



2027-2029 Council Plan Priorities

Consultant Team Presentation

Date: April 16, 2026

Outline



Background

Recapping 2026 Plan Priorities

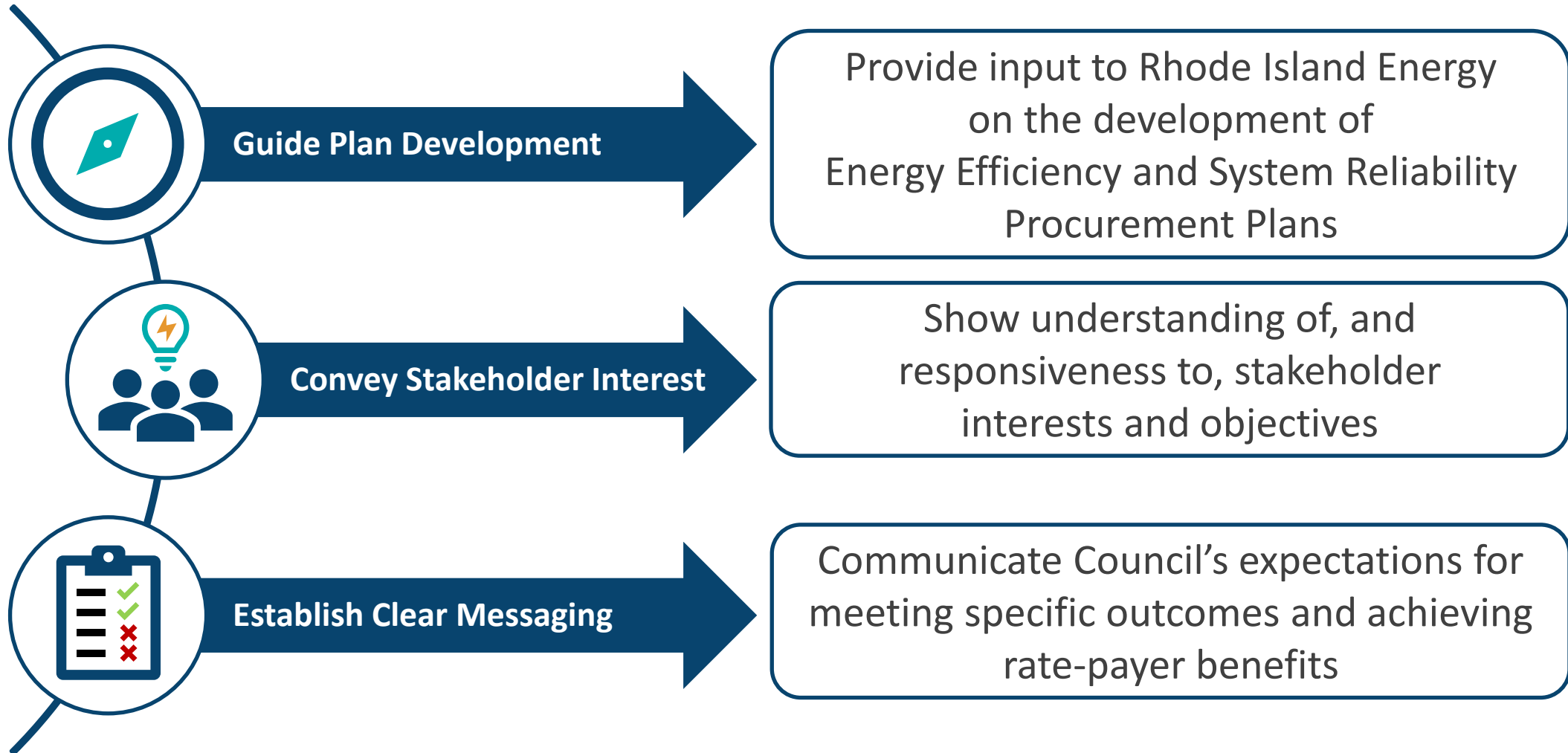
Consideration for 2027-2029 Plan Priorities

Next Steps



Background

Why Set Plan Priorities?



How Are Priorities Used?



Stakeholder Communication

- Presented to Rhode Island Energy’s stakeholder engagement groups, known as Technical Working Groups

Plan Review

- Consistently referenced during C-Team review of Plan drafts and final versions

Regulatory Proceedings

- Often cited in regulatory proceedings in testimony and written comments



Recapping 2026 Plan Priorities

2026 EE Plan Priorities



Support the Mandates of
Act on Climate

Set Ambitious Goals for
Customers to Save Money

Increase Participation in
Underserved Communities

Conduct Targeted Workforce
Development

Plus 6 additional items that formerly were priorities but were converted to “baseline expectation”

- Comply with LCP Standards
- Encourage and incorporate stakeholder input
- Ensure effective and efficient development and review process
- Utilize framework for justifying programs that exceed cost of supply
- Coordination on Federal and State funding opportunities
- Update carbon accounting methodology

Detailed priority strategies included in the Appendix

2026 SRP Plan Priorities



Council also updated its 2024-2026 System Reliability Procurement (SRP) priorities in 2026

Key themes:

- Responsiveness to Council input
- Support stakeholder engagement
- Continue methodological improvements for evaluating SRP investments (e.g. demand response and non-wires and non-pipes alternatives)
- Implement robust active demand response programs



Considerations for 2027-2029 Plan Priorities

2027-2029 Plan Priorities

What *recent developments* should factor into 2027-2029 plans?

