

MEMO

CONSULTANT TEAM

TO: Energy Efficiency Council
FROM: EEC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
DATE: August 20, 2026
RE: August 20th 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. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE EQUITY WORKING GROUP

Key Considerations

- Representatives from the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative and Rhode Island Energy will join the meeting to present recent updates with the Equity Working Group and the draft Equity Report.
- The Equity Working Group’s Annual Report must be finalized and submitted to the Company for inclusion in its 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Plan filing, which is currently proposed for October 1, 2026.

Discussion Questions

- Do you have any recommendations for improving the EWG process?
- Which key recommendations and potential strategies for 2027-2029 would you like to see integrated into the next EE Plan?
- How do you want RIE/GHHI to present equity metrics over time to help assess progress toward equitable outcomes?
- Is anything missing that should be included before the Equity Report is finalized?

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.

- How can RIE, GHFI, and OER report across their programs that serve homes in a way that captures all impacts?

Intended Outcomes

- Provide Council input on the Equity Working Group Report and EWG process
- Understand how RIE will integrate equity-focused content and strategies into the 2027-2029 Three-Year Plans (Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement)

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

7. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

7A. PRESENTATION AND FACILITATED DISCUSSION OF 2026 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Key Considerations

- The Council's Consultant Team and Rhode Island Energy will present on energy efficiency program performance for the first half of 2026 (Q1 and Q2).
- The presentation includes portfolio performance, select Consultant Team sector highlights, and RIE performance overview
- Through mid-year, the electric portfolio forecasted lifetime savings achievement is 106% of planned with 102% of planned forecast implementation spending, while the gas portfolio forecasted lifetime savings achievement is 105% of planned with 95% of planned forecast implementation spending
- Overall Portfolio Key Takeaways
 - Significant overperformance for the Large C&I Retrofit program (157% of planned) anticipated to pull Electric portfolio upward
 - Lighting is still the leading end use for the C&I sector (44% of lifetime savings), but only accounts for ~30% of electric lifetime savings
 - Residential sector is on target, forecasted overperformance for C&I sector, and Income Eligible sector forecasted at ~80% of planned savings
 - The top drivers of gas savings are weatherization, combo condensing boilers, energy recovery ventilation, and HVAC controls/Wi-Fi thermostats

Discussion Questions

- Is the Company considering any new or different approaches to attempt to boost participation in the second half of the year, particularly for programs where the Company is currently forecasting significant underspend and/or underachievement?

- Are there resources that the Company does not have (or does not have enough of) that would help improve portfolio and/or individual program performance?
- What types of projects (building size, equipment type, location) does the Company have in the multifamily pipeline that will result in significant increases in savings between what is reported in the Q2 report and what the Company is projecting for year-end performance?

Intended Outcomes

- Discuss quantitative and qualitative highlights from energy efficiency program performance for the first half of 2026
- Understand key drivers of performance in Q2 2026 and activity pipeline for the remainder of the year
- Consider how year-to-date performance may impact Council input on the 2027-2029 EE Plan

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

7B. UPDATES ON SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT PLANNING (SRP) AND THE CONNECTEDSOLUTIONS PROGRAM

Key Considerations

- Rhode Island Energy will present on current developments with the Company's SRP Three-Year Plan and Investment Proposal, including the ConnectedSolutions demand response program
- RIE requests stakeholder comments by August 28th and will present revised final drafts at the September Council meeting
- Key takeaways from review of the SRP First Draft Plan:
 - RIE is not proposing any changes to the current SRP process, which has not led to any successful projects for 2027-2029
 - The process relies on the Company identifying and bringing forward non-wire alternative (NWA) and non-pipeline alternative (NPA) opportunities
 - External input earlier in the process of identifying and screening NWA/NPA candidates can ensure sufficient market interest in opportunities put out to RFP
 - Proposed gas segment decommissioning research into benefit-cost screening and pilot framework for targeted electrification and gas segment decommissioning as an alternative means of meeting customer energy needs
- Key takeaways from the ConnectedSolutions Investment Proposal
 - Increased savings and participation compared to 2024-2026 plan and current actuals across pathways
 - Continued reduction of incentives for energy storage to align with avoided cost value
 - No specifics on how RIE plans to leverage advanced metering infrastructure (AMI)

- Introduces Performance Factor for C&I Daily Dispatch to align incentives with real system value provided
- New Background Energy Adjustments Offer captures smaller thermostat demand savings from temperature setpoint adjustments already agreed to by customers through OEM terms

Discussion Questions

- What is your overall assessment of the First Draft SRP Plan and the ConnectedSolutions Investment Proposal, including responsiveness to the Council's priorities?
- Does the First Draft SRP Plan include sufficient information for the Council to take a position on endorsing or not endorsing the Plan? If not, then what information would help inform the Council position on the Plan?

Intended Outcomes

- Discuss key highlights and issues for the SRP First Draft Plan and ConnectedSolutions Investment Proposal
- Provide input to help RIE better align the SRP Plan and ConnectedSolutions Investment Proposal with Council priorities
- Identify any additional Plan review needs and preliminary considerations for regulatory review
- Understand the Plan development timeline and associated Council responsibilities, in preparation for a vote on the Plan on October 15

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Council may vote 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 budget as described in Agenda Items #7.a and 7.b. The business to be discussed and the statutory purpose of entering an Executive Session, is R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(7): "A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest."

