MA ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Councilors Present:	Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony, Brian Beote, Kyle Murray, William Rose, Sharon Weber, Meg Lusardi, Brooks Winner, Martijn Fleuren, Cindy Carroll, Maggie Downey, Kate Peters, Amy Vavak, Kim Dragoo, Jillian Winterkorn, Paul Johnson, Steven Miller, Alexis Washburn, Tim Costa, Mary Wambui, Robert Rio, Audrey Hettinger, Tim Costa
Councilors Absent:	Greg Abbe, Daniel Leary, Michael Ferrante
Consultants Present:	Adrian Caesar, Gretchen Calcagni, Griff Keating, Margie Lynch
DOER Staff Present:	Jo Ann Bodemer, Ina Dasso, Rachel Evans

1. Call to Order

Bodemer, acting on behalf of the Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Virtual Meeting Procedure
Bodemer reviewed the virtual EEAC meeting procedure:

1. The Council meeting will be recorded, for administrative purposes only.
2. All attendees except for Councilors and presenters will remain muted for the duration of the meeting.
3. Councilors should hold comments until the end of presentations, but Councilors and other participants should speak instead of using any chat function.
4. Councilors who disconnect from meetings need to announce when they rejoin.
5. All Council votes will be taken by roll call.

2. Public Comment

Councilor Statements on Proposed Energy Affordability Legislation
Commissioner Mahony said that the House has proposed energy legislation in the past week that includes changes to the EEAC and Mass Save. Commissioner Mahony continued that the proposed changes include a $1 billion cut from the Mass Save budget, and a direction for the Inspector General to complete a comprehensive review of the program over the course of the next year. Commissioner Mahony said that this is ongoing and one of the many steps of the

legislative process, but there would be lots of work to be done to implement the proposed changes if it were to pass into law. Commissioner Mahony said that all involved parties recognize that there is only so much money available, and everyone is trying to focus on affordability. Commissioner Mahony said that the Council's accomplishments in energy efficiency over the last eighteen years have delivered savings overtime, and she recognized that the legislature is trying to find new ways to provide affordability to Massachusetts residents. Commissioner Mahony said that DOER will continue to explore what the potential legislation means for the program in the future, and she asked the Council to highlight how Mass Save is addressing affordability if they provide comments on the legislation. Commissioner Mahony said that the Council and the PAs are strictly adhering to a budget this term while still delivering significant energy savings to customers.

Murray joined the virtual meeting at 1:10.

Murray said that he was deeply concerned about the potential budget cut because it is intended for the marketing and administration budgets, but there is not $1 billion allocated to those budget categories, so the programs will suffer. Murray said that Massachusetts ratepayers would have paid $16 billion for electric and gas supply and infrastructure costs from 2016 to 2024 without energy efficiency programs, but instead ratepayers paid $8 billion for Mass Save. Murray stated that ratepayers directly saved $8 billion, emphasizing that Mass Save is an affordability program.

Wambui thanked Commissioner Mahony for providing space to discuss the proposed legislation and stated that individual customers would save $12 per month from the proposed budget reduction. Wambui said that the proposed budget cut and the removal of the social cost of carbon from cost effectiveness calculations would pose an elevated risk to the justification for investment in the Income Eligible sector and equity objectives, and any reductions to program delivery would result in job losses. Wambui stated that the legislation also included introducing income verification in the designated equity communities (DECs), which reinforces barriers to renters and is not the path forward. Wambui appealed to the Council to use their voices where they can so that they could profoundly change the system for everyone's benefit.

Peters said that all of the PAs are looking closely at the legislation, and there is a lot of conversation still to be had about where the legislation will end up. Peters said that affordability is top of mind for the PAs in managing their budgets and program delivery, including serving Low- to Moderate-Income customers. Peters said that rapid changes can result in difficult impacts on the programs; stability and predictability are important for customers and contractors who want to invest. Peters said that the PAs believe that the programs have significant positive economic impacts, and efficiency is one of the best ways for customers to reduce their bills and obtain benefits from the programs. Peters said that the PAs appreciate the Council's engagement and support.

Johnson said that the Council should discuss marketing strategies that show the value of the Mass Save program.

Winner said that energy affordability is a major issue in Massachusetts, and the discussions that the Council is having regarding the importance of affordability are positive. Winner echoed

Murray and Wambui's comments, stating that cutting the Mass Save budget by $1 billion would be catastrophic and introduce tremendous instability into the programs because there is not enough time to implement the changes. Winner said that introducing income verification in the DECs is counterproductive because it would make entry into the programs harder, transitively making progress in equity communities more difficult as well.

