

MEMO

CONSULTANT TEAM

TO: Energy Efficiency Council
FROM: EEC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
DATE: April 17, 2025
RE: Second Quarter EEC C-Team Preview Report



PURPOSE OF BRIEFING MEMO

The purpose of this quarterly preview report is to provide Council members with an understanding of upcoming deliverables, activities, and events expected in the upcoming quarter. The Consultant Team (C-Team) has organized this by Task as laid out in its [Scope of Work for 2025](#), approved by the Council at its January 16, 2025 meeting. For each Task area, the memo identifies relevant upcoming meetings that the C-Team anticipates supporting as well as any major deliverables that are expected to occur during the upcoming quarter. As always, the C-Team welcomes any feedback on the format and content from the Councilors.

TASK 1 – ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Plan Outline Memo:** The 2026 Annual Plan Outline Memo was delivered on April 4th, with comments due on April 25th. Rhode Island Energy (the Company) will provide a presentation on the Plan Outline Memo during the April 17th EEC Meeting. The Plan Outline Memo describes key components of the Plan and its associated attachments, which are fully detailed in the 1st Draft Annual Plan Narrative. The C-Team will provide comments on the Plan Outline Memo to the Company following completion of its review and based on feedback received from the Council at the April 17th meeting.
- **First Draft 2026 Annual Plan:** The Company will simultaneously share the First Draft 2026 Annual Plan Narrative and Numbers to the Council in June. The current timeline indicates that this will be available on June 20th, which is approximately a week before the Council's scheduled meeting on June 26th. The C-Team will conduct detailed analysis of the Plan Narrative¹ and Numbers with key tasks listed below:
 - 2026 Annual Plan Narrative
 - Main Text
 - Attachment 1 – Residential & Income Eligible Programs
 - Attachment 2 – Commercial & Industrial Programs
 - Attachment 3 – Evaluation, Measurement, & Verification (EM&V) Plan
 - Attachment 4 – Rhode Island Test Description
 - Attachment 8 – Demonstrations, Pilots, & Assessments (DPAs)

¹ Anticipate that the Company may not share all Plan Attachments (Attachments 5 & 6 – Electric and Gas Tables and Attachment 10 – Definitions) as part of the First Draft. Also anticipate renumberation of the Attachments due to the removal of Attachment 7 – Rate & Bill Impacts as a discrete Attachment.

- Attachment 9 – Cross-Program Summary
- 2026 Annual Plan Numbers
 - Program, Sector, and Portfolio-level Savings, Budget, and Cost-to-Achieve Comparisons
 - Measure-level Comparisons of Planned and Actual Program Performance
 - Comparisons of Plan Narrative Data to Plan Benefit-Cost Models (i.e., Plan Numbers)
 - Cross-Jurisdictional Comparisons of Measure-level Inputs/Assumptions
 - Technical Reference Manual (TRM) Comparisons to Completed Evaluation Studies and Plan BC Models
- **Equity Working Group:** The EWG will likely engage in development of the 2026 Annual Plan Development beginning at the May or June EWG meeting, in which it will discuss priorities for 2026. The EWG’s priorities for the Plan will build on the past four years of its collaboration with various EWG participants, in addition to progress that the Company has made on implementing past equity-focused recommendations.

April	
04/04/25 (Fri)	2026 Annual Plan Outline Memo Due to EEC
04/17/25 (Thu)	Energy Efficiency Council Meeting
04/24/25 (Thu)	Technical Working Group Meeting
04/28/25 (Mon)	Equity Working Group Meeting
4/18/25 (Fri)	2026 Annual Plan Outline Memo Stakeholder Comment Period Ends
May	
05/15/25 (Thu)	Energy Efficiency Council Meeting
05/22/25 (Thu)	Technical Working Group Meeting
05/26/25 (Mon)	Equity Working Group Meeting
June	
06/20/25 (Fri)	1st Draft of 2025 Annual Plan Narrative and Numbers Due to EEC
06/23/25 (Mon)	Equity Working Group Meeting
6/26/25 (Thu)	Energy Efficiency Council Meeting
6/27/25 (Fri)	1st Draft of TRM to EEC

