

A G E N D A - D R A F T

COUNCIL LEAD SESSION



Monday, October 5, 2026 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM

President's Dining Room, Donovan Dining Center

Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908

Members of the public may join via Zoom: Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gW0rYSLhSBKtuKI4j-lB8w>

OVERVIEW

The Energy Efficiency Council's Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion (LEAD) Sessions are held twice a year, in the spring and fall, as an extension of the Council's regular monthly meetings. These sessions provide space for deeper learning, open discussion, and stronger connection among Council members. LEAD Sessions are designed to be highly participatory, with topics shaped by Councilor input to reflect current priorities. Discussions typically focus on Council responsibilities, efficiency planning considerations, and deeper dives into the evolving energy efficiency landscape. All Council members are expected to attend, and sessions are open to the public.

AGENDA OPTION #1: Two Topics

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	Energy Affordability & the Value of Energy Efficiency
1:20 – 1:40 PM	20 min	- Presentation by ACEEE
1:40 – 1:55 PM	15 min	- Q&A / Council Discussion
1:55 – 2:15 PM	20 min	- Presentation by Consultant Team
2:15 – 2:30 PM	15 min	- Q&A / Council Discussion
2:30 – 2:45 PM	15 min	Break
2:45 – 3:55 PM	70 min	Heat Pumps, Rates & Demand-Side Management
2:45 – 3:05 PM	20 min	- Presentation by Rhode Island Energy
3:05 – 3:20 PM	15 min	- Council Discussion
3:20 – 3:40 PM	20 min	- Presentation by Consultant Team
3:40 – 3:55 PM	15 min	- Council Discussion
3:55 – 4:00 PM	5 min	Wrap Up

AGENDA OPTION #2: Three Topics

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 – 2:10 PM	50 min	Energy Affordability & the Value of Energy Efficiency
1:20 – 1:40 PM	20 min	- Presentation by ACEEE
1:40 – 2:10 PM	30 min	- Q&A / Council Discussion
2:10 – 2:25 PM	15 min	Break
2:25 – 3:10 PM	45 min	Heat Pumps, Rates & Demand-Side Management
2:25 – 2:40 PM	15 min	- Presentation by Rhode Island Energy
2:40 – 3:10 PM	30 min	- Council Discussion
3:10 – 3:55 PM	45 min	The Future of Energy Efficiency Planning
3:10 – 3:25 PM	15 min	- Presentation by Consultant Team
3:25 – 3:55 PM	30 min	- Council Discussion
3:55 – 4:00 PM	5 min	Wrap Up

TOPICS AND OBJECTIVES

Energy Affordability & the Value of Energy Efficiency

Explore how energy affordability is defined and measured, examine the costs that drive customer energy bills, and discuss how energy efficiency and demand-side management contribute to affordability, avoided infrastructure costs, and long-term customer value.

Heat Pumps, Heat Pump Rate Case, & Demand-Side Management

Learn about the proposed heat pump electric rate and the broader role of demand-side management proposals in supporting beneficial electrification, affordability, and state climate goals. Explore heat pump adoption in Rhode Island, including best practices and use cases, on the ground applications, interactions with existing heating systems, and barriers.

The Future of Energy Efficiency Planning

Explore how the transition to a more electrified energy system is changing the relationship between energy efficiency, grid planning, and demand-side strategies. Discuss the role of system reliability procurement (SRP), advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), load flexibility, customer programs, and emerging opportunities for the Council to engage in this evolving landscape.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Energy Affordability & the Value of Energy Efficiency

- How should the Council think about or define energy affordability?
- What do we know about the drivers of customer energy costs in RI? What don't we know?
- What role do avoided supply, infrastructure, and system costs play in the affordability story?
- What messages about EE's value are most compelling to customers and policymakers?

Heat Pumps, Heat Pump Rate Case & Demand-Side Management

- What applications are working particularly well and where are there challenges or limitations?
- Which barriers can programs or rate design realistically address?
- How might rate design influence customer adoption or when/how customers use electricity?
- As heating electrifies, what are the implications for electric load and the grid?

The Future of Energy Efficiency Planning

- What changes in electrification, technology, customer behavior, or the grid are most consequential for EE?
- What new opportunities might AMI and other technologies create?
- Does the transition to three-year planning create opportunities to think differently about these issues?
- Are there areas where the Council could play a more proactive role?

RESOURCES

Energy Affordability & the Value of Energy Efficiency

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Heat Pumps, Heat Pump Rate Case & Demand-Side Management

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The Future of Energy Efficiency Planning

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