

MEMO

CONSULTANT TEAM

TO: Energy Efficiency Council
FROM: EEC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
DATE: June 20, 2024
RE: June EEC Meeting Briefing Memo



PURPOSE OF BRIEFING MEMO

The purpose of this briefing memo is to assist Councilors with digesting the many materials and decisions they may need to make at each meeting. It follows a similar format to the official meeting agenda so Councilors can follow along throughout the meeting. For each agenda item, this memo will highlight key considerations for the Council and clearly indicate what actions (if any) the Council needs to take. The Consultant Team (C-Team) has worked with the Office of Energy Resources (OER) to also incorporate the content that Councilors are used to seeing in the “Recommended Vote Language” document. This ensures the Council has a single point of reference during meetings. This memo will also note any supplemental materials that are provided, but not associated with, specific agenda items. The C-Team and OER welcome any feedback on the format and content.

6. COUNCIL BUSINESS

6A. COUNCIL DISCUSSION WITH PIVOTPATH ON PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Key Considerations

- PivotPath will share the efforts it has made so far, highlight key achievements, and outline future steps
- To date, work has focused on market research, objectives and messaging, and initial campaign concepts
- Future work will include developing a media plan, engagement goals, and campaign implementation

Discussion Questions

- Do you agree with the objectives of the campaign that PivotPath has determined based on its work to date?
- Do you have a preference on what audience the campaign should be targeting? For example, should it be focused on one specific audience, or should it cover a wider array of audiences?
- Does the current campaign concept of “You Have the Power” meet your expectations?
- Do you have a clear vision of where this project is and where it is going?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

6B. REVIEW AND VOTE ON THE DRAFT 2024 EEC ANNUAL REPORT

Key Considerations

- The Council is required to submit an annual report on its activities, assessment of energy issues, status of system reliability, energy efficiency and conservation procurement, and recommendations regarding any improvements which might be necessary or desirable
- The C-Team has developed the final draft of the Council’s Annual Report, including support from Rhode Island Energy, OER, and feedback from Councilors
- Future iterations of the Annual Report will work to reduce the level of energy jargon to make it more accessible for broader audiences, and will be written with a more balanced tone when reporting on results of energy efficiency programs

Discussion Questions

- Does the Annual Report meet the Council’s expectations?
- Are there aspects of the report that could be improved for future iterations that haven’t already been noted (e.g. those referenced in the last bullet under key considerations above)?
- Does the Council wish to revisit the overall format of the Annual Report prior to the development next year?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

The Council must conduct a vote on whether or not it is ready to finalize and submit its Annual Report to the General Assembly.

Recommended Vote Language

- *A motion to approve the 2024 Council Annual Report:* a motion to approve the 2024 Council Annual Report as presented by the Consultant Team, on May 16, 2023.
- *A motion to approve the 2024 Council Annual Report, with amendments:* a motion to approve the 2024 Council Annual Report as presented by the Consultant Team, on May 16, 2023, with the following amendments {state amendments}.

6C. COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF 2025 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Key Considerations

The proposed budget:

- Maintains core items from 2024, such as C-Team and Legal Services;
- Removes funding to support the 2024 Farm Energy Fellow, as OER has secured funding for this position;
- Replaces K-12 Education with a Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Community of Practice; and
- Reduces support for the Energy Expo Sponsorship

The proposed budget represents a 3.5% decrease compared to the Council’s 2024 proposed budget, and a 5% increase compared to the Council’s 2024 budget that was approved by the Public Utilities Commission

Discussion Questions

- Do the modifications to the 2024 Proposed Budget for the Council’s 2025 Proposed Budget align with its interests and priorities?
- Are there items in the Council’s 2025 Proposed Budget that you do not understand and would like additional information on?
- What additional information can the C-Team and/or OER provide to support justification for any individual budget category?

