

AGENDA

COUNCIL LEAD SESSION

Monday, October 28, 2024 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM

President's Dining Room, Donovan Dining Center
Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908

Members of the public may join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85496970055>
or by Phone: 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 854 9697 0055



AGENDA

12:45 – 1:00 PM	15 min	Arrival, Refreshments & Welcome
1:00 – 1:05 PM	5 min	Public Comment
1:05 – 1:25 PM	20 min	Introductions & Icebreaker
1:25 – 1:40 PM	15 min	Regulatory Updates
1:40 – 2:25 PM	45 min	Energy Efficiency Legislation: Current Challenges & Opportunities
1:40 – 1:55 PM	15 min	- Update & Discussion Framing by Councilor Sue AnderBois, Councilor Harry Oakley, Consultant Team & Legal Counsel
1:55 – 2:25 PM	30 min	- Discussion Facilitated by Consultant Team & Legal Counsel
2:25 – 2:40 PM	15 min	Break & Refreshments
2:40 – 3:10 PM	30 min	Legislator Education on Energy Efficiency
2:40 – 2:55 PM	15 min	- Discussion Framing by Councilor Sue AnderBois
2:55 – 3:10 PM	15 min	- Discussion Facilitated by Consultant Team
3:10 – 3:55 PM	45 min	Market Potential Study
3:10 – 3:25 PM	15 min	- Update & Discussion Framing by Consultant Team
3:25 – 3:55 PM	30 min	- Discussion Facilitated by Consultant Team
3:55 – 4:00 PM	5 min	Wrap Up

OBJECTIVES

Energy Efficiency Legislation Challenges & Opportunities

Councilors Oakley and AnderBois, the Consultant Team, and the Council's Legal Counsel will provide a brief update on recent conversations among key stakeholder groups regarding potential limitations of Rhode Island's existing energy efficiency legislation. Councilors will be asked to discuss anticipated challenges and opportunities associated with fulfilling the Council's legislated requirements. Topic areas for discussion may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Meeting the Council’s legislative purposes in light of Act on Climate mandates
- Ability to move energy efficiency plans from binding annual to binding three-year plans
- Allocation and autonomy of the Council’s budget
- Council meeting and voting requirements (e.g. proxy and/or virtual attendance and voting)

The Council’s Legal Counsel will be available to respond to any questions that Councilors have regarding what the Council can and cannot do.

Legislator Education on Energy Efficiency

Councilor AnderBois will review a draft briefing presentation that could be used for educating State Legislators on the Council, its work, and its observations on energy policy in Rhode Island. Councilors will be asked to provide feedback and input on the draft presentation and strategy for educating Rhode Island State Legislators.

Market Potential Study

The Consultant Team will provide background on the purpose and history of Council-led market potential studies (MPS) as well as specifics for a proposed study including scope, timing, and next steps. Councilors will be asked to discuss interest in funding a new MPS and, if desired, what the goals of such a study should be.

DISCUSSION FRAMING QUESTIONS

Energy Efficiency Legislation Challenges & Opportunities

- What concerns do you have regarding Rhode Island’s current energy efficiency policy landscape?
- Are there ways in which least cost procurement law or the Council’s enabling legislation are incongruent with Act on Climate mandates?
- How can the state’s energy efficiency policy be optimized to fully support the state’s climate goals?
- Are there potential improvements to the energy efficiency planning process that would require legislative updates (e.g. annual vs. three-year plans, Council meeting proxies)?
- What do you see as the Council’s role in the state’s policymaking process?

Legislator Education on Energy Efficiency

- What key messages does the Council want to ensure legislators understand?
- What misconceptions or gaps in knowledge do you think exist among policymakers?
- What timing would be appropriate to hold a legislator briefing?
- Would you be interested in helping to present on behalf of the Council at a legislator briefing?

Market Potential Study

- Do you have any clarifying questions about the purpose, scope, or implications of an MPS?
- Does the Council have sufficient information to inform a decision about whether or not to conduct a new MPS?
- What potential drawbacks exist if the Council decides to not conduct a new MPS?

RESOURCES

Energy Efficiency Legislation Challenges & Opportunities

- [EERMC Enabling Legislation](#)
- [Least Cost Procurement Legislation](#)
- [EERMC Funding Mechanism Legislation \(see sections \(i\) and \(j\)\)](#)

Legislator Education on Energy Efficiency

- [Draft Legislator Education Presentation](#)

Market Potential Study

- [2021-2026 RI Market Potential Study – Final Report Slide Deck](#)
- [2024-2026 RI Market Potential Study Refresh – Final Results Presentation](#)
- [Guide for Conducting Energy Efficiency Potential Studies](#)
- [Department of Energy – Energy Efficiency Potential Studies Catalog](#)