

MEMO

CONSULTANT TEAM

TO: Energy Efficiency Council
FROM: EEC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
DATE: November 21, 2024
RE: November 21st 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. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

6A. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY AND C-TEAM PRESENTATION ON 2024 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Key Considerations

- Given the Company’s transition to a new data-reporting platform, the C-Team has not had access to detailed electric and gas data reports since April 2024. In the interim, the Company has been able to provide program-level spending through September 2024, which is reflected in the presentation.
- C-Team generated estimates of program- and portfolio-level savings using spending data from the Company and cost-to-achieve values from the 2024 Plan.
- The focus of the presentation is on qualitative updates from the Company on program implementation, including both challenges and successes.

Discussion Questions

- What program(s) does the Company have confidence it will achieve its 2024 savings goals for?
- What program(s) does the Company believe will fall short of the 2024 savings goal?
- When does the Company anticipate having full insight into program performance?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

6B. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY UPDATE ON EQUITY METRICS AND TRACKING

Key Considerations

- Seven adopted equity metrics¹ related to participation barriers, multifamily customers, pre-weatherization barriers, workforce development, and small businesses.
- RIE response² to EWG recommendation on enhancing outreach and education efforts: To ensure emphasis on outreach to boost participation in RI Energy Efficiency Programs, the Company is working on developing I-Energy as the Company's data and metrics tracking, reporting, and billing tool. **The Company is still on track to report out on key equity metrics in its Q3 2024 report.**

Discussion Questions

- When does the Company anticipate it will be able to report additional Equity Metrics? The Company has experienced several delays in its data-reporting transition, so it is unclear whether the Q3 2024 Report will include all seven adopted equity metrics.
- How will the Company report on equity-focused metrics on a regular basis in 2025 and beyond?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

6C. ENERGY EFFICIENCY DOCKET 23-35-EE REGULATORY UPDATES

Key Considerations

- 2025 Plan Docket is well underway, with intervenor testimony having already been filed and data requests being issued and responded to
- Council testimony on budget development, plan review, and considerations for endorsement
- Data requests will continue to be ongoing leading up to the hearings in December
- Hearings scheduled for December 10th – 12th

Discussion Questions

- How did the Council's data requests inform testimony?
- Are there any key takeaways from responses that the Council received on data requests?

¹ <https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2024-10/24-39-EE%20Rhode%20Island%20Energy%27s%202025%20Annual%20Energy%20Efficiency%20Plan%20-%20PUC%2010-01-2024.pdf> (PDF Page 443-445 or Bates Page 418-420)

² <https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2024-10/24-39-EE%20Rhode%20Island%20Energy%27s%202025%20Annual%20Energy%20Efficiency%20Plan%20-%20PUC%2010-01-2024.pdf> (PDF Page 429 or Bates Page 404)

- Should the Council consider issuing any additional data requests?

Council Actions

Required Vote	Potential Vote	No Vote
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7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7A. PRESENTATION ON 2024 PUBLIC FORUM AND LECTURE SERIES

Key Considerations

- URI Cooperative Extension will present a summary of Council-sponsored 2024 Public Forum and Lecture Series activities, along with a brief preview of planned activity for 2025.
- At the September 12, 2024 full Council meeting, the Council approved a 2025 budget, including \$91,250 to support continued and new education work in partnership with URI Cooperative Extension. \$70,250 was allocated to develop an “Efficient Housing for All” Community of Practice. \$21,000 was allocated for the implementation of three energy lectures.

Discussion Questions

- Does the Council need more information on completed or planned efforts by URI Cooperative Extension?
- What feedback, insights, recommendations, or requests do Councilors have for URI after considering the information presented?
- What next steps are needed to initiate the 2025 work?

Council Actions

Required Vote	Potential Vote	No Vote
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7B. REVIEW AND POTENTIAL VOTE ON CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION

Key Considerations

- The Council’s current agreement with Optimal Energy began in 2021 after a competitive solicitation.
- In 2022, the Council chose to pursue the first of two two-year contract extensions with the existing consultant services to cover calendar years 2023-2024.
- The Council may elect to execute one final contract extension with their current consultant services for an additional two years of service, or may choose to go out to bid for new consultant services for 2025 and beyond.

- This would be the final extension under the current agreement terms and if the extension is executed, the Council should plan to go out to bid for these services again in 2026.

Discussion Questions

- Has the Council's consultant services met its expectations to support the Council in its review and oversight of the energy efficiency programs and initiatives administered by the electric and gas distribution company?
- Are the Council's consultant services being provided cost-effectively?
- Are there adjustments to consultant services that the Council would like to see?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

Recommended Vote Language

- **A motion to execute an extension of the existing EEC consultant team:** A motion to execute the second of the EEC's two (2) twenty-four-month extensions of the existing EEC Consultant Team contract and to direct the Office of Energy Resources (OER) to work with EEC Legal Counsel to execute the contract extension documents.
- **A motion to approve going to the market for consultant services:** A motion to approve issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit consultant services for the EEC and to direct the Office of Energy Resources to prepare a draft in advance of the December Council meeting for consideration.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

MONTHLY DATA SNAPSHOT

The Company's process for transitioning from its legacy data-reporting systems to its new one is continuing to take longer than initially expected. The C-Team will begin distributing Monthly Data Snapshots to the Councilors again as soon as possible once the Company's data reporting system transition is complete.

COUNCIL BUDGET TRACKER

OER will provide an updated version of the Council's budget tracker.

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.

INITIAL DRAFT OF DECEMBER 19TH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

An initial draft of the December 19th Council meeting agenda is included. Councilors are welcome to share any feedback.

COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Consultant Team will be providing a November iteration of the Newsletter to the Council. The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep Councilors apprised of activities and developments that are relevant to the Council's interests, but that may not be able to be covered as topics on Council meeting agendas. The Newsletter covers a wide variety of topics such as updates on Future of Gas Docket proceedings, Equity Working Group and Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) meetings, relevant regional energy news, and upcoming energy events.

EE AND CLIMATE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN – OCTOBER MEDIA DELIVERY REPORT

PivotPath has provided the Council with a report that gives an overview and update of the Council's EE and Climate Awareness Campaign, including digital and Google analytics insights.