

MEMO

CONSULTANT TEAM

TO: Energy Efficiency Council
FROM: EEC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
DATE: May 28, 2026
RE: May 28th EEC Meeting Briefing Memo



PURPOSE OF BRIEFING MEMO

The purpose of this briefing memo is to assist members of the Energy Efficiency Council¹ with digesting the many materials and decisions they may need to make at each meeting. It follows a similar format to the meeting agenda so Councilors can follow along throughout the meeting. For each agenda item, this memo will highlight key considerations for the Council and clearly indicate what actions (if any) the Council needs to take. The Consultant Team (C-Team) has worked with the Office of Energy Resources (OER) to also incorporate the content that Councilors are used to seeing in the “Recommended Vote Language” document. This ensures the Council has a single point of reference during meetings. This memo will also note any supplemental materials that are provided, but not associated with, specific agenda items. The C-Team and OER welcome any feedback on the format and content.

6. SPECIAL TOPIC

6A. OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES PRESENTATION ON CLEAN HEAT RHODE ISLAND (CHRI)

Key Considerations

- Strong demand but constrained funding: ARPA-funded CHRI deployed \$20.9M across 4,114 heat pump projects (~225/month), indicating robust uptake and delivery capacity; however, the program is now operating at a smaller scale under RGGI funding.
- Affordability shifting as incentives decline: ARPA enabled 100% cost coverage for income-eligible households, while current incentives cover ~60% (up to \$11,500) and require weatherization—potentially creating financing gaps and participation barriers.
- Meaningful climate and market impact, but scaling challenges remain: Projects are estimated to reduce ~246,000 tons CO₂e, supported by a growing installer base (112 contractors), yet future expansion depends on workforce capacity, grid readiness, and sustained funding.

Discussion Questions

- Funding & scale: What level and type of long-term funding (RGGI, federal, or state) is needed to sustain or expand deployment beyond ARPA-era levels?

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

- Affordability & access: How should the City/State address remaining upfront cost barriers (e.g., financing, amortization, or deeper subsidies) as incentives decline?
- Program design & equity: Do current requirements (e.g., weatherization preconditions and income thresholds) appropriately target resources, or do they risk excluding hard-to-serve households and multifamily buildings?

Council Actions

Required Vote	Potential Vote	No Vote
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7. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

7A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON 2025 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

Key Considerations

- The C-Team and Rhode Island Energy will present on preliminary year-end results for the full portfolio and for residential and income eligible energy efficiency programs.
- The presentation includes portfolio-level summaries on savings performance, spending, and cost-to-achieve for the Residential & Income Eligible sectors. It also includes additional quantitative and qualitative measure-level results.
- Rhode Island Energy will provide an overview of 2025 equity metrics, including multifamily participation, small business participation, and pre-weatherization barriers.
- High-level key takeaways slides are provided for quick reference (see slides 4-6).

Discussion Questions

- Do any of the preliminary 2025 results raise concerns for the Council?
- Do the preliminary 2025 results and other qualitative updates affect your perspective on upcoming Plan development? If so, how?
- What additional background detail or data analysis might help better inform your input on Residential & Income Eligible programs?

Council Actions

Required Vote	Potential Vote	No Vote
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7B. RHODE ISLAND ENERGY UPDATES ON THE 2027-2029 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

Key Considerations

- Rhode Island Energy will share updates on the development of the 2027-2029 energy efficiency plan and any feedback received on the outline memo.
- The presentation includes proposed changes to the Least Cost Procurement standard, updates on the 2027-2029 Plan’s development timeline, and an overview of the customer listening sessions hosted so far.
- The presentation also includes key themes from the feedback on the 2027-2029 Plan Outline Memo, including overall themes and sector-specific insights.

Discussion Questions

- Affordability & value: How should the plan more clearly define and demonstrate “value” (e.g., bill savings, avoided costs, equity outcomes) to ensure energy efficiency is prioritized as a least-cost resource for residents?
- Implementation clarity & accountability: Given feedback that strategies remain conceptual, what level of specific timelines, milestones, and accountability mechanisms should be required to ensure the three-year plan delivers measurable results?
- Equity & access: Are the proposed improvements to equity metrics, customer experience, and outreach (especially for renters, multifamily, and high energy-burden households) sufficient to reduce participation barriers, or are additional program design changes needed?

