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2024 Energy Efficiency Equity Metrics and Strategies

Energy Efficiency Council Meeting – April 18th, 2024

Rhode Island Energy has adopted seven equity metrics (sixteen including sub-metrics) and ten equity strategies to track and focus on in 2024

Key points:

- + The equity metrics and strategies were selected through a collaborative prioritization process in Q1 2024 with the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group (EWG)
- + The selected metrics and strategies derive from the Year 3 (2023) EWG's recommendations; the full list can be found in the 2023 RI EWG Year 3 Final Report
- + Notable development: in response to stakeholder interest and program priorities, Rhode Island Energy (RIE) has committed to develop Justice40/census tract reporting, providing greater transparency and alignment with federal initiatives



Throughout Q1, RIE and the EWG engaged in a multi-step process to prioritize over twenty recommended strategies and sixty suggested metrics

| January 2024 | February 2024 | March 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| <i>RIE responds to Year 3 recommendations</i> | <i>EWG prioritizes Year 3 metrics and strategies</i> | <i>RIE selects Year 3 metrics and strategies using EWG input</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Year 4 kick-off and welcome to members+ Review full list of recommendations and strategies from Year 3+ RIE responds to each equity recommendation and strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Presentation by Acadia Center on selecting meaningful metrics+ Breakout groups to prioritize metrics and strategies within each equity category (e.g. Participation Barriers)+ Group discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ RIE/PPL subject matter experts and program managers discuss EWG priorities and add program perspective and priorities+ RIE selects shortlist of metrics and strategies to present to the EWG for additional feedback+ Final shortlist adopted |

10 strategies and 16 total metrics to pursue and track in 2024



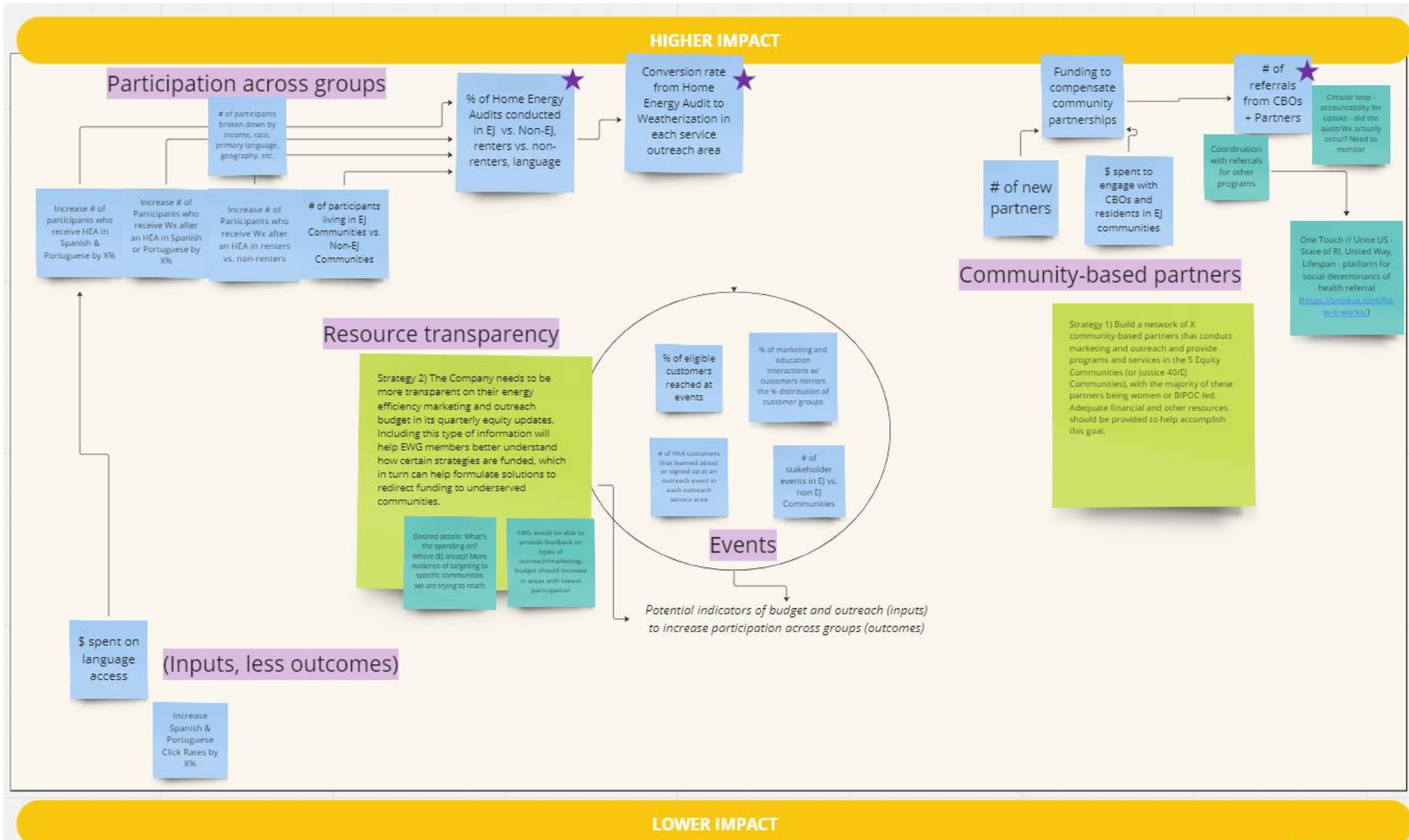
Continued collaboration with GHHI, C-Team, and Acadia Center to design EWG agendas & content

