



Rhode Island Energy™
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Energy Efficiency Equity Update

EERMC Meeting 10/19/2023

Agenda



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- Our equity commitment
- Equity working group report
- Company response and timeline
- Questions and feedback



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Equity: a key priority

Rhode Island Energy has identified equity as one of five key priorities in its 2024-2026 three-year plan

- + Commitment to designing programs with effort to serve small business and low-and-moderate-income; gender, racially and ethnically diverse; and non-native English-speaking customers
- + 2024 annual plan includes equity commitments, activities, and metrics

Demonstrated commitment: Over the years, the Company has ramped up its focus on equity

- + **In 2021:** Company conducted thorough, equity-focused participant studies
- + **In 2022:** first year of Equity Working Group (EWG) initiated, recommendations made
- + **In 2023:** pursuing strategies to directly respond to EWG recommendations

Equity: a key priority



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- + Continued tracking of participation in certain energy efficiency (EE) programs by municipality
 - + Conducting energy efficiency outreach and education with Rhode Island community organizations
 - + Increasing cross-training of Customer Advocates, CAP agencies, and other home-visiting programs
 - + Successful email and letter campaigns to moderate income customers in English, Spanish, and Portuguese
 - + Funding for Residential Construction Workforce Partnership

A national leader in EE equity support

2022 STATE SCORECARD © ACEEE

Table 17. State support of low-income energy efficiency programs

State	2021 utility spending on low-income energy efficiency programs	2021 additional state spending on low-income energy efficiency programs	2021 total low-income energy efficiency spending	2021 state spending on low-income programs per income-qualified resident*	Score (2 pts.)
Rhode Island	\$18,562,300	\$2,225,000 ¹	\$20,787,300	\$79.04	2
Vermont	\$10,149,278 ²	—	\$10,149,278	\$71.98	2
New Hampshire	\$14,653,370	\$17,963 ³	\$14,671,333	\$59.40	2
Massachusetts	\$61,856,193	\$6,753,303	\$68,609,496	\$46.48	2
Maine	\$3,269,356	\$10,394,193 ⁴	\$13,663,549	\$45.70	2
California	\$370,805,816	\$45,818,460 ⁵	\$416,624,276	\$38.33	2
District of Columbia	\$4,859,366	—	\$4,859,366	\$30.76	2
Connecticut	\$26,052,748	—	\$26,052,748	\$29.91	1.5
Hawaii	\$8,892,837	—	\$8,892,837	\$26.79	1.5
Illinois	\$79,114,329	—	\$79,114,329	\$26.75	1.5

Other equity highlights

Rhode Island Energy has strong processes in place to support income-eligible (IE) customers

- + Strong relationships with state agencies (e.g., RI Department of Human Services) allows us to better serve our income-eligible customers

In 2023, 95.6% of our IE weatherization and heating system work are leveraged with federal and state funding

- + This is an increase from 91.8% in 2022 and 76.7% in 2021
- + Helps keep system benefit charge down and allows us to serve more customers

2024 pathways to equity



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Health equity zone initiative

Residential outreach assessment

Justice 40 initiative

Latina radio awareness & education

Self-attestation income verification

Event tabling

Metrics

Spending by zip code (YE report)

Single-family participation in EnergyWise and IES programs by town

EnergyWise and IES program single-family owner vs renter splits

Cross-training of home-visiting programs (customer advocates, CAP agencies)

Other activities

EWG recommendations

Learnings from other states (MA EEAC / EWG)

State and federal funding opportunities

Initiatives and groups to watch



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SCEP
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT HOME ENERGY REBATES

Home Efficiency Rebates Program (Sec. 50121)
Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (Sec. 50122)





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Equity Working Group



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The Equity Working Group (EWG) was established in 2021 to provide the Company with recommendations to better incorporate equity in the planning, design, and delivery of its energy efficiency programs

- + The 2023 EWG was comprised of thirty-three stakeholders representing a variety of backgrounds and experience and met four times starting in June
- + In 2024, the Company will hold six EWG meetings starting in early 2024
- + Plan to deliver 2024 EWG report in September 2024

2023 Rhode Island Energy Efficiency EWG Report:

- + Prepared by Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- + Key components of report include background and member information, meeting summaries and materials, member feedback and company commentary, and recommendations
- + The report includes six key equity-and-planning-related recommendations for the Company
- + Common theme in 2023 was strong support for improvement in tracking and reporting of equity-related metrics