RESIDENTIAL, INCOME ELIGIBLE, AND COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TEAM WORK

The Sector Teams, comprised of the C-Team and its subject-matter experts, the Company, OER, and the Division, typically convenes at least once a month to discuss all matters related to program planning and implementation. The sector teams spent its first meeting of 2025 discussing topics for the remainder of the year, with tentative topics for Q2 including:

- 2024 Year-End Performance Review
- Equity Metrics Deep Dive
- Incorporating EM&V Study Recommendations into Program Design

- Non-Residential New Construction Baselines and IECC 2024 Addendum
- Recommendations from Custom Process Evaluation
- Electric Resistance Heat Characterization Study
- Moderate Income Weatherization Market Research Study
- Income Eligible Single Family Impact Evaluation
- Utilization of dashboard developed in Participation and Multifamily Census and Nonparticipant Market Barriers Study
- New and Emerging Technologies/Practices
- Coordination with State and Federal Programs/Offerings
- New Construction Program: Baseline Document and EUI Ranges
- C&I Program Implementer Tools and Spreadsheets
- IECC 2024 – Impacts on Program Design/Savings
- 2025 Plan Commitments Tracker
- Trade Ally Engagement & Trade Ally Engagement Manager
- Connected Solutions: Integration of Active Demand Management and Existing-Building Commissioning (EBCx)
- Energy Management Systems (EMS) - Prescriptive EMS Offering
- Small Business – Impacts of Increased Customer Size Threshold, Customer-Directed Option, Mercury Ban Impacts, and CBO Support
- Custom Measures and Custom Process Updates

An ongoing focus for this year has been bridging the gap between retroactive program evaluation and real-time implementation. Evaluation studies identify opportunities to improve program delivery and produce recommendations for achieving proposed outcomes. While program implementers can readily access evaluation findings and recommendations, one challenge is that this communication can be one-directional, in that program implementers and administrators do not always have opportunities to shape evaluation beyond identifying priority areas and participating in study interviews, surveys, and focus groups. By increasing proactive collaboration between evaluation and implementation, we aim to pinpoint evaluation efforts such that they explore all important issues and ensure meaningful, organized follow-ups on study recommendations.

EVALUATION, MEASUREMENT, AND VERIFICATION (EM&V)

The EM&V Team, consisting of the C-Team and its subject-matter experts from the Company, OER, and Guidehouse, convenes twice a month to discuss planned, ongoing, and completed evaluations. The meetings serve as a forum to share progress, address roadblocks, ensure alignment and exchange advice and lessons learned from previous studies or evaluations in nearby regions. Logistically, we also review program timelines and provide recommendations on the optimal use of time and resources. One of the monthly meetings focuses on residential programs, while the other, scheduled for two weeks later, centers on commercial evaluations. Cross-sector programs, important questions, and updates related to either sector can be addressed in either meeting.

Throughout each month our main task is reviewing the Program and EM&V plans, and reports. Each program deliverable is reviewed by the team leading to extensive email communication and document edits.

For the second quarter of 2025 expected deliverables include:

Residential

- Workplan - RI-25-RX-RMSS - Residential Mechanical Systems Evaluation (Upcoming)
- Workplan - RI-25-RE-Products - Residential Products Impact and Market Effects Evaluation (Second round of review)
- Workplan - RI-25-RX-MultiFam - EnergyWise & Income-Eligible Multifamily Impact Evaluation (Prescriptive-focus) (Second round of review)
- Workplan - RI-25-RX-QAQCProc - Residential & Income-Eligible QA/QC Process Evaluation (In-discussion)

