



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 25, 2025 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

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

Members in Attendance:

Dr. Carrie Gill, Chris Kearns, Brett Feldman, Peter Gill Case, Joe Garlick, Dave Caldwell, Kurt Teichert, Sue AnderBois, Tom Magliocchetti

Others in Attendance:

Craig Johnson, Toby Ast, Mark Siegal, William Owen, Katie Critelli, Georgia Cheney, Steven Chybowski, Jack Green, Kevin O'Neil, Emily Koo, Luke Meunier, Seth Handy, Sue Stenhouse, John Gendron, Jennifer Boylan, Emil Heagy, Mark Kravatz, Theo Smith, Ryan Marut, Jordan Sasa (virtual), Alison Donovan (virtual), Greg Cornett (virtual), Brendan Dagher (virtual), Luke Miller (virtual), Barbara Sullivan-Watts (virtual), Maggie Molina (virtual), Oliwia Krupinski (virtual), Forest Bradley-Wright (virtual), Alex Kuffner (virtual), Joel Munoz (virtual), Samantha Caputo (virtual), Allison Archambault (virtual), Margaret L. Hogan (virtual), Serena Russell (virtual), Nick Ucci (virtual), Linda George (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Brian Schuster (virtual), Patti Doyle (virtual), Alan Nault (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), John Bell (virtual), Ariel McCord (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual), Tina Munter (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Vice Chair Gill Case began by sharing the meeting logistics on making public comment. He provided an overview of the agenda and read a statement* (attached) on his views of the Energy Efficiency Council's (EEC) goals.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns shared updates on Revolution Wind, the HEAR program, the HER program, the next round of the Efficient Buildings Fund, NEVI, and Senate Resolution 1161. He announced that the next Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) allocation plan will be posted soon and welcomes the Council's feedback on the investment proposals.

4. Meeting Minutes

a. July 17, 2025

Council Member AnderBois motioned to approve the July 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Caldwell seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

b. August 21, 2025

Dr. Gill had a correction for the August 21st, 2025 Meeting Minutes on Agenda item 6.d. and proposed an amendment to state "Council Member Gill summarized Rhode Island



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Energy's comments submitted to Docket 25-28-EL, 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 Garlick motioned to approve the August 21, 2025 meeting minutes with the amendment from Dr. Gill. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the amended meeting minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Representative Jennifer Boylan, State Representative for House District 66

Rep. Boylan read a letter signed by 37 members of the House of the Rhode Island House of Representatives and 18 members of the Rhode Island Senate into the record. This letter is available in full here: https://eec.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Oppose-energy-efficiency-cuts_GA-letter_9-2025.pdf.

Emily Koo, Acadia Center

Ms. Koo noted the Governor's announcement of the rate relief for the next winter season, but asserted that we cannot consistently rely on settlements to alleviate ratepayers' costs and stressed that long term solutions are needed. Ms. Koo suggested that the EEC could develop an alternative budget for the energy efficiency plan for consideration.

Kevin O'Neill, Citizens' Climate Lobby

Mr. O'Neill shared that the pain of high energy costs is not equally distributed. He stated that energy efficiency program costs should not be cut, as increasing efficiency reduces the demand for gas.

Maggie Molina, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships

Ms. Molina strongly recommended that Rhode Island Energy (RIE) maintain the budgets and targets as set in the 2024-2026 three-year plan. She stated that energy efficiency is one of the best ways to reduce energy bills and encouraged focus on the long view.

Forest Bradley-Wright, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Mr. Bradley-Wright spoke about the two major dynamics driving the conversation around utility which he identified as load growth and energy affordability. He stated that energy efficiency is the least cost resource to achieving our needs. He shared some details about Massachusetts' investment in energy efficiency spending and how even with a reduction to their latest three-year plan, the energy efficiency investments are still increasing over past plans.



