only be awarded to local units of government located outside the electric service territory of the public utility required to make payments under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.779, subdivision 1. This is a onetime transfer and is available until June 30, 2028.

(c) $133,000 in fiscal year 2025 is for participation in a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission proceeding to review electric transmission line owners’ plans to deploy grid-enhancing technologies and issue an order to implement the plans. The base in fiscal year 2026 is $265,000 and the base in fiscal year 2027 is $265,000. The base in fiscal year 2028 is $0.

Subd. 4. Nuclear Generated Hydrogen; Feasibility Study

$200,000 the second year is for a grant to the University of Minnesota Energy Transition Lab to perform a feasibility study on the use of hydrogen produced by nuclear power plants in Minnesota for manufacturing, refining, agricultural, transportation, and other purposes. The study must evaluate the potential economic benefits accrued from the use and potential sale of hydrogen, as well as any reductions to carbon emissions that may result from increased hydrogen and nuclear power use. The results of the feasibility study must be submitted to the commissioner of commerce and to the house of representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over energy policy no later than January 1, 2026.
Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 92.16B.98, subdivision 14, the commissioner of commerce may use up to one percent of the appropriation to administer the grant. This is a onetime appropriation.

Sec. 3. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

(a) $39,000 in fiscal year 2025 is for the thermal energy network deployment work group under article 9, section 38. The base budget for this appropriation is $39,000 in fiscal year 2026 and $0 in fiscal year 2027.

Sec. 4. GRANT ADMINISTRATION REPORTING.

(a) By July 1, 2024, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over energy finance and policy the anticipated costs for administering each named grant and competitive grant.
program in Laws 2023, chapter 60, article 10, section 2, and Laws 2023, chapter 60, article
11, section 2.

(b) Within 90 days after each named grantee has fulfilled the obligations of their grant
agreement, the commissioner shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members of
the legislative committees having jurisdiction over energy finance and policy on the final
cost for administering each named grant included in paragraph (a), and for each named
grant in articles 7 and 8 of this act.

(c) By January 15, 2025, and each year thereafter, the commissioner shall report to the
chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over
energy finance and policy on the annual cost for administering each competitive grant
program included in paragraph (a), and for each competitive grant program enacted in
articles 8 and 9 of this act.