Commercial

- RI-24-CE-Lighting - Market Characterization and Impact Evaluation of C&I Lighting Controls (In-Progress, Interview guides being reviewed)
- RI-24-CG-CustGasPY23 - Impact Evaluation of PY2023 Custom Gas Installations (In-Progress, metering and M&V plans underway)
- RI-24-CE-CustElecPY23 - Impact Evaluation of PY2023 Custom Electric Installations (In-Progress, finishing data collection)
- RI-25-CX-ISP Research - C&I Industry Standard Practice Research (Upcoming, to meet with MA representative)
- RI-25-CX-ExistCommissioning - Existing Building Commissioning Process Evaluation (Upcoming, C-Team Comments under review)
- RI-25-CE-CommLighting - C&I Lighting Impact Evaluation (Upcoming, C-Team Comments under review)
- RI-25-CE-CIHeatPumps - Research for C&I Heat Pumps (Upcoming, Discussions with C&I Strategy lead)

Cross Sector

- RI-25-XE-HPApp - Heat Pump Study Review and Application (Upcoming, Internal review MA/CT reports reviewed)
- RI-25-XX-TMYx - TMY3 to TMYx Savings Review and Adjustments (Upcoming, coordination between DNV and Resource Innovations)

Study results will be posted to the Council's website and be shared with Councilors as they become final.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

A major focus in the second quarter will be overseeing the launch of the *Efficient Housing for All* Community of Practice (CoP). This includes providing ongoing project guidance to the URI Cooperative

Extension during biweekly project management meetings, ensuring alignment with Council priorities, and supporting the planning of CoP meetings to achieve desired outcomes.

The April EEC Newsletter is included with this month's materials, and there will be another newsletter in June. The newsletters will feature continued coverage of the full EC4 meetings, its two advisory boards, the Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group, the Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group, any updates to the Future of Gas proceedings, and relevant energy news on the regional and national scales. The newsletters will also cover the continued stakeholder engagement opportunities regarding the development of the RI Climate Action Strategy. There have been four stakeholder engagement meetings so far with specific focus areas, which are included in the April EEC Newsletter. Two focus area meetings remain as well as two general stakeholder engagement meetings, and their summaries will be included in the June EEC Newsletter. The June EEC Newsletter will also include preliminary updates on the Climate Action Strategy scenario modeling if there are any to share at that time.

TASK 2 – SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT AND DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT

The C-Team anticipates that there will be an uptick in activity related to SRP and DSM work beginning in the second quarter for a few reasons. First, the Company recently filed their year-end report for their 2024 ConnectedSolutions Program with the Public Utilities Commission and will be presenting on results at the April Council meeting. The C-Team is in the process of reviewing the results to better inform discussions that we expect will happen around launching the 2025 summer peak season programs. Second, the Company has recently scheduled 2025 SRP Technical Working Group meetings which have been dormant through the first quarter of the year. The C-Team anticipates supporting the Council through active participation in two meetings that are scheduled in the second quarter, and any action items that come out of them. Finally, the Company is in the process of developing a plan to address natural gas capacity constraints on Aquidneck Island and is required to file a plan with the PUC by June 1, 2025. The C-Team expects that this will be discussed at SRP Technical Working Group meetings and that it will have an opportunity to review and provide input on the plan as its developed.

TASK 3 – REGULATORY PROCEEDINGS

The C-Team expects that there will be some, but likely, limited activity related to regulatory proceedings in the second quarter. That said, there are some potential items that we are keeping a close eye on that may result in the need for engagement. These include:

- **Future of Gas Docket:** Our current understanding is that the final stakeholder report in this Docket will be made available soon. Once it is available, we will engage in reviewing the report and sharing results with Councilors. It is expected that there will be an opportunity to provide comment directly to the Commissioners upon completion of the final report. To the extent the Council would like to submit comment, we would work with the Council to facilitate that.
- **Targeted Demand Response, Energy Efficiency, and Electric Heating Conversion Program:** As noted in the prior section, the Company is required to file with the PUC a plan to address natural gas capacity constraints on Aquidneck Island by June 1, 2025. This is tied to the Energy Facility Siting Board's approval of a 5 year license for the operation of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Vaporization Facility on Old Mill Lane in Portsmouth. The C-Team plans to engage in any Docket proceedings that may result from this filing, which could happen as early as late second quarter.