Council Actions

Required Vote	Potential Vote	No Vote
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8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

8A. DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN PRIORITIES

Key Considerations

- The C-Team has provided a presentation, a full priorities document, and an executive summary memo that provides a more readers digest version of the full priorities document.
- Defines strategic direction, not detailed programs: These documents establish priorities and that will shape the eventual three-year plans, rather than specifying exact program designs or budgets.
- Sets expectations for a binding multi-year planning cycle: As an early step in a three-year plan process, it signals that decisions made here will carry through the full planning period with fewer opportunities for major course correction.
- Aligns stakeholders before plan development: The priorities function as a consensus-setting tool among regulators, utilities, and stakeholders to reduce conflict later in the formal plan filing and approval process.

- Translates policy goals into planning criteria: It bridges broad state goals (e.g., affordability, reliability, decarbonization) into practical expectations for how programs should be designed and evaluated.
- Establishes a framework for accountability: By defining priorities upfront, it creates a basis for evaluating performance and holding implementers accountable over the full three-year cycle.

Discussion Questions

- How can Council priorities provided the best guidance to Rhode Island Energy?
- Do the priorities reflect the needs of all constituent groups represented by the Council?
- Does the Council wish to alter the presentation of its priorities?

Council Actions



Recommended Vote Language

- **Formal adoption of the Priorities for the 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plans**
 - A motion to adopt the Priorities for the 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plans as presented by the Consultant Team on May 28th, 2026.
- **Adoption of the Priorities for the 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plans with amendments**
 - A motion to adopt the Priorities for the 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plans as presented by the Consultant team on May 28th, 2026, with the following amendments {state amendments}.

8B. DISCUSSION OF THE COUNCIL’S 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Key Considerations

- The Consultant Team will provide updates on the development of the 2026 EEC Annual Report
- The Council adopted a new, more concise format last year which is currently being utilized for the development of this year’s report
- New content developed for this year’s report include an overview on the Council’s involvement in the 2026 Plan proceedings and how energy efficiency is considered in the state’s Climate Action Strategy

Discussion Questions

- Would you like to see any additional updates to the structure or content of the Annual Report or Executive Summary pamphlet?
- Would you like to print Executive Summary pamphlets again instead of the full report?
- Any other thoughts about the Annual Report development or distribution?

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

Recommended Vote Language

- **Formal adoption of the 2026 Annual Report**
 - A motion to adopt the 2026 Annual Report and Policy Recommendations, pending the inclusion of final updates to numbers, policy recommendations, and priorities, as presented by the Consultant team on May 28th, 2026.
- **Adoption of the 2026 Annual Report with amendments**
 - A motion to adopt the 2026 Annual Report and Policy Recommendations, pending the inclusion of final updates to numbers, policy recommendations, and priorities, as presented by the Consultant team on May 28th, 2026, with the following amendments {state amendments}.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

COUNCIL BUDGET TRACKER

OER has provided an update to the 2025 budget tracker and an initial version of the Council's budget tracker for 2026.

COUNCIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Consultant Team has provided a 2026 version of the Council's Calendar of Events which includes meeting dates, topics, and proposed milestones for planning activities related to the 2027-2029 EE Plan.

MONTHLY DATA SNAPSHOT

The Consultant Team has provided a monthly data snapshot which includes several visuals to display lifetime savings and spending achieved through the month of April, relative to plan goals.

DRAFT JUNE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

OER has provided an initial draft of the meeting agenda for the Council's June 18th, 2026 meeting. Councilors are welcome and encouraged to provide feedback.

RHODE ISLAND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Consultant Team has provided a memo which includes a high-level update on current legislative activity related to the Council's statutory responsibilities.

EEC NEWSLETTER - MAY

The Consultant Team has provided its next iteration of the Newsletter to the Council. The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep Councilors apprised of activities and developments that are relevant to the Council's interests, but that may not be able to be covered as topics on Council meeting agendas. The Newsletter covers a wide variety of topics such as updates on Equity Working Group and Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) meetings, relevant regional energy news, and upcoming energy events.