EWG prioritization within Participation Barriers category



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These metrics and strategies promote EE equity across RI



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| Equity Category | 2024 Equity Metrics * | 2024 Equity Strategies ** |
|---|--|---|
| Participation Barriers | <p>1) # of Home Energy Audits Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broken down by Justice40 vs non-Justice40 communities for single family programs (EnergyWise, Income Eligible Services) b) Broken down by renters vs non-renters for single family programs <p>2) # of Weatherization Projects Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broken down by Justice40 vs non-Justice40 communities for single family programs (EnergyWise, Income Eligible Services) b) Broken down by renters vs non-renters for single family programs | <p>1) Build a network of community-based partners that conduct marketing and outreach and provide programs and services in the 5 Equity Communities</p> |
| Multifamily Barriers | <p>3) # of Home Energy Audits Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broken down by Justice40 vs non-Justice40 communities for multifamily programs (EnergyWise Multifamily, Income Eligible Services Multifamily) <p>4) # of Weatherization Projects Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broken down by Justice40 vs non-Justice40 communities for multifamily programs (EnergyWise Multifamily, Income Eligible Services Multifamily) | <p>2) Develop a strategic plan with landlords & multifamily property owners with detailed examples of how Rhode Island Energy will serve and reach multifamily landlords</p> <p>3) Coordinate with Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) on the development of the rental registry</p> |
| Pre-Weatherization Barriers | <p>5) # of Audits with Pre-Weatherization Barriers Detected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broken down by pre-weatherization barrier type for EnergyWise Single Family program b) Broken down by Community Action Program service territory for Income Eligible Services Single Family program | <p>4) Work with partners to strategically align, braid, and leverage healthy homes programs to address pre-weatherization barriers</p> <p>5) Work with partners to explore and secure new sources of housing rehabilitation funding</p> |
| Workforce Development | <p><i>Rhode Island Energy will continue to work with PPL Supplier DEI team in 2024 to explore what is possible</i></p> | <p>6) Continue to fund workforce development partnerships</p> <p>7) Host workshops for contractor businesses to increase availability and support for vendors to become certified Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises</p> |
| Microbusiness & Small Business | <p>6) # of Eligible Customers Participating in Small Business Direct Install</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broken down by Justice40 vs non-Justice40 communities <p>7) % of Commercial & Industrial Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Broken down by consumption category | <p>8) Increase the number of Main Street/outreach efforts conducted in zip codes with lower participation</p> <p>9) Retain financing offers for small-business customers to overcome upfront cost barriers</p> <p>10) Include efforts to serve small businesses as part of Central Falls community-based initiative</p> |

* Metrics are mainly expressed as numbers, but may be shown as percentages where useful and applicable

** Strategies are abbreviated / summarized

Looking ahead, there is much to achieve in Year 4



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- + **EWG member spotlights:** highlighting community needs via – expanding community membership
 - + Health Equity Zone Eloi Rodas spotlight
- + Community engagement / Equity Outreach Assessment
 - + Progreso Latino – landlord & tenant engagement
 - + City of Central Falls – marketing & outreach
- + **Our Community outreach approach:** meeting the community where they are; listen to community members specific needs and preferences and bringing them back to the EWG
- + Meals on wheels cultural café luncheons
- + LIHEAP Outreach
- + Community Events
- + RI Energy Customer Expos



Next steps + Q&A



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- + Build out Justice40 tracking and reporting capabilities
- + Develop data gathering processes and procedures for new metrics
- + Develop reporting templates for quarterly reports
- + Issue first Year 4 equity metrics and strategies report in Q3 EE report
- + Hold EWG meetings in May, July, and August to engage members, discuss equity opportunities, and develop recommendations for adoption in 2025 plan