2023 EWG report recommendations



Key Issue	EWG Recommendations
<p>1. Participation Barriers: The Company's energy efficiency programs continue to experience low participation rates among BIPOC and Low-to Moderate Income (LMI) residents.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase participation rates from residents living in the 5 Equity Communities across the EnergyWise and IES Program 2) Offer Home Energy Assessments (HEAs) in at least 4 languages other than English with the resulting Home Energy Reports translated in the household's primary spoken language by the end of 2024
<p>2. Multifamily Barriers: Multifamily housing has always been a difficult area for energy efficiency program implementers to reach due to multiple issues including the split incentive issue between landlords and renters.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase participation rates among EnergyWise Multifamily and Income Eligible Multifamily Programs statewide, with a focus on the 5 Equity Communities and/or Justice 40/EJ Communities 2) Increased focus on renter-specific resources, including but not limited to information on what is available for renters and renter-friendly DIY home improvements. While noted that it can be difficult to distinguish who is a renter or owner at the property level, the Company should investigate ways to better track this
<p>3. Weatherization Deferrals: The presence of housing conditions that prevent or defer enrollment in weatherization programs in RI are common. RISE reported of the 11,930 homes receiving assessments through Q2 of 2023, 54 percent of those households had pre-weatherization barriers, and only 24.6 percent of those barriers were resolved.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Close the gap in the Conversion to Weatherization ratio between EnergyWise and IES programs by XX% over the next XX months 2) Continue to leverage and provide additional funding for pre-weatherization barrier remediation 3) Engage with the new State Department of Housing, cities/towns code officers, and/or housing courts. Better coordination between agencies can potentially address the pre-Wx issue

2023 EWG report recommendations



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Key Issue	EWG Recommendations
<p>4. Workforce Development/Training: The RI EWG continues to have discussions and develop recommendations for the Company on equitable workforce development and training opportunities to better serve and work with Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBES). The Company must focus on building a skilled workforce that better reflects the communities that it serves.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Increase the % of BIPOC workforce training participants and contractors that reside in the 5 Equity Communities (or Justice 40/EJ Communities) year over year by XX%2) Increase # of and capacity of minority contractors by XX% in 2024 (create multi-year targets)3) Increase the # and size of contracts awarded to MWBEs who conduct energy audits and weatherization services by XX% in 2024
<p>5. Microbusinesses and Small Businesses: Microbusinesses and small businesses (<250,000 annual kWh electric consumption) comprise the largest share of unique C&I customer accounts but have the lowest participation rates among C&I customers due to several challenges including split incentives, lack of technical capacity, and limited capital.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Leverage findings from the 2023 Small Business Process Evaluation to improve program strategy2) Conduct Main Street efforts in all five communities identified in the 2024-2026 EE Plan Narrative3) Develop translated program materials, as suggested in the SBDI Process Evaluation
<p>6. Metrics Tracking/Reporting: Based on RI EWG member feedback, the Company should significantly strengthen its equity-related data collection and reporting on key metrics tied to RI EWG recommendations.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Through Q4 2023, work with the RI EWG and the Company to come to an agreement on 2024 metrics and targets the Company can commit to tracking and achieving



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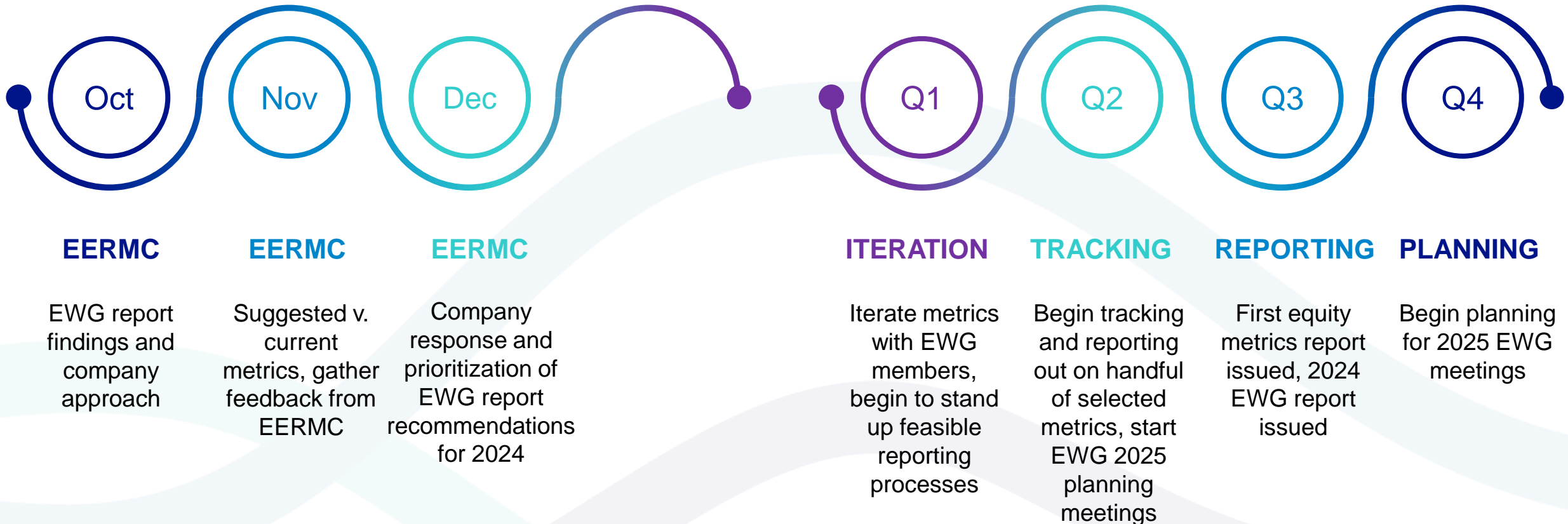
Targeted timeline to meet commitments



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2023

2024





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