

MEMO

CONSULTANT TEAM

TO: Energy Efficiency Council
FROM: EEC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
DATE: January 16, 2025
RE: January 16th EEC Meeting Briefing Memo



PURPOSE OF BRIEFING MEMO

The purpose of this briefing memo is to assist members of the Energy Efficiency Council¹ 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. REVIEW AND POTENTIAL VOTE ON THE CONSULTANT TEAM’S 2025 DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK

Key Considerations

- The C-Team has provided a draft of their 2025 scope of work (SOW) and budget
- The SOW memo builds off the 2024 SOW, with updates and changes described
- The proposed budget is based off the allocation in the Council’s proposed and approved 2025 budget proposal

Discussion Questions

- Does the SOW provided meet the Council’s needs?
- Is the SOW work clear?
- Does the SOW provide support for core Council activities and priorities?
- Are there any adjustments that should be made to the SOW?

¹ All materials associated with the Energy Efficiency Council are the work of the “Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council” and any public meetings materials posted on the RI Secretary of State website should be searched using that title.

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

Recommended Vote Language

- **A motion to adopt the 2025 Scope of Work:** A motion to approve the 2025 scope of work for the Consultant team, led by Optimal Energy, and the associated budget for that scope of work as presented at the January 16th, 2025 Council Meeting. Further, to direct the Office of Energy Resources to incorporate this approved scope of work and budget into the current consultant services contract.
- **A motion to adopt the 2025 Scope of Work, with amendments:** A motion to approve the 2025 scope of work for the Consultant team, led by Optimal Energy, and the associated budget for that scope of work with the following amendments: {state amendments}. Further to direct the Office of Energy Resources to incorporate this amended scope of work and budget into the current consultant services contract.
- **A motion to request revisions and/or modifications:** A motion to request that the Consultant Team, led by Optimal Energy, make significant revisions to the scope of work and present that for Council consideration at the February meeting. Specifically, the revised document should address: {specific area(s) of concern}.

6B. COUNCIL'S CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR 2025

Key Considerations

- The Council has contracts with four vendors, including those for consulting services, legal services, public forum and lecture series, and an energy efficiency and climate awareness campaign.
- OER will review the status of each of these contracts and discuss options that need to be considered for each of them in the upcoming year.
- The goal of the discussion is **not** to vote on any extensions at this meeting, but to get a better understanding of the terms and next steps needed for each.

Discussion Questions

- Legal Services
 - Is the Council satisfied with current legal services?
 - Would the Council like to extend current services for another year?
- Public Forum and Lecture Series
 - Is the Council satisfied with current public forum and lecture series services?
 - Would the Council like to extend current services with URI for another year?
- Energy Efficiency and Climate Awareness Campaign
 - Is the Council satisfied with current awareness campaign services?

- Would the Council like to extend current services for another year?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

7. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

7A. DEBRIEF ON 24-39-EE DOCKET PROCEEDINGS

Key Considerations

- The Council's C-Team, Rhode Island Energy, and OER will give a joint presentation on outcomes of the 2025 Plan Docket.
- The presentation will largely focus on discussion and rulings from the Commission's Open Meeting where they approve the Plan.
- The C-Team has also prepared a summary memo of the Docket, including key areas of discussion from the hearings.

Discussion Questions

- What lessons should the Council take from outcomes in the Docket into its future work (e.g. plan priorities, review, Docket engagement, etc.)?
- Does the Council wish to support processes to move energy efficiency plans to three-years plans instead of annual ones? If so, how can the Council best support this?
- What does the Company see as key priorities or next steps for energy efficiency implementation and planning?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

7B. DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 PROGRAM YEAR

Key Considerations

- In the coming months, the Council will formalize its priorities for the Company to consider during the development of the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan.
- The C-Team has prepared a presentation that will serve as a starting place for the Council's discussion.
- Feedback received from Councilors will be incorporated into a draft memo of priorities for the Council to initially consider in February.

Discussion Questions

- Should the Council reconsider how it presents its priorities in the future?
- Are there priorities from the 2025 Plan that can be removed or updated for the 2026 Plan?
- How can Council Priorities provide the best guidance to the Company?
- Do the priorities reflect the needs of all constituent groups represented by the Council?

Council Actions

No votes are required this month, however, the Council will vote on its priorities in February or March.

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

7C. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY'S PRESENTATION ON OLD MILL LANE AND AQUIDNECK ISLAND PROGRAMMING

Key Considerations

- Forecasted gas capacity constraints on Aquidneck Island present winter reliability concerns.
- “Hybrid” approach to alleviating supply constraint includes non-infrastructure solutions like demand management and electrification, temporary enhancements to Old Mill Lane, and a new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility to replace Old Mill Lane.
- LNG facility would be significantly cheaper than non-infrastructure solutions.
- The Company must file a plan with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for Aquidneck Island by June 1, 2025, that addresses the capacity constraint but also addresses the Act on Climate and Least-Cost Procurement Standards.

Discussion Questions

- How would development of a new LNG facility impact compliance with Act on Climate mandates?
- Is there opportunity for non-infrastructure solutions to defer investment in traditional infrastructure (i.e., a new LNG facility)?
- What roles does the Company see the Council having in the development of this Plan?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

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 for 2024 and a new version for 2025.

COUNCIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Consultant Team has provided a 2025 version of the Council's Calendar of Events which includes meeting dates, topics, and proposed milestones for planning activities related to the 2026 EE Plan.

INITIAL DRAFT OF FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

EE AND CLIMATE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN – DECEMBER 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.

EE AND CLIMATE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN – INSIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2025

PivotPath has provided the Council with a presentation that outlines insights from work in 2024 recommendations and next steps for 2025. This material may be helpful to reference when discussing the Council's contracts.