



Councilor Learning, Education & Advancement Discussion

2026 Session #1

Date: June 8, 2026

Agenda



12:45 – 1:00 PM		15 min	Arrival & Refreshments
1:00 – 1:05 PM		5 min	Public Comment
1:05 – 1:20 PM		15 min	Introduction & Ice Breaker
1:20 – 2:30 PM		70 min	Least Cost Procurement Standards
	1:20 – 1:30 PM	10 min	- Presentation on PUC’s Proposed Standards Updates
	1:30 – 2:30 PM	60 min	- Council Discussion
2:30 – 2:45 PM		15 min	Break
2:45 – 3:55 PM		70 min	Opportunities for Council Process Improvements
	2:45 – 2:55 PM	10 min	- Discussion Framing by Chair & Vice Chair
	2:55 – 3:55 PM	60 min	- Council Discussion
3:55 – 4:00 PM		5 min	Wrap Up

Keep in Mind

- We want to hear from you!
- More conversational than formal
- Respect each other's thoughts, perspectives and opinions
- Keep discussion forward-looking
- Tend to your own comfort as needed



Public Comment

5 minutes



Welcome & Icebreaker

15 minutes



Least Cost Procurement Standards

70 minutes

LCP Standards Update Overview



Guide planning for energy efficiency, system reliability and demand side management plans

LCP Standards were last reviewed and modified in 2023 for the 2024-2026 plan period

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) proposed [initial set of revisions](#) in [Docket 26-15-EE](#)

Stakeholders to submit written comments to PUC by June 12th

Purpose of Discussion



Overview of **PUC proposed changes** to LCP Standards

Walk through **key issues** (not section-by-section)

Preview our **comments and positions**

Identify where **Council feedback can improve** our comments

Key Issues



Timing of EE Plan Filings

Implementation Reporting Requirements and Course Correction

Council Budget & Expenses

Economic Development Benefits

Rate and Bill Impacts

Timing of EE Plan Filing



Key Changes

- Moved up filing of 2027-2029 EE Plan to September 1st with Council vote required by mid-August
- Future 3-Year Plans to be filed by June 1st with Council vote required by mid-May

Key Challenges

- First ever binding 3-Year Plan → more complex, not less
- Draft → Final → Council vote timeline is **highly compressed**
- 10-business day review window on first draft
- Avoided Energy Supply Component (AESC) study – a key input – won't be completed until mid-late November

Timing – Alternative Approaches



Option 1: Later filing with PUC approval in early 2027

- Maintain a later filing date (e.g. October 1st or later)
- Allow PUC review and approval of Plan early in 2027
- Permit continuation of 2026 programs into 2027 on an interim basis

Option 2: Transitional Year Approach

- Extent 2026 programs through 2027 while allowing targeted updates
- Establish first full binding 3-Year Plan cycle as 2028-20230
 - Aligns RI with MA and CT (and AESC)
 - Additional time for everyone to adapt to requirements of first-ever binding three-year framework
 - More deliberate and fully developed 3-Year Plan that better serves Rhode Islanders

Implementation Reporting & Course Correction



What the Standards Require

- Annual reporting comparing planned versus actual annual savings and budget spending
- Description of variance and adjustments resulting from any programs with deviations of more than 5%

What could be improved

- Selection of metrics (annual vs. lifetime savings, savings vs. benefits, budget vs. cost-efficiency, etc.)

Implementation Reporting & Course Correction

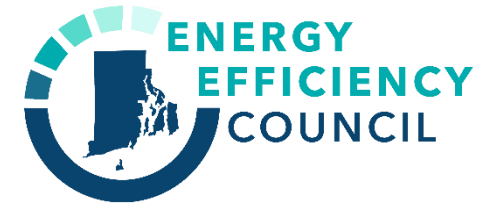


Standards **lack clarity** on how ongoing performance translates to mid-course corrections

Recommendations

- Clearly define thresholds for action (e.g. 5% for portfolio/sector, 10% for program level)
- Establish governance expectations
 - Small changes → Council
 - Larger changes → Council + PUC

Council Budget & Expenses



No major changes outside of timing for Council vote on plans, however....

....shift to 3-Year Plan warrants review of impact to Council budget planning process

Key Issues

- Council to develop a 3-year budget, but need clarification on whether budget is rigid to annual years or to the full term
- Council budget process only contemplated for EE Plans (omitted for SRP and DSM) → Recommend addition of standalone Council budget section that covers all three

Economic Development Benefits



Positive addition that **requires RIE to include incremental economic development benefits** in cost-effectiveness test

Remaining questions

- Defining “incremental”
- Expected method or level of evidence to demonstrate “incremental” benefits are not double-counted
- How economic development benefits that are **not incremental** are to be treated in Commission decision making

Rate and Bill Impacts



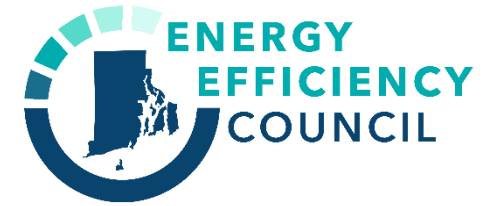
Standards confirm requirement for RIE to assess rate and bill impacts, however:

- Several issues with current methodology still present
- Standards could provide additional clarity on how these are to be assessed

Key Issues Previously Identified:

- Current approach reflects system costs, not a true customer bill impact
- Shortened time horizon
- No long-term rate modeling
- Static assumptions
- Limited program-level transparency

Rate and Bill Impacts



Recommendations

- Better define purpose of rate and bill impacts
- Utilize retail rates for impacts as opposed to avoided costs
- Utilize multi-decade time horizons as opposed to average measure life approach which limit value of long-term benefits
- Incorporate multi-year rate and load forecasting projections instead of static assumptions
- More granularity (program-level vs. sector level)

Next Steps



Stakeholder comments due on June 12th

Consultant Team to submit comments on behalf of Council

No procedural schedule, so unclear what next steps PUC is considering

- C-Team memo will request PUC hold technical session to discuss stakeholder feedback



Break

15 minutes



Opportunities for Council Improvements

70 minutes

Questions to Consider



- How can we create the conditions for stronger engagement and strategic dialogue?
- What makes a Council meeting feel productive and valuable?
- Are there opportunities to create more space for discussion and deliberation during meetings?
- What information is most helpful for Councilors to receive in advance?
- What level of preparation is realistic and appropriate to expect from Council members?
- How can the Council best leverage the expertise and perspectives of its members?
- How can the Council ensure it is able to meaningfully engage in relevant PUC dockets that it is not legislatively required to participate in?
- Are there topics or decisions that would benefit from more informal or strategic discussion outside regular meeting structures?

Learning Opportunities



What would be the right format for additional learning opportunities?

- Optional one-hour meetings prior to standard Council meetings on a semi-regular basis (e.g. quarterly) where no Council business is conducted
- Pre-recorded webinars
- One-page memos

What type of content would the Council like to improve its learning opportunities?

- Additional pre-meeting briefing material(s)
- Targeted subject matter expert presentations from outside resources
- Councilor one- or two-on-one meetings with C-Team prior to Council meetings

Meeting Logistics

Time of Month



Time of Day



Length &
Frequency



Location





Wrap Up

5 minutes