

MEMO

CONSULTANT TEAM

TO: Energy Efficiency Council
FROM: EEC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
DATE: May 15, 2025
RE: May 15th 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 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. SPECIAL TOPIC

6A. DISCUSSION OF THE RHODE ISLAND CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

Key Considerations

- Energy and Environmental Economics (E3) is leading the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council’s (EC4) work to develop Rhode Island’s 2025 Climate Action Strategy (CAS) as required by the Act on Climate
- The CAS plan is a multi-faceted approach to meeting the Act on Climate’s 2050 Net Zero mandate through electrification, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and use of low-carbon fuels.
- A comprehensive feedback process has been ongoing to ensure stakeholder involvement during the design and development of the CAS.

Discussion Questions

- Based on work conducted in the Future of Gas Docket, and the work conducted in the development of the Climate Action Strategy, does the study team believe that the State is doing enough with its energy efficiency programming to meet the mandates of the Act on Climate?
- What strategies are missing and should be explored in the Climate Action Strategy?

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.

- Do Councilors have recommendations for ways or source we can use to measure the impact of the proposed strategies?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

7. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

7A. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Key Considerations

- Rhode Island Energy (“the Company”) will present on program highlights through the end of 2024.
- The Company is still working on finalizing updates to its data reporting systems to inform final results for 2024, and received an extension from May 1st to May 22nd by the PUC to file its 2024 Year-End Report.
- It is expected that program updates from the Company will be largely qualitative in nature, and that more quantitative assessment will be available for the June Council meeting.

Discussion Questions

- Even though the quantitative numbers and Year-End Report are not final, can the Company give the Council a general sense of direction of how the programs performed in 2024?
- Based on highlights shared today, what areas of detailed review and analysis would the Council like to focus on with the quantitative review at the June Council meeting?
- Can the Company speak to any challenges it has identified based on 2024 program outcomes and the first few months of implementing the 2025 programs?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

7B. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY UPDATES ON THE 2026 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

Key Considerations

- The Company submitted the 2026 Plan Outline Memorandum on April 4, 2025 and received comments from stakeholders, including the C-Team², by April 25, 2025.
- Several areas of stakeholder feedback, including budget and customer affordability, impacts of findings in Future of Gas Docket study, and implications of federal policies.
- The Company is in the process of developing the first draft of the 2026 Plan, which will be distributed by June 20, 2025.

Discussion Questions

- What is the Company's interpretation of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (DPUC) recommendation for significant budget reductions in the 2026 Plan? In other words, does the Company have a sense of the magnitude of reduction that it thinks the DPUC is looking for?
- Can the Company speak to any improvements it is planning in the 2026 Plan narrative to respond to feedback related to process documentation around stakeholder engagement and new measure considerations?
- How much of a challenge do the federal uncertainties pose to the development and the implementation of energy efficiency programs? To the extent there are serious challenges to implementation, how is the Company thinking about contingency plans?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

8A. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Considerations

- The Council has decided to take a new approach this year, streamlining content and using a more consistent Council voice and perspective.
- The C-Team took direction from recent Council meetings to emphasize energy affordability and align Policy Recommendations with Plan Priorities.
- Proposed Policy Recommendations take a more direct approach to informing state-level decision makers of current challenges and opportunities.
- This version is near final, largely pending inclusion of final 2024 program results.

Discussion Questions

² A memo summarizing the C-Team's feedback provided on the 2026 Plan Outline Memo is available as part of the May 15th Council Meeting Materials.

- Do the Policy Recommendations accurately reflect messages that the Council wants to convey to the legislature, Governor's office, and other state-level decision makers (p. 19)?
- What feedback does the Council have on the proposed new section "Energy Efficiency Essentials" (p. 10)?
- Are there areas of the Annual Report that the Council would like to focus efforts on improving in future iterations?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

Recommended Vote Language

- **Formal adoption of the 2025 Annual Report:** A motion to adopt the 2025 Annual Report and Policy Recommendations, pending the inclusion of final numbers from Rhode Island Energy, as presented by the Consultant team on May 15th, 2025.
- **Adoption of the 2025 Annual Report with amendments:** A motion to adopt the 2025 Annual Report and Policy Recommendations, pending the inclusion of final numbers from Rhode Island Energy, as presented by the Consultant team on May 15th, 2025, with the following amendments {state amendments}.

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 has provided an updated version of the Council's budget trackers for 2024 and 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 JUNE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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

CONSULTANT TEAM QUARTERLY BUDGET UPDATE

This memo provides the Council with an update on the Consultant Team's budget after the close of the first quarter. The update provides a summary of year-to-date spending and hours compared to planned budgets and hours.

RHODE ISLAND ENERGY MARKETING METRICS

As a follow-up to requests from Councilors at the April EEC Meeting, Rhode Island Energy has provided a slide deck with additional marketing metrics for its programs.