

Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council 2021 Priorities

January 21, 2021 –DRAFT

In 2021, the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (“Council”) will (1) monitor implementation of the 2019-2021 Plan while giving special attention to the progress to the 2019-2021 Three-Year Plan term goals, given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) focus on planning, developing and reviewing the 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan. The Council has set specific priorities for 2021 that support aggressive energy efficiency and demand reduction goals, while ensuring goals are met equitably, cost-effectively, and in accordance with both the Green Communities Act¹ and An Act to Advance Clean Energy².

The Council recognizes that much of the Mass Save program was curtailed or shut down for several months in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program Administrators worked to align with public health requirements and Massachusetts re-opening guidelines, in order to implement virtual home energy audits and a phased reopening, focused on the health and safety of both program contractors and customers. As the COVID-19 State of Emergency declared by Governor Baker continues into 2021, the Council encourages continued collaboration and creativity during this unprecedented situation, ongoing efforts to support the contractor community, and enhanced efforts to help customers manage energy usage and costs.

Additional priorities and focus areas may arise throughout the year, but the Council has three specific priorities for 2021. The Council requests that PAs provide four updates in 2021, tied to the quarterly reports, to detail the progress made toward priorities one and two below. Priority three sets forth Council expectations for the 2022-2024 planning process in 2021.

1. 2019 – 2021 Plan: Monitor and ensure progress toward Three-Year Plan goals.

The Council recognizes that the 2019-2021 Plan includes aggressive goals, the development of new program initiatives, and enhancement of existing offerings, several of which were highlighted in the October 30, 2018 Council Resolution and the Council’s 2019 and 2020 priorities. To ensure that progress to, and achievement of, these commitments are met, the Council requests quarterly updates through 2021, including:

- Term sheet savings goals for electric and gas programs, including the Residential, C&I and Low Income sectors;
- Integrated Residential Program Design and enhancements, including the impacts of delivery enhancements on uptake of non-lighting measures, and increasing the percentage of residential savings from non-lighting measures;
- C&I customer-centric enhancements, including lighting and controls, HVAC and controls, and process, including progress toward increased savings from non-lighting measures above 2019 levels, and increasing the percentage of lighting projects that include controls, towards a goal of 50% penetration;³
- Assessment of new program enhancements, clean energy sources, and technologies authorized by An Act to Advance Clean Energy and not included in the 2019-2021 Plan, including efforts to align and coordinate with existing programs in Massachusetts;

¹ Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008.

² Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018.

³ <http://ma-eeac.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/The-Future-of-CI-Lighting-October-2019.pdf>

- Ensure that active demand reduction programs are executed effectively statewide. Monitor progress of the expansion and focus on lowering demand at peak periods during both summer and winter.

2. Equitable customer participation and savings: Improve equitable participation in energy efficiency programs through enhanced delivery models, with a special focus on renters/landlords, moderate income customers, customers with limited English proficiency, small businesses and customers in environmental justice communities.

During the 2021 program year, the Council will work with the PAs to further enhance these delivery models and to ensure that the programs prioritize equitable access among customers. Additionally, the Council encourages the PAs to begin adopting recommendations put forth by the Equity Working Group.

3. Continue Strategic Planning for 2022-2024.

In 2021, the Council recognizes the importance of developing the next Three Year Plan. Building off lessons learned from past Plans, the Council requests continued collaboration and transparency between the PAs, Council, and Consultant Team, with the goal of a successful planning process. In order to achieve this shared goal, the Council requests the following:

- April draft plan with aggressive greenhouse gas emissions and energy reduction goals, aligned to achieve all cost-effective energy efficiency and demand reduction and to support achievement of the Commonwealth's Global Warming Solutions Act goals.
- Incorporation of Council recommendations resulting from the workshop process into the April draft plan, with sufficient programmatic detail for Council review.
- Distinct equity-focused section of the April draft plan that incorporates recommendations of the Equity Working Group related to increasing participation by renters/landlords, moderate income customers, customers with limited English proficiency, small businesses, and residents/businesses in Environmental Justice communities.
- If needed, an interim September draft plan which incorporates feedback on the April draft ahead of the final plan.
- The draft and final plan to be provided with all data tables and benefit-cost models, with sufficient time for consultant review and consideration prior to October EEAC meeting.