

# Memo



**To:** Equity Working Group  
**From:** EERMC Consultant Team  
**Date:** TBD  
**Subject:** Assistance with 2024-2026 Plan Development

CONSULTANT TEAM

On behalf of the Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council (EERMC or Council), we request the assistance of the Equity Working Group (EWG) in developing recommendations to advance the EERMC's priority for the 2024-2026 Plan term to *Increase Participation by Historically in Underserved Customers*. The EWG has proven to be an effective forum for stakeholder input on matters regarding equitable service, and the Council values the contributions this group has made and will continue to make in advancing equitable delivery of RI Energy's energy efficiency programs.

In its [March 16 priorities memorandum to Rhode Island Energy](#) (the Company), the Council set forth a number of priorities and priority strategies to the Company for the Draft 2024 Energy Efficiency Annual Plan, 2024-2026 Energy Efficiency Three-Year Plan, and SRP Plan. With regard to its priority that the Company will *Increase Participation by Historically Underserved Customers*, the EERMC seeks assistance and recommendations from the EWG to support the Company's achievement of these expectations:

- **Identify clear and objective determinations of success.** These will allow RI Energy, the Council, and stakeholders to understand progress in achieving goals of increasing participation in underserved communities.
- **Set and achieve ambitious savings goals for Income Eligible Single Family and Multifamily and EnergyWise Multifamily programs.** These programs serve the most vulnerable customers in Rhode Island. In addition, these programs have high proportions of historically underserved customers per the Participation and Multifamily Census<sup>1</sup> and Nonparticipant Market Barriers<sup>2</sup> Studies. All of these programs have been struggling to meet planned goals, and remedying this situation is critical. The EWG could provide valuable insights regarding how delivery of this program could be improved to increase performance results.
- **Increase financial investments in serving historically underserved populations, including enhanced financial incentives to those customers across efficiency offerings.** The Council would like to understand the amount of money the Company will be dedicating to equity efforts. We understand that the EWG has previously discussed this topic, and we would like to advance to a transparent presentation of this information.
- **Identify and implement program improvements that will facilitate ease of participation, including through streamlining of participation steps, documentation requirements, and income verification processes.**
- **Enhance and increase municipal and other community-based partnerships, particularly to include partnerships with underserved communities.** Members of the EWG are strongly positioned to assist in shaping effective community-based partnership models for the Company.

<sup>1</sup> Available online at: [http://rieermc.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ng-ri-part-mf-study-comprehensive-report\\_final\\_20may2022.pdf](http://rieermc.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ng-ri-part-mf-study-comprehensive-report_final_20may2022.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Available online at: [http://rieermc.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ng-ri-nonparticipation-study-report\\_final\\_16june2022.pdf](http://rieermc.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ng-ri-nonparticipation-study-report_final_16june2022.pdf)

- **Target workforce development efforts to serving contractors in underserved communities** (see also the Council's separate priority *To Deliver Targeted Workforce Development*). This could build on the EWG's prior work on workforce development.

Given the development and review schedule for the Plans, your input and recommendations on these matters will have the greatest impact if provided to the Council by the end of July so they can be reviewed and discussed at its August 17 meeting, which will be the Council's final opportunity to provide input to the Company before it finalizes its 2024-2026 and 2024 EE Plans for stakeholder consideration.

Thank you for your service and your work to advance equitable delivery of Rhode Island Energy's energy efficiency programs.