

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Robert Dickinson
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Provide better transparency regarding process and deadlines to the public

Reading between the lines, I think I understand from <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/inflation-reduction-act-residential-energy-rebate-programs-california> that the mechanics of this particular program will be more complicated than simpler previous ones, and that there's a need here to communicate with advocacy groups and contractors who are to be trained, and not just the (impatiently waiting, not well-informed) public.

That impatient public, however, has indeed been waiting for a matter of years now, and it does seem like the vague deadlines offered so far have all slipped repeatedly. Now it's just "2024" or "Workshops" of some sort (for whom?) will be the next stage? Comments will be closing in late January? How about when the formal application will finally go to the DOE, and what's a plausible approval time?

Look at the comments that have been submitted so far—there's a lot of honest confusion about what any of this means for the public. The RFI PDF linked to, besides not really being written for public consumption I'd say, doesn't provide much further insight, at least in my jargon-uninformed reading.

Is it possible to offer a bit more public clarity and concise transparency about progress made and possible future timelines? Is it truly beneficial to force the public to rely on what salespeople for contracting companies choose to promise us? (Retroactive rebates? Sure!) The information offered currently at your URL above is better than what was previously offered, but couldn't it be much improved? Any firm public deadlines apart from the one for the closing of public comments? Is there a firm deadline for submitting the formal application to the DOE? Is sometime in 2024 truly a viable timeframe for implementation? (Sounds more like 2025, honestly!)

And, if retroactive rebates are off the table, how about stating that now? Wasn't there a public-facing statement suggesting as much for a while?

The problem is that many of us have been waiting for years now and postponing updating and or replacing ailing, climate-change provoking systems for quite some time, without any assurance that we will qualify for later retroactive assistance. The alternative for many of us is to lock ourselves into more economical but more environmentally harmful gas systems because we've simply given up on waiting for whatever is finally going to be implemented. Back in 2022 I chose not to trust sales promises of quick retroactive rebates—I half wish I had bought those heat pump rebate sales pitches and gone ahead back then.