

EERMC Resolution Concerning its Priorities for the Development of the 2020 Annual Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Plans

Introduction

Established in 2006 under amendments to the Rhode Island Energy Resources Act (R.I.G.L. § 42-140.1), a primary function of the Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council (EERMC or Council) is to provide structured stakeholder participation and oversight of energy efficiency procurement. To help support this objective, the EERMC has developed priorities that are in alignment with its legislated “powers and duties.”¹ These priorities also align with the Council’s Policy Recommendations proposed in the 2019 Annual Report to the General Assembly². The goal of these priorities is to support and guide the planning activities of the Company and all stakeholders engaged in the development of the 2020 Energy Efficiency (EE) and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Plans. Specifically, Council’s priorities will provide guidance to the Company’s Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group and the Company’s System Reliability & Procurement Technical Working Group. The Priorities also provide clear direction to the EERMC Consultant Team.

2020 EERMC Priorities

Portfolio-wide priorities

- The 2020 Plans should actively seek to procure **all cost-effective achievable savings**. While the 3-year targets provided initial estimates of savings potential in 2020, the parties engaged in 2020 planning should incorporate methods and strategies that maximizes innovation, program enhancements and broad participation across all sectors to deliver cost-effective achievable savings.
- Planning should focus on acquiring cost-effective savings using only funding necessary to achieve goals. This emphasis on cost-**efficiency** is an important companion to cost-effectiveness. All efforts should be made to properly set implementation budgets, rebate & incentive levels, and utility performance incentives to achieve targets at least cost.
- The Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement planning process should create forums for consistent, comprehensive, informed and publicly accountable **stakeholder involvement** in energy efficiency and system reliability planning.
- To support effective program planning, and aid program implementation monitoring, efforts must be made to **modernize and enhance electronic data management** across all sectors and enhance data accessibility and transparency for all Rhode Islanders.

¹ <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE42/42-140.1/42-140.1-5.HTM>

² <http://riermc.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/graphic-policy-recommendations-eermc-annual-report-2019-v1.pdf>



- Continue to incorporate the delivery of **active demand management** offerings within the EE programs in 2020.
- The development and delivery of programs should support and compliment **state policy and regulatory objectives**, especially greenhouse gas emission reductions and economic issues.
- Energy Efficiency programs must ensure that **all customers and segments of the market have access** to the benefits of Energy Efficiency savings. In particular, all plans should show an effective strategy to reach those who are economically vulnerable, including those who are currently above Rhode Island A60 rate eligibility, but need significant assistance to make Energy Efficiency investments. Coordination among all utility, state and federal income-eligible offerings/programs should be optimized to enhance the customer experience, increase program efficiency, and to strive for widespread participation.
- Energy Efficiency programs should include dynamic strategies that coordinate with renewable energy deployment efforts, state health initiatives, resiliency efforts, and any other relevant state and federal programs that promote well-being and energy security and affordability for all Rhode Islanders.

Program/sector-related priorities

- Enhance connections between HVAC, weatherization, and other EE offerings, enabling customers to engage in more holistic improvements
- Communicate how the Company is planning for a future when claimable lighting savings are substantially less and/or limited.
- Include plans for the development and scalability of efficient electric heating measures
- Identify, communicate and plan for current and future program implementation workforce needs and create activities to support the Rhode Island energy efficiency workforce. Workforce strategies should emphasize supporting Rhode Island businesses
- Actively support the adoption of codes and standards that increase energy efficiency

System Reliability and Procurement-specific Priorities

- Sustain progress on Non-Wire Alternative (NWA) Request for Proposals and identify other opportunities for solutions.
- Ensure load forecasts incorporate electric heating considerations going forward.
- Ensure all relevant National Grid teams such as Planning, Electric Vehicle-focused members of the Power Sector Transformation team, and the Energy Efficiency teams are actively coordinating efforts
- Continue evaluation of and enhancements to the data portal. Also ensure continued outreach about the existence of the data portal to relevant stakeholders.
- Explore how the System Reliability Plan efforts could expand to cover will consider non-gas alternatives