

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 3, 2025 | 8:30 – 10:00 AM

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

With remote participation available via Zoom.



Members in Attendance: Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois, Kurt Teichert

Others in Attendance: Georgia Cheney, Brett Feldman, Rachel Sholly, Kate Hardesty, Kevin Drumm, Craig Johnson, Katie Critelli, Steven Chybowski, Alexander Franklin (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual), Toby Ast (virtual)

## 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 8:33 A.M.

## 2. Vote on Meeting Minutes

Council Member AnderBois motioned to approve the July 31, 2025 Education Committee Meeting Minutes. Council Member Teichert seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

## 3. Community of Practice Update

Ms. Hardesty of the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension (URI) provided an overview of the Community of Practice. Mr. Drumm began the presentation with logic model outputs and short-, medium- and long-term outcomes. Ms. Hardesty spoke about using trusted community-based workers as they already work in the targeted communities to spread the information. Council Member Gill Case asked about compensation for the workers and Ms. Hardesty explained they are compensated through a mix of funding sources. The presentation also included data insights and key takeaways from the Community of Practice. Discussion included fundamental barriers and the suggestion of using a "secret shopper" as potential participants have reported issues of misinformation and rude reception. Mr. Feldman spoke about Rhode Island Energy's appreciation for the Community of Practice and that they also do program evaluation. He also suggested exploring EC4 funding as a possibility.

## 4. PIER Lecture Series Update

Mr. Drumm from URI presented on the three upcoming lectures: one will be conducted fully in Spanish, one will include landlords speaking about their experiences with weatherization, and one will discuss energy efficiency's relation to energy bills.

## 5. Fall LEAD Session

Ms. Sholly opened discussion for LEAD session topics. Ideas included a URI presentation; inviting a contractor to speak about their work experience; and council discussion on the Rhode Island Energy EE plan. Further discussion involved possible

invitees for panels about home energy assessments, such as RISE assessors, CAP personnel, or HEAR contractors.

#### **6. Energy Efficiency Education Opportunities**

Council Member AnderBois explained that the Acadia Center has ideas for education to legislators on efficiency programs and would like to explore partnering with the Education Committee to for these opportunities. Mr. Chybowski mentioned that elected officials are themselves community-based workers that may hear from constituents about utility bill concerns, so this approach is in line with using trusted community sources to further educate the public on available programming.

#### **7. Public Comment**

None.

#### **8. Upcoming Meetings**

- Friday, November 7, 2025 @ 8:30 A.M.
- Friday, December 5, 2025 @ 8:30 A.M.
- Friday, January 9, 2025 @ 8:30 A.M.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 9:52 A.M.