Council Actions

Required Vote Potential Vote **No Vote**

7. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

7A. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY PRESENTATION ON TRANSPORTATION DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Key Considerations

- Rhode Island Energy plans to file the second phase of its Electric Transportation Initiative with the Public Utilities Commission as a Demand Side Management Proposal
- Per the Least Cost Procurement Standards, which were revised in 2023, such a proposal requires that the Council have engagement and the opportunity to endorse the proposal (similar to the Company’s recent Electric and Gas Demand Response proposals)
- The Company is providing an early overview of this proposal to the Council as it is a new item that the Council has not previously weighed in on

Discussion Questions

- What level of engagement does the Council wish to take on this proposal?
- Does the Council need additional information in order to make a decision about whether or not it would want to endorse this proposal?

Council Actions

Required Vote Potential Vote **No Vote**

7B. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY PRESENTATION ON THE 2025 DRAFT PLAN NARRATIVE

Key Considerations

- This presentation covers topics including utility system impacts and adjusted benefit cost ratios, as well as a framework for justifying programs
- Cross cutting topics around workforce and equity are covered
- Key sector-level updates for residential and commercial and industrial programs are also covered
- The Company’s presentation includes several slides related to Massachusetts’ energy efficiency programs, including recent modifications to its 2022-2024 Plan and information on its proposed 2025-2027 Plan.

Discussion Questions

- There will be dedicated time separate from this agenda item for the Council to discuss Rhode Island Energy and the C-Team’s presentations on the first draft of the 2025 Draft Plan Narrative. Please see discussion questions outlined under agenda item 7d.

Council Actions

Required Vote Potential Vote **No Vote**

7C. CONSULTANT TEAM PRESENTATION ON THE 2025 DRAFT PLAN NARRATIVE

Key Considerations

- The C-Team is still reviewing and digesting the Plan and as such, this presentation focuses on key concerns and areas from improvement based on initial read through
- While this is a First Draft, the C-Team does have some concerns about the level of completeness at this stage.

Discussion Questions

- There will be dedicated time separate from this agenda item for the Council to discuss Rhode Island Energy and the C-Team’s presentations on the first draft of the 2025 Draft Plan Narrative. Please see discussion questions outlined under agenda item 7d.

Council Actions

Required Vote Potential Vote **No Vote**

7D. COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON THE 2025 DRAFT PLAN NARRATIVE

Key Considerations

- This item is a dedicated time slot for Council discussion
- Councilors should feel free to discuss and direct questions to either or both of Rhode Island Energy and the C-Team

Discussion Questions

- Why did the Company opt to not include 2024 Plan language for sections where no major revisions were expected?
- Can the Company commit to specific dates for the draft and final versions of the Equity Working Group Report?
- How will the program enhancements and changes drafted for the Income Eligible and Multifamily programs drive more activity and improve program performance?
- Are there strategies for the commercial and industrial programs to revisit customers who still need lighting controls and/or have controls that the programs can optimize? What pathway or offering would be most effective for this?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

MONTHLY DATA SNAPSHOT

Due to the transition from its legacy data-reporting system to its new one, the Company will be delayed in sharing program performance data through the end of May. This will delay the Consultant Team's ability to develop and share the Monthly Electric and Gas Data Snapshots prior to the June Council Meeting. The C-Team will distribute the Monthly Data Snapshots to Councilors as soon as they can.

COUNCIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Consultant Team has provided an update to the Council's Calendar of Events which includes meeting dates, topics, and milestones for planning activities related to the 2025 EE Plan.

THIRD QUARTER EEC C-TEAM PREVIEW MEMO

The Consultant Team is in the process of developing its quarterly preview memo for the third quarter of 2024. The memo is intended to give Councilors an understanding of deliverables, activities, and events expected in the upcoming quarter, which builds on the Council Calendar of Events. The Council will provide this memo to the Council by the end of the month.

INITIAL DRAFT OF JULY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

An initial draft of the July Council and Executive Committee meeting agendas has been provided for Council review. Councilors should provide any feedback on the draft agenda by no later than Monday July 8, 2024.