

# Memo



**To:** RI Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council  
**From:** Rachel Sholly, EERMC Consultant Team  
**CC:** Becca Trietch  
**Date:** April 15, 2021  
**Subject:** EERMC 2021 Member Retreat Proposal

CONSULTANT TEAM

## RETREAT OVERVIEW

Each year, the Consultant Team organizes a Council Member Retreat, which is an opportunity for members to gather outside of the formal monthly meetings for deeper learning and open discussions. Retreat topics are driven by current priorities and often include a mix of Council responsibilities, timely efficiency planning considerations, and deeper dives into evolving efficiency issues and innovations. All members are expected to attend. Retreats are open to the public.

## SURVEY RESULTS

In March 2021, the Consultant Team surveyed Council members to collect input on how to design this year's member retreat to be most productive and beneficial. The results are summarized here, and more detailed results can be found on pages 3 and 4. There were seven survey respondents. Some general feedback from members was also received during Education Working Group meetings.

SURVEY TOPIC	CONSENSUS
Objectives	Top 3: Council member experience, Deep dives, Informal interaction
Deep Dive Topics	Top 4: Regulatory Overview w/PUC, PIM, HVAC market transformation, Equity
Format	Combination of virtual & in-person if possible
Length	Multiple shorter sessions
Timeframe	Spread out over several months
Open-Ended Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Hearing from other members, informal discussion</li><li>- Member roles &amp; responsibilities</li><li>- Historical evolution of key EE entities - roles &amp; relationships</li><li>- Deep dives into key topics</li><li>- Forum on role &amp; relations with PUC</li><li>- What equity means in our work going forward</li><li>- Building grid resilience in the age of stronger storm events</li><li>- Program oversight</li><li>- Invite PUC members to attend</li><li>- Different expectations if new members are present</li><li>- Keep in mind Zoom fatigue</li></ul>

## PROPOSED RETREAT STRATEGY

Taking the survey results into consideration, the Consultant Team proposes to hold **two shorter retreat sessions** – one in late May / early June, which would be virtual, and one in late August / early September, which would potentially be in person, depending on the status of the pandemic. The C-Team’s current scope of work would allow for two shorter sessions (~3 hours each). Should the Council feel that one or more longer sessions would be valuable, a Council vote would be needed to approve the additional scope and budget.

### EERMC 2021 COUNCIL MEMBER RETREAT Session #1 - Virtual Late May / Early June 2021

TIME		TOPIC
9:00 - 9:15 AM	<b>15 min</b>	Welcome and Overview
9:15 – 9:45 AM	<b>30 min</b>	Council Purposes, History & Resources
	<b>10 min</b>	Council Purposes, Roles & Responsibilities
	<b>10 min</b>	History of Roles and Relationships Among the Core EE Entities in Rhode Island
	<b>10 min</b>	Member Resources (e.g. Member Handbook & Updated Council Website)
9:45 – 10:15 AM	<b>30 min</b>	Discussion on Council Member Experience
10:15 – 10:25 AM	<b>10 min</b>	<b>* B R E A K *</b>
10:25 – 10:30 AM	<b>5 min</b>	Planning Cycle Context: What's on the Horizon?
10:30 – 11:05 AM	<b>40 min</b>	Regulatory Overview with the RI Public Utilities Commission
11:05 – 11:45 AM	<b>40 min</b>	Energy Equity in the EERMC's Work
11:45 – 12:00 PM	<b>15 min</b>	Wrap Up – Discuss Priorities for Retreat Session #2

### EERMC 2021 COUNCIL MEMBER RETREAT Session #2 – In Person (if possible) Late August / Early September 2021 (Agenda to be determined)

## FEEDACK

The Consultant Team requests feedback from Council members on this proposed retreat strategy, including objectives, timing, format, the content of the proposed Session #1 agenda, etc. Please feel free to reach out to Rachel Sholly ([rachel.sholly@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.sholly@gmail.com)) to discuss your thoughts.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**CONSULTANT TEAM**

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## 2021 Member Retreat Survey Results

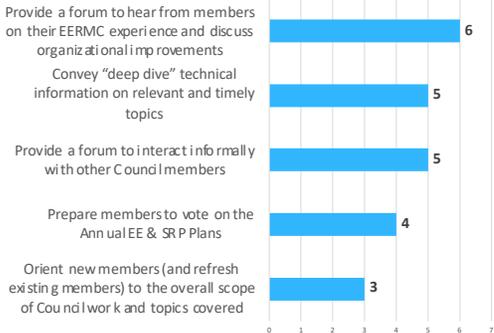
EERMC Education Working Group

**Presented By:** Rachel Sholly, EERMC Consultant Team  
**Date:** April 7, 2020

1



### 1. Which objectives/activities would you like the retreat to address?



Objective/Activity	Number of Responses
Provide a forum to hear from members on their EERMC experience and discuss organizational improvements	6
Convey "deep dive" technical information on relevant and timely topics	5
Provide a forum to interact informally with other Council members	5
Prepare members to vote on the Annual EE & SRP Plans	4
Orient new members (and refresh existing members) to the overall scope of Council work and topics covered	3