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6. Program Oversight

a. Consultant Team Presentation and Discussion on the Council's Options for Voting on the Plan

To tee up the conversation for today's meeting, Mr. Johnson of the Council's Consultant Team defined the Council's responsibility and summarized voting options with regards to the annual energy efficiency plan as prepared by Rhode Island Energy. He shared a timeline of what happens after the plan is filed and listed opportunities for providing input.

b. Rhode Island Energy Presentation of the Final Draft of the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan

Mr. Ast of RIE presented the final draft of the 2026 Energy Efficiency (EE) Plan, including the timeline and 2026 plan highlights. He shared the 2026 priorities that informed the development of the plan. The strategic priorities included cost, equity, program innovation, weatherization, policy, and community. He outlined the changes made from the second to third draft, and third draft to final draft. He also summarized stakeholder feedback on the drafts.

c. Consultant Team Presentation on the Final Draft of the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan

Mr. Johnson outlined key takeaways from the final draft of the 2026 EE plan. He presented slides highlighting the responsiveness of the plan to the Council's four priorities as set earlier in the planning process. He also shared slides on higher impact analysis of the plan proposal.

d. Council Discussion and Vote on the 2026 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan

Vice Chair Gill Case opened discussion for the Council. Council Member Teichert expressed interest in understanding how RI's budget compares to neighboring states' increased budgets. Council Members Feldman and Dr. Gill responded that it's a complex topic but listed some of the differences. Council Member AnderBois shared that she doesn't want to settle for "not good enough" and expressed gratitude for the letters written to support EE programs and stated that she couldn't support the plan as-is. Council Members Garlick and Caldwell agreed. Vice Chair Gill Case asked Mr. Johnson for elaboration on options and reiterated that many stakeholders and General Assembly members encourage the EEC not to approve a lowered program budget. Vice Chair Gill Case expressed wanting to propose something achievable. He asked Dr. Gill if there was a way that the Council and the Company could discuss and possibly negotiate. Dr. Gill said that the Company will submit the Plan as-is. The Council acknowledged the Company's financial efficiency but does not support the Plan.



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The Council discussed the voting language. Mr. Handy advised that the vote is either an endorsement or a non-endorsement. Council Member Teichert didn't want to limit the Company from getting an EE plan approved. Council Member Garlick added he would add less reductions in incentives as a condition that would lead to an endorsement. Council Member Teichert asked about establishing conditions and the timeframe to do so. Mr. Handy recommended that an EEC member could provide testimony again this year.

Council Member Caldwell motioned to not endorse the 2026 Plan, as the Council is seeking to maintain the savings levels of the 2025 Plan, while acknowledging the Company's financial efficiency improvements. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Council Member Teichert motioned to table agenda items 6.e. and 7.a. to the next meeting. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor; none opposed, and the agenda items will be discussed at the following meeting.

- e. Consultant Team Presentation on the Cost-Effectiveness Report for the 2026 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan*
Tabled.

7. Council Business

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

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Adjournment

Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.



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* EEC meeting Vice-chair opening remarks – September 25, 2025 – Peter Gill Case

Here is a frame I hope we can use for our meeting today. The long view of this Council, as found in the minutes of previous meetings, and for those who have been following along, is to help all ratepayers in this state with excessively high electric and gas energy bills as well as to comply with the Act On Climate and reduce harmful emissions - especially our dependence on methane gas also known as “natural gas”. There is no better way to achieve both goals than to invest robustly in energy efficiency, as RI law mandates we must. If we use less energy in our buildings we will pay less in electric and gas bills and if use less methane (or “natural”) gas and oil, we will release fewer harmful gases into the atmosphere.

To some, it may seem that the pursuit of one of these goals is at odds with the pursuit of the other. This is an unfortunate message in a moment when we can lean into both/and instead of either/or. The activities of this Council, mandated by law, bring savings and benefits to all of us by reducing demand. Programs exist in abundance to help all ratepayers, and especially those who are income eligible, to significantly lower their monthly bills. In my view, it is penny-wise and pound-foolish to chip away at the small investment we all make on our bill designed to significantly reduce the cost of energy for all. Energy efficiency means getting the same quality of life for less cost, and this is the frame I hope we will keep in mind today, and for the rest of our journey towards a just transition to a renewable energy economy.

Make no mistake about it, renewable energy combined with battery storage and ever more efficient buildings and transportation is our future, and any obstacle along this path must be handled judiciously and fairly but with an eye on the road ahead. If we fail to address energy efficiency today, we will fail to reduce energy bills now and in the future. Let’s hold these thoughts in mind as we begin our meeting today.