PUC rulings on 2026 Annual Plan

Legislative & Policy Trends

Recent Program Performance

Others?

Other Considerations for Priorities



What *current challenges* are my constituents facing?

How can *energy efficiency play a role* in addressing the challenges I'm seeing?

Should the content or structure of our priorities be *updated to reflect a shift* to a binding three-year plan?

Are high-level priorities still the way to go, or should we *consider targeted priorities* that apply to individual sectors and/or programs?



Next Steps

Next Steps



April to May: One-on-one meetings

- Council members can discuss potential priorities with the C-Team and provide written comments as materials are being drafted

May: Council receives and discusses First Draft of 2027-2029 EE and SRP Plan Priorities with a potential to vote to adopt them

June: If necessary, Council discusses, refines and votes on 2027-2029 EE and SRP Plan Priorities

Council Discussion





APPENDIX



2026 EE Plan Priorities

Support the Mandates of Act on Climate



Why is this a Priority?

- EE is a key pillar of decarbonizing RI's economy and achieving net zero by 2050
- EE Plans should be developed to support achievement of Act on Climate mandates

Priority Details

- Goals set consistent with GHG reductions identified as necessary to meet the Act on Climate
- Reduce investment in fossil fuel heating equipment and increase investment in weatherization
- Goals for replacing electric resistance space heating and hot water equipment with heat pump technologies
- Considerations for outcomes of the Future of Gas Docket

Set Ambitious Goals For Customers to Save Money



Why is this a Priority?

- Council acknowledgement of upward pressure on customer costs, including on energy
- Participating in programs lowers impact on increasing costs relative to those that do not participate

Priority Details

- Set ambitious goals in the spirit of savings customers money on their energy bills
- Demonstrate growth trajectory for programs that save customers money, regardless of participation
- Emphasize improvement on program designs with recent underperformance
- Document incremental energy savings that are not being pursued as a result of containing program budgets to reduce near-term ratepayer impacts
- Document measures/approaches that were considered in Plan development, but not pursued

Increase Participation in Historically Underserved Communities



Why is this a Priority?

- Engaging historically underserved communities critical for future success of EE programs
- Historically underserved communities face disproportionately higher energy burdens and stand to benefit the most from participation

Priority Details

- Continue progress with Equity Working Group (metrics, recommendations, regular report outs)
- Increase investments, identify and implement program improvements, and improve marketing and outreach in underserved communities
- Language and workforce development access
- Increase participating by small and microbusiness customers

Conduct Targeted Workforce Development



Why is this a Priority?

- Workforce needs to be robust and stable to ensure success of EE programs now and into the future
- Focusing on workforce challenges will help ensure demand can be met
 - Examples: hiring and retainment of HVAC technicians/auditors/weatherization contractors, skill and career awareness gaps, geographical needs

Priority Details

- Deliver targeted workforce development for small/minority- and women-owned business enterprise contractors
- Focus on opportunities tied to meeting Act on Climate, maximizing ratepayer benefits, and controlling ratepayer costs
- Implement recommendations from Workforce Needs Assessment
- Expand training for existing workers and mitigate barriers to entry for new workers



2026 Update to 2024-2026 SRP Plan Priorities

Responsiveness to Council Input



The Company will demonstrate continued responsiveness to Council and other stakeholder input, including during the implementation of the 2024-2026 SRP Three Year Plan.

The Company will submit any draft SRP Investment Proposals to the Council at least six weeks prior to the Company's intended filing date for any such proposals.

Stakeholder Engagement



The Company will ensure sufficient opportunities for stakeholder engagement and substantive contributions during SRP implementation, including but not limited to SRP Technical Working Group meetings and Council and other stakeholder review of draft and final SRP Investment Proposal materials.

Methodological Development



The Company will actively pursue further development of benefit cost analysis and assessment of internal EE and DER solutions to grid needs, which will include sharing internal analyses of NWA and NPA opportunities and providing stakeholder opportunity to comment on both the results and methodology of those analyses.

Robust Non-Pipes Implementation



The Company will ensure Non-Pipes Alternative (NPA) program implementation is robust, regular updates are provided to the SRP TWG, and system need forecasting is conducted in a transparent manner with adequate lead time to enable identification and screening for multiple NPA opportunities in this three-year plan cycle.

Robust Active Demand Management Programs



The Company will develop and implement a cost-effective electric demand response program design which specifically prioritizes a balance between adequate incentives to drive sustained and growing program participation with maximization of net utility system benefits for all customers, regardless of program participation.

The Company will actively seek EEC input on any proposed changes to demand response (DR) program design, and will provide regular updates on DR programs with at least one presentation per year, with additional presentations to the EEC and the SRP TWG as appropriate should program performance deviate from expected levels or in the event the Company proposes changes to program design, cost effectiveness analyses, distribution of net program benefits, or incentive levels.

Robust Active Demand Management Programs (continued)



In Docket 24-37-EE, the Commission motioned to discontinue the Company's Gas Demand Response Pilot given that it had run its course and that there was not much more left to learn. Nonetheless, the Commission noted that the ruling was not meant to signal that gas demand response is not important. In light of this, the Company should investigate and if deemed appropriate, propose new gas demand response programs and/or pilots.

In the event the Company elects to develop new gas demand response programs and/or pilots,, the Company will engage with EEC, OER, and other stakeholders on appropriate cost-effectiveness, incentive-setting, and other appropriate supporting analyses with adequate lead time to ensure final proposals are presented to all interested Stakeholders to enable a considered and comprehensive assessment of any proposed program or pilot.