



## FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 21, 2025 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908

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### Members in Attendance:

Sue AnderBois, Joe Garlick, Carrie Gill, Chris Kearns, Kurt Teichert

### Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, Georgia Cheney, Katie Critelli, Craig Johnson, Luke Meunier, Toby Ast, Mark Siegal, Atticus Makuch, Nicholas Scott, Clare Kim, Serena Russell, Emily Koo, Jack Green, Brendan Dagher, Grant Delgarian, John R Harrington (virtual), Rob Smith (virtual), Alison Donovan (virtual), Adrian Caesar (virtual), Emil Heagy (virtual), Jermey Newberger (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual), Samantha Caputo (virtual), Margaret L. Hogan (virtual), Richard Sedano (virtual), Jamie Rhodes (virtual), Tina Munter (virtual)

#### 1. Call to Order

Council Member AnderBois called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

#### 2. Chair Report

Council Member AnderBois shared the meeting logistics and how to submit public comment. She reminded that the RI Energy's Energy Efficiency 2026 Plan is due October 1<sup>st</sup>. She then outlined the agenda with topics of program oversight and council business.

#### 3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns provided federal funding updates from OER, including Solar For All, NEVI, HEAR and HER.

#### 4. Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2025

There is no quorum so the minutes will be held for next meeting.

#### 5. Public Comment

Ms. Emily Koo, *Acadia Center*

Ms. Koo expressed concern about the belief that cutting energy efficiency is the solution to cutting energy costs. She also said that the cuts in the second RIE plan are a 30.5% budget reduction and will be detrimental to Rhode Island families and businesses.

Kevin O'Neill

Mr. O'Neill said he supported more energy efficiency, not less especially in light of the federal government cuts. Such cuts contradict obligations to the Act on Climate. He also expressed accelerating pilot programs.

Serena Russell, *Climate Jobs RI*



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Ms. Russell expressed appreciation for the Company's long-standing investments in energy efficiency resulting in positive global impacts. The proposed 2026 budget will result in lost jobs.

Clare Kim, *Roots 2 Empower*

Ms. Kim spoke about the importance of emphasizing how important energy efficiency is to people worried about energy bills. She expressed the need for clear and timely communication of energy efficiency programs to gain momentum and participation.

### 6. Program Oversight

*a. Presentation and Discussion of 2025 Q2 Program Results*

Mr. Makuch provided second quarter highlights (income eligible services, SEMP, residential new construction and small business direct install). He provided slides on second quarter performance overview on each sector: income eligible sector, commercial and industrial and residential. The discussion about issues with the CAPs/contractors.

*b. Rhode Island Energy Presentation of the 2026 Plan Second Draft*

Mr. Ast updated on the timeline and presented on the cost changes from draft one to draft two. All categories were reduced except the PIM. The Council asked questions about the PIM and the large increase. Discussion also included marketing and STAT. The Council asked for the program implementation (75% of STAT makeup) be broken down further. Mr. Ast spoke about program updates for both residential and commercial/industrial sectors.

*c. Consultant Team Presentation and Facilitated Discussion on the 2026 Energy Efficiency Second Draft*

Mr. Caesar shared the Consultant Team's review process and the key takeaways. He highlighted key differences between draft one and draft two. Mr. Johnson provided a high-level overview of draft two, including a budget narrative, responsiveness to recommendations. He spoke about the key improvements. Mr. Caesar shared good things about C&I and presented comments for areas of improvement. Mr. Johnson framed the discussion by asking the Council to consider whether they would vote to endorse the Plan and if not, what information is needed in order to endorse the Plan. The number of responses were discussed by both the Council and RIE.

*d. Consultant Team Presentation and Potential Vote to Submit Comments in PUC Docket 25-28-EL on Options for Mitigating Winter Price Volatility*



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Mr. Johnson shared the docket details including rate mitigation options and stakeholders' feedback. Council Member Gill summarized Rhode Island Energy's comments submitted to Docket 25-28, which specifically cite that the Company's settlement with the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers – along with the Administration's RGGI Commitment – serve to mitigate winter bill volatility this year without any deviation from the ratemaking principle of cost causation. Council Member Teichert stated his support in increasing the investment in energy efficiency programs so customers face lower bills due to lower electricity demand.

### 7. Council Business

*a. Consultant Team Presentation and Council Discussion on Setting 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Targets*

Mr. Johnson briefed the Council on upcoming discussions on target setting due next spring.

### 8. Public Comment

Grant Delgarian, *Climate Action for RI*

Mr. Delgarian spoke about the Washington Bridge and environmental impact study.

Emily Koo, *Acadia Center*

Ms. Koo spoke about the weight and influence of the Council can have in the planning process especially with respect to the Act on Climate. She requested continued transparency on public comments.

Tina Munter, *Green Energy Consumers Alliance*

Ms. Munter noted disappointment in the reduction in resistance heat to heat pump conversions in the 2026 energy efficiency plan.

### 9. Adjournment

Council Member AnderBois adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.