- **Least Cost Procurement Standards:** The Commission is required to review the Least Cost Procurement Standards at minimum every three years. The Standards were last reviewed in 2023 and thus are not required to be opened up for review again until 2026. That said, the C-Team has been in discussions with the Company and OER about potentially requesting that the Commission consider conducting this process in 2025 for a couple reasons. First, in past years, we have observe that updating the Standards in the same year in which a Three-Year Plan is being developed can represent a challenge in the overall plan development process. This is because any changes to the Standards would typically not be finalized until after that planning process has already begun. Second, there has been broad interest in moving towards having Three-Year Plans be binding (instead of Annual Plans as is currently the case). This would represent a notable shift in how plans are developed, implemented, and tracked along the way. It is conceivable that there are elements of the Standards that would benefit from review and updating prior to such a shift. The C-Team anticipates that some work on this may happen in the second quarter, at least for the purposes of making a request to the Commission.

TASK 4 – COUNCIL SPONSORED MEETINGS AND MATERIALS

In the second quarter, the C-Team anticipates that it will support a minimum of eight meetings of the Council and its committees. This includes full Council meetings in April, May, and June, the Council’s LEAD Session meeting in May (more on this below), an Executive Committee meeting in April, and Education Committee meetings in April, May, and June. The C-Team will continue to support these meetings in the form of providing technical support, developing meeting materials, and appropriately staffing meetings.

Beyond the Council meetings, the C-Team will support key deliverables include preparing and presenting the first draft of the Council’s annual report, collecting feedback, and incorporating revisions into a more polished version with fresh design elements for a potential vote at the May Council meeting. The final version, once updated with 2024 data, will be distributed in June along with an updated Executive Summary Pamphlet.

This quarter also includes planning and executing the spring LEAD Session on May 5th, from topic selection and speaker coordination to logistics and follow-up actions. Planning will also soon be underway for the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Annual Stakeholder Meeting, anticipated to happen in early June.

Coordination of the Education Committee will continue, including agenda planning, materials development, meeting facilitation, oversight of contracted partners, and strategic planning around future initiatives and budget allocations.

TASK 5 – RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND OTHER COUNCIL SUPPORT

The C-Team expects that there will be continued work over the second quarter to support general research, analysis, and other Council support as outlined in our scope of work. These activities include:

- Continued support of OER on its RFP for potentially selecting a vendor for the administration of ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs in Rhode Island. We will continue to work in coordination with OER as it evaluates proposals received and works towards a decision, which based on recent conversations, is expected within this quarter.
- Monitor EC4 meetings and engage in its 2025 Climate Action Strategy Planning activities.
- Continue to support individual and small groups of councilors through briefing meetings as needed or desired.
- Continue to meet with actively engaged energy efficiency stakeholders on an as needed basis.
- If new Councilors are appointed during the second quarter, we will plan to meet with, educate, and orient new Councilor(s) to cover roles, responsibilities, and evolving issues for the Council.
- Monitor and review activity in the general assembly related to the Council's work, paying close attention to any relevant bills that are passed.

TASK 6 – ADMINISTRATIVE

During the second quarter, the C-Team plans to conduct the following work under the reduced billing rate:

- Meeting coordination and logistics support for some upcoming events such as the LEAD Session and the Annual CHP Meeting (both referenced earlier in this memo).
- Ongoing support with OER in the maintenance of the Council's website. In the second quarter, we plan to meet with OER staff to review the Council's website for areas that need updating, and to create a workplan for monitoring sections for updating and designating roles and responsibilities for making such updates.
- Quarterly reports to the Council, including this second quarter preview report, a third quarter preview report in June, and a first quarter C-Team budget spending summary in late April or early May.

TASK 7 – COUNCIL INTERN

The Council's Mike Guerard Energy Fellow Intern will continue to support Council objectives and activities throughout the second quarter. Projects currently being supported by the intern include:

- Implementation and oversight activities, including engagement in sector team meetings, data review, and plan commitments tracking.
- Assistance with tracking and summarizing relevant content for the Councilor Newsletter.
- Analysis of 2025 ACEEE State Energy Scorecard, including a report that will summarize the key drivers of Rhode Island's position.