8A. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL VOTE THE 2027-2029 DRAFT EEC BUDGET PROPOSAL

Key Considerations

- OER will present the Council's proposed 2027-2029 budgets.

- The Council's 2027 budget proposal must be finalized and submitted to the Company for inclusion in its 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Plan filing, which is currently proposed for October 1, 2026.
- It is important to establish a process for setting the Council budget that aligns with a binding three-year plan framework.
- The Council should plan to work towards a vote on its proposed 2027 budget in August.
- Potential Budgeting Process:
 - Council proposes three-year budget for inclusion in RIE's EE Plans prior to filing. Budget set based on planned expenditures
 - PUC reviews planned EEC three-year term budget as part of regulatory review, not unlike current Council/DOER process for developing budget-related testimony
 - PUC approves total three-year Council budget included in three-year EE Plan
 - Each year, Council files annual budget request for PUC approval including any updates to anticipated expenditures. Intent is for Council to manage to the filed three-year budget while providing flexibility in spending between years

Discussion Questions

- How will a three-year binding plan change the Council's budgeting process?
- If the Public Utilities Commission does not update the Least Cost Procurement (LCP) Standards, as part of Commission Docket 26-15-EE, how should the Council seek clarity on its budgeting process?
- What public education activities would the Council like to pursue in 2027?
- Are there Dockets or regulatory activities on the horizon in which the Council may want to participate in 2027?
- Are there any modifications or additional information that you would like regarding Council services (consultants, legal, etc.)?
- Are there sponsorship opportunities of interest for 2027?
- Is there other information that would help the Council shape its budget proposal for 2027?

Intended Outcomes

- Develop a process for Council budget development that aligns with a binding Three-Year Plan framework, while still allowing some flexibility in the Council's budget between years
- Understand each component of the Council's budget proposal for 2027
- Identify any items that may be added to, or removed from, the Council's 2027 budget proposal
- Discuss justification of items included in the budget proposal
- Refine the budget proposal to prepare for a Council vote to ensure timely inclusion in the 2027-2029 Plan

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

Recommended Vote Language

- **Approve the EEC Budget for 2027-2029**
 - A motion to approve the EEC Budget for 2027-2029 as presented by the Office of Energy Resources on August 20th, 2026.
- **Approve the EEC Budget for 2027-2029 with amendments**
 - A motion to approve the EEC Budget for 2027-2029 as presented by the Office of Energy Resources on August 20th, 2026 with the following amendments {state amendments}.

8B. REVIEW AND POTENTIAL VOTE TO ISSUE CONSULTANT SERVICES RFP

Key Considerations

- OER will present an RFP for Consultant Services for the Council's review and feedback.
- The Council may propose revisions and amend the RFP.
- The Council may vote to issue the RFP and assign members to a technical working group.

Council Actions

Required Vote

Potential Vote

No Vote

Recommended Vote Language

- **Issue the RFP for Consultant Services**
 - A motion to issue an RFP for Consultant Services as presented by the Office of Energy Resources on August 20th, 2026.
- **Issue the RFP for Consultant Services with amendments**
 - A motion to issue an RFP for Consultant Services as presented by the Office of Energy Resources on August 20th, 2026, with the following amendments {state amendments}.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

COUNCIL BUDGET TRACKER

OER has provided an update to the 2026 Council budget tracker, which includes spending through Q2 2026 and pending payments for July 2026.

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 July, relative to plan goals.

Residential Sector Takeaways

1. While Residential & Income Eligible spending is on pace to meet both the electric and gas budgets, electric savings are roughly 25% behind the estimated performance necessary to meet the portfolio goal.
2. Electric Income Eligible spending jumped drastically in June and is ahead of the pace necessary to meet budget. This is largely due to a steep increase in spending in the Income Eligible Multifamily (IEMF) Program, which has now spent 133% of its budget for the year.
3. While IEMF spending has increased significantly since May, savings are still lagging, with only 27% of the lifetime savings goal realized to date.
4. The EnergyWise Multifamily program continues to underperform significantly, with just 12% of the lifetime savings goals realized in the electric portfolio and 6% in the gas portfolio.
5. Residential New Construction continues to show strong performance, especially for electric savings, with 92% of the lifetime savings goal realized and only 68% of the budget spent through July.

Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Sector Takeaways

1. Through July, C&I electric and gas programs have achieved 38% and 35% of their lifetime savings goals, respectively, which is consistent with the estimated performance necessary to meet planned values.
2. Simultaneously, electric spending is about 48% higher than what could be considered on pace to meet planned budgets, and gas spending is about 11% higher than what could be considered on pace to meet planned budgets.
3. Lighting remains the top end use in terms of magnitude of actual electric savings, while the Motors & Drives end use has achieved the greatest proportion of its planned savings – 103%.
4. Top-saving electric measures include interior LEDs with integrated controls, HVAC fans, interior LEDs without integrated controls, custom HVAC, and custom process. Together, these five measures account for 68% of year-to-date C&I electric savings.
5. Top-saving gas measures include energy and heat recovery ventilation, miscellaneous custom measures, spray valves and nozzles, steam traps, and efficient cooking equipment. These five measures account for 73% of year-to-date C&I gas savings.

DRAFT SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

OER has provided an initial draft of the meeting agenda for the Council's September 10th, 2026 meeting. Councilors are welcome and encouraged to provide feedback.

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.

COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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.