

# Memo



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**To:** RI Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council  
**From:** Consultant Team  
**CC:** Becca Trietch  
**Date:** June 17, 2021  
**RE:** 2021 Annual CHP Stakeholder Meeting Summary

CONSULTANT TEAM

## 2021 Annual CHP Stakeholder Meeting Summary

On Wednesday, June 2, 2021, the EERMC hosted the Annual Rhode Island Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Stakeholder Meeting. For the second consecutive year, meeting was held virtually. As a legislative mandate, this meeting gives stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the state's CHP programs and policies. The meeting also serves to inform CHP developers and potential customers about program details and updates for the upcoming year. The meetings are timed to allow for any recommendations to be incorporated, as appropriate, into the Three-Year and Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plans.

Invitations were distributed to National Grid's database of CHP vendors as well as past and potential program participants. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources also sent the invitation to a variety of contacts, including potential Efficient Buildings Fund borrowers as well as legislative, municipal, quasi and school contacts. There were 40 participants, the majority of which were CHP developers or vendors that provide related technical assistance or financing. Representatives of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (DPUC), National Grid, the EERMC and its Consultant Team, and the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) were also present.

EERMC member Tom Magliocchetti welcomed attendees and framed the conversation, referencing his experience with CHP in the healthcare industry. Daniel Tukey and John Karlin discussed the details of National Grid's CHP program in Rhode Island. The current program direction includes increased focus on leveraging renewable natural gas and small/micro CHP systems. Toby Ast from the RI Infrastructure Bank presented on financing opportunities available through RIIB, which include the Efficient Buildings Fund, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and C-PACE. To close the meeting, Rachel Sholly of the Consultant Team reminded attendees of the Council's purpose and invited ongoing stakeholder participation in the energy efficiency conversation through monthly Council meetings.

### Stakeholder Discussion

National Grid explained some shifts happening in its program direction for Rhode Island, namely increased focus on leveraging renewable natural gas as well as a focus on smaller/micro CHP systems. National Grid also sought feedback on some new considerations for incentive programs, including:

- Simplify the performance incentive structure
- Interconnection incentives for systems below 125 kW capacity
- Deferred interconnection cost – On-bill refinancing

- Removing requirement to interconnect (lower incentive)

Stakeholders expressed support for attempts to address interconnection related barriers. There was also some discussion around retrocommissioning of existing CHP systems. Stakeholders stressed the importance of taking a comprehensive approach and looking at how a CHP system is interacting with other relevant systems such as boiler equipment and heat exchangers. Looking at the whole system – and participating in incentive programs beyond CHP – helps to maximize total overall efficiency and achieve higher energy savings. Currently, National Grid’s Optimal Operations and Maintenance Incentive, which provides the customer with a post-commissioning incentive for maintaining or increasing the total system efficiency, is only available for program participants. However, they are looking into a retrocommissioning option where any National Grid customer could apply, regardless of whether they have participated in the utility’s CHP program. The rest of the discussion focused on clarifying questions from stakeholders.

The complete slide deck from the CHP meeting can be found on the EERMC’s website at [www.rieermc.ri.gov](http://www.rieermc.ri.gov). Any questions can be directed to Rachel Sholly at [rachel.sholly@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.sholly@gmail.com) or Adam Jacobs at [jacobs@optenergy.com](mailto:jacobs@optenergy.com).