

EERMC Resolution

Concerning its Priorities for the Development of the 2021 -2023 Three Year 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 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 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency (EE) and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Plans. Specifically, the Council’s priorities will provide direct input to the Company’s Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group and System Reliability & Procurement Technical Working Group and the many associated stakeholders. The Priorities also provide clear direction to the EERMC Consultant Team to guide their activities in meetings and communications with stakeholders on behalf of the EERMC.

EERMC Priorities for the 2021-2023 Three Year Plan

Portfolio-wide priorities

- The Three Year Plan should:
 - actively seek to procure the savings Targets proposed by the EERMC and approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
 - focus on acquiring the Targets as cost-efficiently as possible. This emphasis on cost-**efficiency** is an important companion to cost-**effectiveness**. All efforts should be made to transparently and properly set implementation budgets, rebate & incentive levels, and utility performance incentives to achieve targets at least cost
 - comply with the LCP Standards
 - align, where appropriate, with the Council’s Policy Recommendations proposed in the 2020 Annual Report to the General Assembly
 - **Other?**
- The Three Year Plan development process should create forums for consistent, comprehensive, informed and publicly accountable **stakeholder involvement** in energy efficiency and system reliability planning.
- The development and delivery of programs should support and compliment **state policy and regulatory objectives**, especially those relating to greenhouse gas emission reductions and economic issues.
- Objectives for Energy Efficiency programs must:
 - ensure that **all customers and segments of the market have access** to the benefits of energy efficiency savings

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



- 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.
- **Other?**

Program/sector-related/SRP-specific priorities

- Plans for each Program and Initiative should fully accommodate the information contained in the Market Potential Study so that planned trajectories are designed to maximize the achievable potential in each segment at an appropriate pace.
- Clearly communicate how each Program and Initiative will evolve to capture non-lighting savings as the claimable lighting savings rapidly diminish over the 2021-2023 timeframe.
- 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 workers and businesses.
- Enhance connections between HVAC, weatherization, and other EE offerings, enabling customers to engage in more holistic improvements
- Include plans for the development and scalability of efficient electric heating measures
- 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.
- Aggregated or asset-based building energy information should be shared with prospective buyers/renters when a building is put up for sale or lease. This would allow greater transparency in Rhode Island building transactions, would spur the market for more energy efficient homes, and would provide a level of customer protection not currently available to home buyers and renters.
- Support comprehensive appliance efficiency standards that also backstop existing federal appliance standards that may languish. Such action would achieve large energy and cost savings for Rhode Islanders.
- **Other?**