

Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council 2019 Priorities

DECEMBER 18, 2018 – **DRAFT**

In 2019, the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (“Council”) will monitor the implementation of the 2019-2021 Plan and will give special attention to the roll out of the new initiatives and program enhancements expected during the next Plan term. The Council has set specific priorities for 2019 that support aggressive energy efficiency and demand reduction goals while ensuring goals are met equitably, cost-effectively, and in accordance with the Green Communities Act and An Act to Advance Clean Energy enacted in August 2018.

Additional priorities and focus areas may arise throughout the year, but the Council has set six key priorities for 2019. The Council requests that the Program Administrators (“PAs”) provide four updates in 2019, tied to the quarterly reports, which will detail the progress made toward each of the following priorities.

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

The Council recognizes that the 2019-2021 plan includes aggressive goals, the development of new program initiatives and the enhancement of existing offerings, several of which were highlighted in the October 30, 2018 Council Resolution. To ensure that the progress to, and achievement of, these commitments are met; the Council requests regular updates on these efforts, including:

- Term sheet savings goals for electric and gas programs
- Integrated Residential Program Design and enhancements
- C&I customer-centric enhancements including lighting and controls, HVAC and controls, and process
- Stakeholder engagement

2. Peak Demand Reduction: Ensure new, active demand reduction programs are developed and executed effectively. Monitor progress of the expansion and focus on lowering demand at peak periods during both summer and winter.

The Council emphasizes the importance of the inclusion of active demand reduction programs in the 2019-2021 Three Year Plan and will work with the PAs to ensure timely program roll out, goal achievement, and focus on winter reliability. The Council requests regular updates on these efforts, including:

- Progress to reaching the Active Demand Reduction program goals
 - i. Demonstrated commitment to energy storage through regular updates on progress
- Winter reliability enhancements including updates on the incorporation of peak reduction in winter, utilizing storage in winter, winter benefits study, streetlight conversions

3. 2019-2021 Plan – other new offerings: Work with Program Administrators and Consultant Team to ensure new program initiatives put forth in the 2019-2021 Plan are developed and executed effectively and in a timely manner.

In the first year of the 2019-2021 Plan, the Council supports the PAs in their efforts to both launch new initiatives and roll out enhancements to existing delivery models. The Council asks that the PAs provide updates on these efforts regularly, specifically:

- Energy Optimization, including tracking the number of customers making a fuel switch to ASHPs
- Development and launch of the new Passive House offering, including incentives for soft costs and an updated performance-based incentive calculation

- Integration of Home Energy Scorecards
- C&I Strategic Energy Management (SEM) roll out

4. Equitable customer participation and savings: Demonstrate equitable participation in energy efficiency programs through enhanced delivery models with a special focus on renters, moderate income, non-English speaking, and small business customers.

The Council recognizes that some customers are harder to reach than others, and that the PAs continue to develop strategies to bring the benefits of energy efficiency to these customers. During the 2019 program year, the Council will work with the PAs to monitor further enhancement of these delivery models and to ensure that the programs prioritize equitable access among customers, including:

- Program enhancements for renters, moderate income, non-English speaking, and small business. These enhancements will include the new renter participation tracking efforts
- Implementation of the moderate income program, including incorporation of lessons learned from LEAN demonstrations
- Implementation of actionable recommendations from the Low Income Process Evaluation
- Municipal, community, and non-profit partnership efforts
- Merrimack Valley targeted energy efficiency

5. Data Management and Transparency: Monitor efforts to modernize data management practices across all PAs and sectors and enhance the accessibility of the data to the public.

The Council recognizes the importance of maintaining accurate and transparent data which is accessible to the public. The Council requests that the PAs provide updates on the following:

- Roll out of RCS Reporting activities
- Timely EM&V by providing and reviewing customer and tracking databases promptly

6. Assess results of the 2016-2018 Three-Year Plan and integrate lessons learned into the execution of the 2019-2021 Three-Year Plan.

Meeting the savings goals in all sectors in the 2019-2021 plan is of major importance to the Council. It is a priority of the Council for the PAs to evaluate the results from the 2016-2018 plans and assess best practices and successes as well as any missed opportunities and take lessons learned in order to continue the success of the programs in the next plan. Specifically, the Council would like the PAs to provide updates on the following:

- Timely evaluation of 2016-2018 results to inform 2019-2021 implementation
- C&I lighting, controls, and HVAC: Planning for future beyond C&I Lighting by taking a systems-based comprehensive approach to include more design, operations and maintenance (O&M), controls and diversity of measures