Rio said that if the Council is serious about affordability, they need to devise where budget cuts can be made if the PAs cannot. Rio said that every program will claim that they are producing benefits, adding that he was not disputing that the $1 billion budget cut is the wrong move. Rio said that it is more beneficial to be proactive than reactive.

Commissioner Mahony agreed with Rio that budget cuts need to be made somewhere, noting that this bill will hopefully set up the state for change and comprehensive review of how ratepayers are paying for the transmission and distribution systems. Commissioner Mahony agreed that the Council needs to do a better job of communicating how Mass Save contributes to affordability, but they also need to listen to the legislature and the new priorities they are giving. Commissioner Mahony said that the Council has a lot of discussion and planning to do regarding how it manages its budgets and what it asks of ratepayers.

Wambui said that some Councilors have put forward proposals on how to increase affordability, and affordability goes beyond Mass Save. Wambui said that the legislature is targeting Mass Save, and the proposed legislation does not address affordability in any significant way.

Stephen Cowell (Northeast Energy Efficiency and Electrification Council (NEEEC))
Cowell said that a separate analysis from the Inspector General would be redundant because the PAs and the Council complete tremendous amounts of analysis already. Cowell said that the program has the best focus on environmental justice communities in the country, and the income verification proposal does not accomplish equity goals. Cowell said that the EEAC should raise the issue that the legislation should be put on hold until a robust analysis on solutions to the affordability crisis and climate goals is conducted. Cowell said that the NEEEC has proposed imposing a transition fee on fossil fuels as a means of improving affordability and accomplishing climate goals.

3. Council Business and Updates

DOER Updates
Bodemer announced that the 2026 EEAC Budget will be filed with the DPU by Friday, and Q4 2025 Reports and Budget Reports have been filed by the PAs and are available on the EEAC website. Bodemer announced that the PAs filed their Municipal Report, which is available under annual reporting on the website.

Program Administrator (PA) Updates
Sonakshi Saxena, Zack Lippert, and Downey, on behalf of the PAs, presented PA updates, including an Income Eligible customer story, a middle school electrification project, and 2025 key metrics.

4. EEAC 2026 Priorities

Bodemer reviewed the Draft Council Priorities for 2026, which had been updated to reflect Councilor feedback.

Council Discussion and Vote

Bodemer shared the written comments of Ferrante, which stated that a sentence in the draft priorities was inaccurate because not all delivered fuels customers experience bill savings if they switch to heat pumps. Bodemer proposed removing the sentence in question.

Wambui said that the LEAN program usually serves Income Eligible customers in switching from delivered fuels to heat pumps and suggested that LEAN provide a report in the future on bill savings. Wambui said that the wording should be left as is because she had observed that delivered fuels customers generally benefit from electrification.

Winner said that he has no issue including the language in the priorities and was in favor of keeping the sentence.

Rio agreed with Ferrante, noting that the Council should not make such a statement without having data to back it up.

Rose said that the statement is accurate based on the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan filings, in which the average savings from fuel switching showed that delivered fuel customers save money after electrification. Bodemer proposed adding new language pointing to the filing data.

Rio reiterated that the Council does not have data to support that switching from delivered fuels to heat pumps achieves immediate affordability.

Wambui said that the Council's entire advocacy for fuel switching was based on delivered fuels customers saving money by switching to heat pumps, and the DPU approved the measure because the data supported that claim. Wambui said that there is a higher emphasis on not switching fuels if there is a negative implication for residents in the Income Eligible program, noting that her personal definition of affordability entails simply reducing energy bills.

Beote agreed that there is data to support that this is a viable measure, with the caveat that there are instances where it may not work due to a number of reasons. Beote said that if affordability is too strong of a word, perhaps the outcome should be described as a reduced utility bill or energy burden instead. Rio suggested adding "may" before the language about lowering costs. Bodemer reiterated Wambui's point that a measure will not move forward if it does not incur bill savings.

Peters suggested the language "lowers heating costs" and then backing it up with the Three-Year Plan data as Rose suggested.

Commissioner Mahony supported Beote's suggestion and said that it does make sense to change to the language for the sake of advancing the discussion and making the Council more comfortable.

Bodemer and Dasso updated the language in the EEAC 2026 Priorities to reflect the Council's suggestion and indicated that they would add a footnote referencing the supporting data in the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan filing.

Winner motioned to approve. Weber seconded. All were in favor with none opposed or abstaining. The Council approved the EEAC 2026 Priorities.

5. Income Eligible Program

EEAC Consultant & PA Presentation
Keating, on behalf of the EEAC Consultants, and Saxena and Chris McClellan, on behalf of the PAs, presented an update on the Income Eligible sector, including recent historical context, geographic impacts, and budget management in the 2025-2027 term.

