

# MEMO

## CONSULTANT TEAM

**TO:** Energy Efficiency Council  
**FROM:** EEC Consultant Team  
**CC:** Office of Energy Resources  
**DATE:** May 28, 2026  
**RE:** Executive Summary of Draft 2027-2029 EE & SRP Plan Priorities



## OVERVIEW

The Energy Efficiency Council<sup>1</sup> (EEC or “the Council”) has developed these priorities to guide the development of Rhode Island’s 2027–2029 Energy Efficiency (EE) Plan and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Plan.

This planning cycle represents a fundamental shift from prior years. For the first time, the Plans will be established as binding three-year plans, requiring a significantly higher level of upfront clarity, integration, and specificity to support implementation over the full plan period.

Accordingly, this document provides a comprehensive set of priorities intended to:

- Establish clear expectations for program design, delivery, and performance
- Strengthen alignment across energy efficiency, demand response, and system planning
- Ensure that investments deliver measurable customer, system, and societal benefits
- Support transparent, data-driven decision-making and accountability

While detailed, the priorities are intended to function as a structured framework for planning, not as a prescriptive checklist. The Council recognizes that implementation will require prioritization, sequencing, and adaptation over time.

## KEY THEMES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Across all sections of the document, several core themes guide the Council’s approach to the 2027–2029 Plans. These are briefly outlined below.

## FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION

The Council places strong emphasis on translating strategy into actionable and implementable program designs. The Plans should clearly demonstrate:

- How identified opportunities lead to defined program pathways and investments
- How strategies are operationalized through timelines, delivery models, and responsibilities

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<sup>1</sup> All materials associated with the Energy Efficiency Council are the work of the “Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council” and any public meeting materials posted on the RI Secretary of State website should be searched using that title.

- How outcomes will be tracked and achieved over the three-year period

### **INTEGRATION OF EE, DEMAND RESPONSE, AND SYSTEM PLANNING**

Energy efficiency and demand response are expected to function as core system resources, rather than separate program categories. The Plans should demonstrate:

- Coordination between EE programs, demand response, and SRP activities
- Alignment of program design with system constraints and reliability needs
- Development of targeted, data-driven demand-side solutions

### **FOCUS ON OUTCOMES, NOT JUST PARTICIPATION**

The Council emphasizes the importance of measuring and delivering meaningful program outcomes, in addition to participation levels. The Plans should:

- Clearly define eligible populations and participation rates
- Track savings per participant and depth of interventions
- Demonstrate bill impacts, system benefits, and other outcomes

### **DATA-DRIVEN TARGETING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The increasing availability of data—particularly through Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)—creates opportunities to improve:

- Customer targeting and outreach
- Program design and delivery
- Evaluation and performance tracking

The Council expects the Plans to provide a clear framework for how data and analytics will be used to enhance program effectiveness over time.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH CLIMATE AND AFFORDABILITY OBJECTIVES**

The Plans should demonstrate how investments contribute to:

- Rhode Island’s Act on Climate requirements
- Customer affordability and bill management
- Equitable distribution of program benefits

This includes clear articulation of how program outcomes align with the State’s Climate Action Plan and broader policy objectives.

### **PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS**

While the document includes detailed recommendations across the portfolio, the Council places particular emphasis on several priority areas.

### **SYSTEM RELIABILITY PLANNING AND ACTIONABLE INVESTMENTS**

The Council expects the SRP framework to function not only as an analytical tool, but as a pathway to actionable investments. The Plans should:

- Clearly link system needs to specific solution opportunities
- Ensure robust consideration of non-wires and non-pipe alternatives
- Support development of targeted demand-side resources, including demand response and emerging solutions such as virtual power plants (VPPs)

### **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE**

C&I programs are critical to achieving overall portfolio savings and must be designed to support efficient and predictable project delivery. Key areas of focus include:

- Improving custom program processes, timelines, and pipeline management
- Supporting system-level and integrated savings opportunities
- Establishing a structured approach to commissioning and optimization (EBCx)

### **RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE**

Residential programs serve as the primary entry point for customer engagement. The Plans should:

- Provide clear pathways from awareness to completed projects
- Improve conversion from audits to installations
- Deliver comprehensive and meaningful savings, particularly for income-eligible households

### **EQUITY AND TARGETING**

The Council emphasizes a continued focus on ensuring that program benefits are equitably distributed. The Plans should:

- Use data to identify and prioritize high-need and high-impact customers
- Track outcomes for income-eligible households and priority communities
- Integrate equity considerations into program design and delivery

### **EVALUATION, MEASUREMENT, AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

A strong EM&V framework is essential in a three-year plan context. The Plans should:

- Strengthen the feedback loop between evaluation findings and program design
- Establish clear processes for tracking and implementing recommendations
- Support adaptive management within the plan period

### **USING THE PRIORITIES DOCUMENT**

The Council recognizes that the scope and detail of these priorities reflect the expanded requirements of a binding three-year plan.

- Not all elements are intended to be implemented simultaneously

- Priorities may require phased implementation and refinement
- The Plan should demonstrate how key priorities are addressed in a clear and actionable manner

The purpose of this document is to ensure that critical considerations are clearly identified and addressed, while allowing flexibility in how the Company structures and sequences implementation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2027–2029 Plans represent an important opportunity to strengthen Rhode Island’s energy efficiency and demand-side portfolio as a central component of a least-cost, reliable, and equitable energy system.

The Council expects the Plans to demonstrate how strategy, program design, and implementation are aligned to deliver:

- Cost-effective energy savings and bill impacts
- System reliability and peak demand management
- Progress toward climate and emissions goals
- Broad and equitable customer benefits

Most importantly, the Plans must clearly show how identified opportunities and strategies translate into real, measurable outcomes over the three-year period.