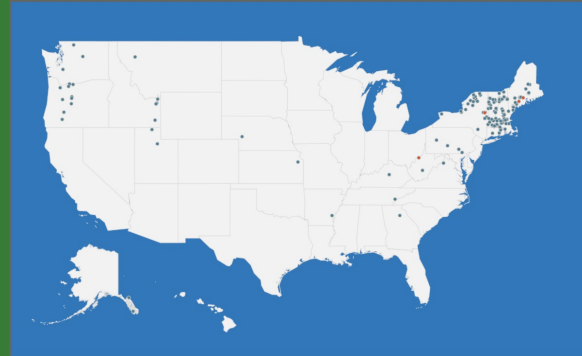


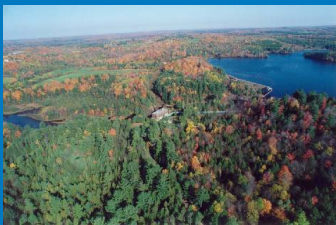


## Year in Review - Certification Program

In 2020, LIHI issued 12 new certifications and recertified an additional 27 projects. As we enter 2021, 27 new certification and recertification applications are actively being reviewed.



Today, the Low Impact Hydropower Institute portfolio consists of 163 active LIHI certificates, with a total of 278 facilities located on 95 rivers across 23 states. These facilities range from capacities of 45 kilowatts to several hundred megawatts and provide, among other benefits, over 1,100 recreation facilities, amenities, and services. In totality, LIHI Certifications represent over 16 gigawatt-hours of annual generation - avoiding the release of 11 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to 26 million barrels of oil. These facilities supply enough energy to power 1.4 million average US households!



## Uncommon Dialogue

For two years, representatives of the hydropower industry, government agencies, and environmental organizations have been engaging in a dialogue to find mutual ground on hydropower's role in mitigating the climate crisis. The stakeholders involved, including LIHI, agree that hydropower will play an important role in achieving a 100% renewable grid. They also agreed that role cannot overshadow the importance of sustaining and regenerating the health of our nation's rivers. Brought together by the [Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment](#), the [Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance](#), and the [Energy Futures Initiative](#), the parties have released a Joint Statement of Collaboration which details seven key areas in which the group will focus its efforts. A broader array of stakeholders and experts are now joining working groups for the second stage of the dialogue, addressing these seven areas.

For more information, see the New York Times article [HERE](#) and the Joint Statement of Collaboration published [HERE](#).

# Department of Energy Resources Updates



In April of 2019, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) proposed regulatory changes to the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The changes included a proposal to revise the eligibility of hydropower in the state RPS, which recognizes LIHI Certification as demonstration of compliance with the statutory environmental standards of the program. The changes, as originally drafted, would have considered a facility permanently LIHI Certified after a single certification decision. In early December, DOER released updated draft regulations removing this provision noting:

*"The Department determined it was appropriate to strike the proposed language and revert to current regulatory requirements. The Department agrees with the concern that Generation Units could immediately withdraw from LIHI. As some commenters noted, LIHI Certification is an important mechanism to ensure environmental impacts are minimized and over 65% of recertifications require additional measures to protect the environment."*

The final draft regulations are now being reviewed by the Committee on Telecommunications and Energy before being finalized. LIHI would like to thank all those who submitted comments on the draft regulations and encourage all to submit comments on the updated regulations.

The regulations can be found [HERE](#) and comments may be submitted [HERE](#).



## Recertification Process Proposal Reminder

LIHI is recommending a new approach to LIHI Certificate recertifications. The new process would be based on events that would trigger a full recertification or partial review, rather than a specific number of years. The process would:

- Reduce application costs;
- Allow for longer Certification terms and greater certainty;
- Maintain stakeholder involvement;
- Improve transparency; and
- Retain LIHI independence and program credibility.

The public comment period is open until **January 27, 2021**. A decision framework has been proposed as well as details on the triggering events that may activate a recertification review. For more information about the proposal and submission guidelines, please see [HERE](#).

**You Power Us**

For the third year in a row, LIHI is putting its operations where its program is - LIHI's total electricity use is offset by the purchase of Green-e Certified renewable energy certificates (RECs) sourced from LIHI Certified hydro facilities. We are proud to be 100% renewable and to support our Certificate holders!



## Happy Holidays

2020 has been nothing short of a monumental year. This holiday season, LIHI is immensely grateful to those who helped continue our important mission throughout this difficult year. Most importantly, thank you to those on the front-line battling tirelessly against Covid-19. As work continues to mitigate this crisis, we must meet their efforts with equal endeavor. Please stay safe and be well. From all of us at LIHI, happy holidays - we look forward to seeing you in 2021!



Low Impact Hydropower Institute | [LowImpactHydro.org](http://LowImpactHydro.org)

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STAY CONNECTED

