

EDUCATION COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 6, 2025 | 8:30 – 9:30 AM

The Nature Conservancy, 159 Waterman Street, Providence, RI 02906

With remote participation available via Zoom.



Members in Attendance: Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois

Others in Attendance: Steven Chybowski, Georgia Cheney, Katie Critelli, Rachel Sholly, Kevin Drumm, Carinel LeGrand, Brett Feldman (virtual), Kevin O'Neill (virtual), Craig Johnson (virtual), Toby Ast (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 8:35 A.M.

2. Vote on Meeting Minutes

Council Member AnderBois motioned to approve the April 4, 2025 Education Committee Meeting Minutes. Council Member Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

3. Community of Practice Update

Ms. Sholly, of the Council's consultant team, spoke about having the full council discuss the Community of Practice at the June meeting with respect to the budget. Mr. Drumm from the URI Cooperative Extension provided an overview and the goal of the initiative which includes improving access to energy efficiency programs. He presented on the results from the first three sessions. As a part of this effort, they compiled a list of weatherization barriers, which aligned with the obstacles found in the non-participant study. Mr. Drumm then shared a list of trusted sources of information based on responses from the Community of Practice participants. The latest Community of Practice meeting asked participants to list specific ways to make participation in programs more trustworthy, accessible, and culturally sensitive. Mr. Drumm shared that there are two more sessions, one via Zoom and one in person. The Zoom session aims to be more focused on education and presentations and the in-person session will be more participatory and conversational. There was discussion about concerns about marketing budgets and how to best stretch funding to promote the efficiency programs. Vice Chair Gill Case spoke about knob and tube wiring as a barrier and the idea of having an electrician speak to the education committee to share insights about the specifics of the barrier. He would like more in-depth learning about these weatherization barriers.

4. Review of Annual Report Final Draft & Pamphlet

Ms. Sholly presented the draft pamphlet and the annual reports for the Education Committee's review.

5. LEAD Session Debrief & Planning

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

Ms. Sholly opened up discussion to the Committee for feedback on the spring session and any ideas for the fall session. It was expressed that the Education Committee members would prefer for these meetings to be more discussion-based than presentation-based. The utility rate case is expected to be submitted in October, which could be a useful topic to cover at the fall session.

6. Upcoming Meetings

- Friday, July 11, 2025 @ 8:30 A.M.
 - The Education Committee has opted to cancel the meeting scheduled for July 11th.
- Friday, August 1, 2025 @ 8:30 A.M.

7. Public Comment

Kevin O'Neill

Mr. O'Neill asked about including the benefit-cost ratio when educating the public about the programs.

Brett Feldman, Rhode Island Energy

Mr. Feldman reiterated that the rate case should be submitted in October.

8. Adjournment

Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 9:32 A.M.