Council Discussion
Weber said that this discussion reinforces the issue of not having enough data on the third year of the term while developing the next plan, and the Council needs to have reasonable estimates of what is achievable from the prior term in order to develop a robust plan. Weber requested that the PAs consider this issue during planning for the next term.

Wambui said that she appreciated the deep dive, but the PAs are framing a planning failure and lack of operational readiness as a challenge. Wambui said that the Council needs to be more impatient on these issues, and there are process evaluations as old as 2019 that have explicitly called out for integrated statewide data tracking for the Income Eligible sector. Wambui said that there is nothing new in the forecasting of barrier remediation, the programs just did not adequately plan for the demand.

Winner said that he understood that the PAs are faced with a challenge in managing this tricky situation, and he highlighted the need to be precise and strategic with guidance for the Community First Partnerships (CFPs) as service territories operate differently and may need different levers to be pulled at varying times. Winner said that the impact of this situation is that wait times are very long for Income Eligible customers across the state, and he hoped that the Council and the PAs could collaborate on fixing this dynamic in the current term as they had in the past term.

Peters said that the Income Eligible sector budget increased significantly during the last term but cannot increase in the current term, and the legislature has signaled that there will likely be even less budget available for the next term. Peters said that the Council needs to brainstorm how to use the limited funds and plan effectively to balance priorities such as achieving deeper savings and managing wait times.

Winner said that he hopes that there are ways to push back on the assertion that Mass Save should have less money in the next term, noting that the ratepayer funds being spent are helping people have more affordable energy. Winner said that the Council should specifically push back on the cuts which would impact Income Eligible customers in the state.

6. PA Updates

PA Presentation
Saxena, Lippert, and Margaret Song, on behalf of the PAs, presented a series of PA updates, including the Mass Save Supplier Engagement Summit, the C&I Business Partner Event, Existing Building Commissioning onboarding, and the potential study.

Council Discussion
Discussion was deferred to the following EEAC meeting.

7. Mass Clean Energy Center (CEC): Budget

Mass CEC Presentation
Applebaum, on behalf of Mass CEC, presented updates on the Equity Workforce Program budget, including workforce development strategies, 2025 Equity Workforce Funding Applications and Awards, a breakdown of Equity Investments in 2025, and Equity Workforce Funding Levels for 2026.

Council Discussion
Wambui asked if Mass CEC could provide the conversion rate of workers that are not performing related work and the percentage of the funding for underrepresented businesses support that is Mass Save dollars. Wambui said that the Council supported the allocation of Mass Save funding to Mass CEC for the purpose of increasing participation and access in equity and environmental justice communities, so the impact of the program must go beyond training and result in jobs within the Mass Save program. Applebaum replied that the positive placement rate of over 70% refers to individuals that completed training and obtained jobs after, 77% of which were connected to Mass Save work. Applebaum continued that Mass CEC is working on improving their classification of program graduates who go on to work directly on Mass Save projects, and she indicated that she hears the Council's signaling for better data and more granular detail.

Johnson asked about the percentage of the training that is in weatherization and if Applebaum thought that weatherization training should be eliminated given the decrease in weatherization contractors. Applebaum said that there were a small percentage of recent grants for weatherization training cohorts, noting that there is demand for increased training for existing weatherization workers but less for new entrants.

Lusardi left the virtual meeting at 3:23.

8. Mass Save Data: Tutorial

PA Presentation
Christina Steiner and Riley Hastings, on behalf of the PAs, presented Mass Save Data 2.0, including an overview of the development timeline, guiding principles during development, and a live demonstration of the data platform.

Council Discussion
Beote thanked the PA staff who worked on the data update, stating that the level of macro and micro detail is outstanding and the platform is an incredible resource.

Murray said that he regularly uses the Mass Save data website, so this was a very helpful update.

Wambui agreed that the update is beneficial and very responsive to the EEAC's request.

Bodemer suggested recording the tutorial so that it could be used as a resource.

Winner asked if the heat pump data was available year over year in addition to the three-year term time series. Hastings confirmed that the data could be viewed by year or by three-year term.

9. Adjournment

Bodemer, on behalf of the Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:57 PM.

Meeting Materials:

- Official Meeting Notice
- Agenda
- Meeting Link
- December 3, 2025 EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
- December 17, 2025 EEAC Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
- February PA Updates
- Draft EEAC 2026 Priorities – Redline
- Draft EEAC 2026 Priorities – Clean
- Low Income Update
- C-Team Low Income Slide
- Round Robin PA Updates
- MassCEC Equity Workforce Program Budget Update
- Mass Save Data 2.0 Demo