**OTHER SUGGESTIONS:**

- Forum on role & relations with PUC

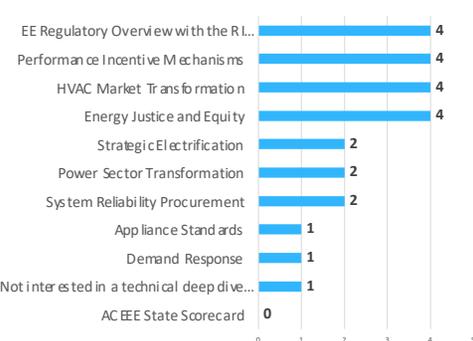
**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

- Include/discuss some current thinking about what equity means in our work going forward
- Invite PUC members to attend
- If we do the retreat on Zoom, perhaps we can have two sessions due to video fatigue

2



### 2. Which technical deep dive topic(s) would you be interested in?



Topic	Number of Responses
EE Regulatory Overview with the R.L.	4
Performance Incentive Mechanisms	4
HVAC Market Transformation	4
Energy Justice and Equity	4
Strategic Electrification	2
Power Sector Transformation	2
System Reliability Procurement	2
Appliance Standards	1
Demand Response	1
Not interested in a technical deep dive...	1
AC EEE State Scorecard	0

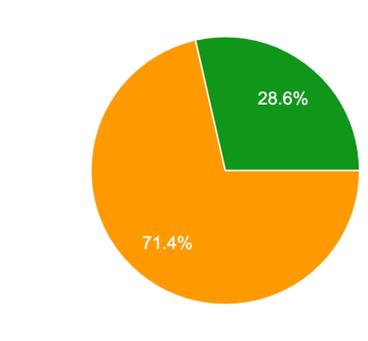
**OTHER SUGGESTIONS:**

- Building grid resilience in the age of stronger storm events
- Program Oversight

3

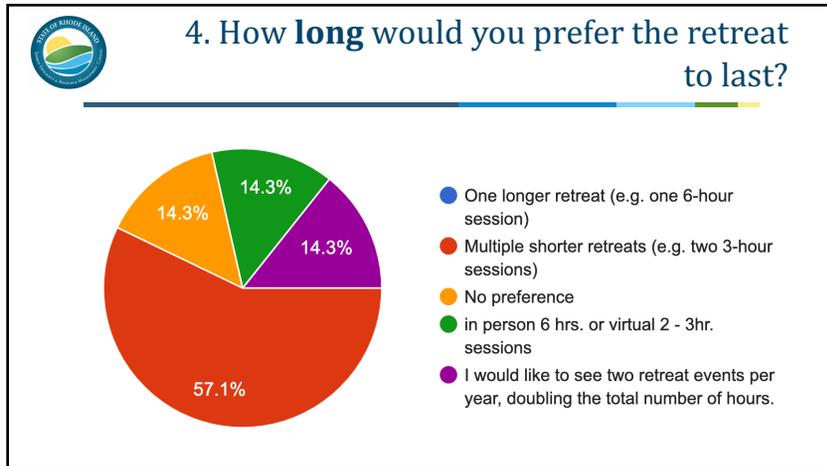


### 3. Which format would you prefer?

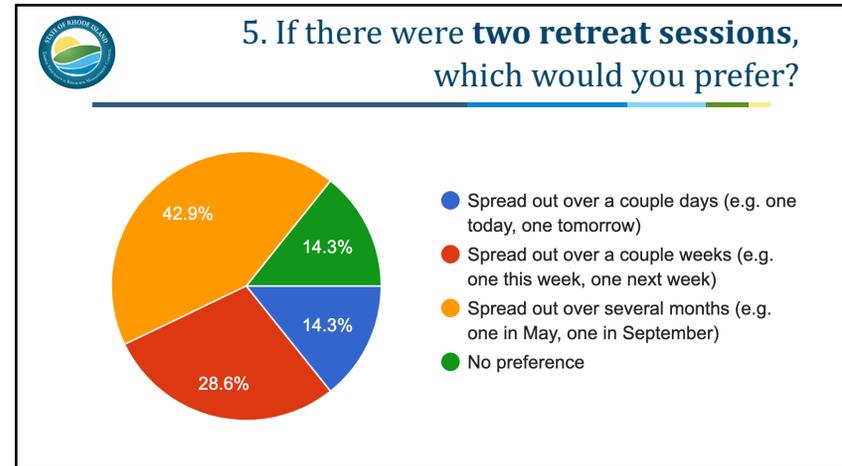


Format	Percentage
Virtual	28.6%
In-person (when safe)	71.4%
Combination (e.g. one virtual session earlier in the year and one in-person session later in the year)	0%
No preference	0%

4



5



6

**Other thoughts?**

- *I'm not into games, hypothetical problem solving or roll playing. It would be nice to **hear each person talk** about their work, experiences and personal thoughts. maybe instead of allocating one a chunk of time in the agenda, each person could have 5/10 minutes scattered throughout the retreat.*
- *Especially like the chance to **speak informally with my peers** about relevant topics & build morale on the Council.*
- *Depending on whether we have **new members or not shapes my expectations**. I would prefer content and discussion that lets us go more **deeply into topics**. It would also be great to have some **informal discussion facilitated** so we can all just get to know one another a bit better - it helps get the difficult work done. Thanks*
- *Revisiting council **members roles, responsibilities and powers**. The **deeper dives** into education topics were helpful to gain knowledge in knowledge deficit areas.*

7