

Ideas for 2018 Public Education Budget

12/7/2017

Mission

To educate the public, businesses, policy-makers, and council members

The proposed 2018 budget of \$100,000 is a \$25,000 increase over the 2017 budget. This funding will support education across a broader range of Rhode Islanders. The increase is small enough to not carry any substantial risk to the financial health of EERMC funds. The proposed 2018 budget is divided among the four groups in the subgroup's mission statement.

Public Education \$50,000

The Communications Subgroup will issue an RFP for education based on findings from the 2017 Needs Assessment. The proposed 2018 budget for public education is \$25K less than the \$75K budget in 2017.

Business Education \$47,000

This funding will provide education for three groups of professionals:

- **Building operators, facility managers, maintenance crews - \$40,000:** Gaps in knowledge and training for this group has been identified by OER and other states as a barrier to adoption of zero-energy and highly-energy efficient buildings. These funds would support much-needed workforce development, which will help transform the market for energy-efficient buildings. This education is especially urgent as the construction needs from the Rhode Island Schools Assessment¹ are prioritized and implemented. Opportunities to leverage these funds with external funding sources, such as grant funds, would be sought out. Further research into priority building types will need to be conducted.
- **Appraisal and financial professionals - \$5,000:** The Zero-Energy Buildings Working Group identified education for appraisers and the financial community as a need for increasing demand for and adoption of zero-energy buildings. This funding would support education for this community to understand how to value energy efficiency.
- **Farmers - \$2,000:** This funding will leverage an additional \$5,000 in funding from National Grid to support an Energy Fellow (University of Rhode Island student) who will assist with outreach

¹ http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/SchoolBuildingAuthority/RIDE-Facility-Condition-Report2017_FINAL.PDF

to the farm community regarding energy management. This is a professional development opportunity for the Energy Fellow, who will be guided by faculty and staff at the University of Rhode Island. The outreach campaign will build on a similar campaign conducted by the University of Connecticut Extension Outreach Center and the Connecticut Farm Energy Program.

Policy-Maker Education **\$3,000**

The impacts of policy decisions on energy efficiency programs underscores the need for education to this segment. These funds would support an in-person round table discussion on energy efficiency between members of the EERMC, legislators, policy-makers, and business and consumer groups. These funds are in addition to in-kind support from OER to develop educational materials, hold meetings, and engage in other education activities.

Council Education **N/A**

Funding for council education (for example, an annual retreat) are included in the consultant services budget.

Total Proposed Budget **\$100,000**
