

COUNCIL LEAD SESSION Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Monday, November 3, 2025 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM

President's Dining Room, Donovan Dining Center
Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908



Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Kurt Teichert, Tom Magliochetti, Priscilla De La Cruz, Joe Garlick, Brett Feldman, Sue AnderBois (arrived at 1:42pm)

Others in Attendance: Steven Chybowski, Rachel Sholly, Craig Johnson, Kate Venturini Hardesty, Kevin Drumm, Seth Handy, Theo Smith, Georgia Cheney, Colleen McGrath (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual), Clare Kim (virtual), Serena Russell (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), Adrian Caesar (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual), Luke Meunier (virtual), Oliwia Krupinska (virtual), Brendan Dagher (virtual)

1. Call to Order

1:13pm Chair Oakley called meeting into order at 1:13 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Efficient Housing for All Community of Practice – Results & Recommendations

Ms. Sholly of the Council's Consultant Team gave an introductory overview of the meeting agenda and introduced Ms. Hardesty and Mr. Drumm from the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension (URI). Ms. Hardesty gave an overview of the 2025 work completed with the Community of Practice pilot. The goal of the effort was to find out why people are not taking advantage of existing energy efficiency (EE) programs. It implemented a bottom-up approach to engage members of the community on the subject. 26 community members participated in the Efficient Housing for All Community of Practice, which used logic models to guide short term, mid-term, and long-term outcomes for this work. URI is exploring creating an Energy Navigator certification and would like to further that training. The URI team wants to explore several next steps for 2026 including a train-the-trainer program, CAP Agency focus groups and continuing the Plugged into Energy Research lecture series. The 2025 Plugged into Energy Research lecture series start November 12th and will be in person and online.

Chair Oakley asked for clarity on the goal of the work and asked about potential Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. He also suggested using the term "utility bill" instead of "energy" or "energy efficiency" to help people connect to the subject. Ms. Hardesty emphasized the importance of human interaction to help people navigate the current system. Council Member De La Cruz is happy with the work completed and wants to combine human interaction and technology especially for older communities and people who many not understand English well. Ms. Sholly emphasized the importance of complimenting the work completed by the utility with URI's work. Council Member Teichert asked about future opportunities to follow up with why the focus group members did not complete home assessments. Vice Chair Gill Case brought up that Rewiring America also uses the term navigator. Chair Oakley wants to reiterate the message that home energy assessments are not free, it's no cost because customers already paid for it.

4. 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan Docket

Chair Oakley motioned to enter an Executive Session (also referred to as a closed meeting) pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-4(a) to discuss the Council's draft testimony in Docket 25-37-EE as described in the agenda. The business to be discussed and the statutory purpose of entering into an Executive Session, is R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2): "Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the Council entered Executive Session.

5. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.