

MEMO

CONSULTANT TEAM

TO: Energy Efficiency Council
FROM: EEC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
DATE: September 25, 2025
RE: September 25th 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. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

6A. CONSULTANT TEAM PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE COUNCIL’S OPTIONS FOR ENDORSING THE PLAN

Key Considerations

- This brief presentation is intended to ensure the Council is aware of its role and responsibilities with respect to voting on Rhode Island Energy’s 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan prior to presentations from Rhode Island Energy and the C-Team on this matter.
- The C-Team will review the Council’s role and responsibilities, the vote options it can consider, and a preview of what happens after the vote.

Discussion Questions

- Do Councilors feel they have a clear understanding of what their requirements are?
- Do Councilors understand the proposed vote options?
- Are there other paths forward that Councilors have in mind for voting on the Plan while ensuring obligations are met?

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

6B. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE 2026 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

Key Considerations

- Rhode Island Energy will present on their 3rd and near final draft of the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan.
- The presentation will cover a high-level overview of the plans costs, savings and benefits, changes from recent iterations, anticipated final tweaks, and an overview of stakeholder feedback.

Discussion Questions

- There is a dedicated agenda item for Council discussion on Rhode Island Energy and the Consultant Team's presentations on the final draft of the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan. Please see discussion questions under Item 6.d.

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

6C. CONSULTANT TEAM PRESENTATION ON THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE 2026 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

Key Considerations

- The C-Team will give an overview of its perspectives on the savings and budgets included in the final draft of the Plan and will document key drivers of change from the 2nd draft.
- The C-Team will discuss its assessment of the Plan's responsiveness to the Council's Priorities.
- In response to feedback received, the C-Team will also review with Councilors the impact of scaling back investments in programs compared to recent years.

Discussion Questions

- There is a dedicated agenda item for Council discussion on Rhode Island Energy and the Consultant Team's presentations on the final draft of the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan. Please see discussion questions under Item 6.d.

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

6D. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON THE 2026 ANNUAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

Key Considerations

- Rhode Island Energy and the C-Team have presented on the final draft of the 2026 Plan, with key considerations for the Council vote highlighted
- The Council must vote whether or not to endorse the Plan (see vote options listed below)
- The Council may raise outstanding concerns through a variety of methods in the 2026 EE Plan Docket after the Plan is filed with the PUC

Discussion Questions

- What aspects of the Plan does the Council still have concerns with?
- How would the Council like to raise outstanding concerns in the Docket for the Plan?
- Are there concerns the Council has but feels are best to be addressed through future collaboration with the Company as opposed to raising directly in the Docket?
- Do Councilors have any questions regarding regulatory review of the 2026 Annual Plan and/or any Council filings in the docket?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

Recommended Vote Language

1. **Endorse the 2026 Plan and join a Settlement of the Parties:** A motion to endorse the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan as presented by Rhode Island Energy to the Council on September 25, 2025, allowing for non-substantive changes (typos, etc.) to be done prior to filing.

Furthermore, the Council directs its legal Counsel to provide a signature page indicating the Council is a settling party to Rhode Island Energy prior to the October 1st filing deadline.

2. **Endorse the 2026 Plan and decline to join a Settlement of the Parties:** A motion to endorse the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan as presented by Rhode Island Energy to the Council on September 25, 2025, allowing for non-substantive changes (typos, etc.) to be done prior to filing.
3. **Not endorse the 2026 Plan with conditions that would lead to an endorsement:** A motion to not endorse, at this time, the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan as presented by Rhode Island Energy

to the Council on September 25, 2025. The Council would change its vote to an endorsement of the 2026 Plan should it meet the following condition(s): *{state condition(s)}*

4. **Not endorse the 2026 Plan:** A motion to not endorse, at this time, the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan as presented by Rhode Island Energy to the Council on September 25, 2025.

Furthermore, the Council directs its Consultant Team and legal counsel to document the Council's reasons for not endorsing and to submit those to the PUC for its consideration in final review of the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan.

6E. PRESENTATION ON THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS REPORT FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

Key Considerations

- Least Cost Procurement Standards require that the Council submit a report on its assessment of the cost-effectiveness of the 2026 Annual Plan
- The report must be filed within three weeks of the Plan filing
- The C-Team will prepare this report for consideration by the Council at the October meeting, which will fall within the three-week deadline

Discussion Questions

- What does the report need to include?
- Are there any changes to the report that the C-Team is contemplating compared to prior iterations?
- Does the Council's vote on the 2026 Plan impact any of the content included in the cost-effectiveness report?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SETTING 2027-2029 ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS

Key Considerations

- The Council is required to develop and submit to the PUC energy efficiency program targets for the period of 2027-2029
- The purpose of the targets is to help establish what is potentially available cost-effective efficiency and to guide establishment of savings goals

- Targets historically have utilized potential study results for the corresponding years. Since the most recent study only goes through 2026, the Council will need to identify resources and a potential approach for ensuring it is able to develop its proposed targets for 2027-2029.

Discussion Questions

- Of the report components that are optional, are there any that the Council would like to include as part of this work?
- How should the Council balance benefits of setting aggressive targets with risks of overestimating market readiness or budget capacity?
- How should other policy/priorities be considered (e.g., equity and access, integration with Act on Climate, etc.)?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

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.

COUNCIL BUDGET TRACKER

OER has provided an updated version of the Council's budget tracker for 2025.

INITIAL DRAFT OF OCTOBER 16 COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

An initial draft of the October 16th Council meeting agenda is included. Councilors are welcome to share any feedback.

MONTHLY DATA SNAPSHOT

The Consultant Team has provided a monthly data snapshot which includes several visuals to display lifetime savings and spending achieved through the month of July, relative to plan goals.

REGULATORY UPDATES

The Consultant Team and OER has assembled a slide deck that highlights and provides updates for ongoing and relevant regulatory items.

THIRD DRAFT OF THE 2026 ANNUAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

Copies of the main text and attachments of the plan have been provided. Redline copies are also provided. Attachments include:

- Attachment 1 – Residential and Income Eligible Programs
- Attachment 2 – Commercial & Industrial Programs
- Attachment 3 – Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification Plan
- Attachment 4 – Rhode Island Test Description
- Attachment 5 – Electric Budget and Savings Tables
- Attachment 6 – Gas Budget and Savings Tables
- Attachment 7 – Demonstrations, Pilots, and Assessments
- Attachment 8 – Definitions
- Attachment 9 – Equity Working Group Report