

Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council

2016 Priorities

December 16, 2015

1. **Monitor progress and provide input into priority commitments and new program initiatives included in the October 26, 2015 Council Resolution and the 2016-2018 Three-Year Plan.**

The Council recognizes that the 2016-2018 plan calls for continuation and improvement upon existing offerings, as well as new initiatives and program delivery strategies, including several that were highlighted in the October 26 Council resolution. To ensure that these programs are successful in meeting savings and benefits goals, and to learn from the experiences of the Program Administrators, the Council will ask that the PAs share regular updates with the Council about successes, challenges, barriers, and lessons learned from the design and implementation of those initiatives. Some of these initiatives include:

- Demand savings and peak demand reduction
- Renter initiative
- Moderate income initiative
- Multifamily initiative

2. **Assess results of the 2013-2015 Three-Year Plan and integrate lessons learned into the execution of the 2016-2018 Three-Year Plan.**

The Program Administrators (PAs) implementation of the 2013-2015 plan is projected to be successful in meeting or exceeding the three-year portfolio level goals, and in the residential and low income sectors. However, the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Savings targets have not been met in 2011-2014 and are not projected to be met in 2015. It is a priority of the Council to assess any missed opportunities and take lessons learned from the previous plans' implementation to continue the success in meeting the goals in the residential and low income sectors, and focus on strategies and best practices for the PAs to meet or exceed the C&I goals in 2016-2018.

Throughout 2015, the Council and PAs conducted a cooperative and participatory planning process for the 2016-2018 plan. In early 2016, the Council will review this process, which will inform and guide how we will collectively undertake planning for 2019-2021.

3. **Encourage innovation in technology and program models to capture additional opportunities for savings while controlling costs and improving equitable customer access to Energy Efficiency Programs.**

In order for the PAs to capture additional opportunities for savings and meet the goals of the 2016-2018 three year plan, advance programmatic consistency and equivalency, provide equitable service for customers across the Commonwealth and continue providing nation-leading energy efficiency

programs, the PAs will have to continue to focus on innovation and improvement in the programs. In 2016, the EEAC will work with the PAs to focus on innovations including, but not limited to:

- Segment-specific approaches for small business and mid-size commercial customers
- Potential enhancements to program approaches such as pay-for-performance and strategic energy management
- Demand savings and peak demand reduction
- New technology integration

4. Advance transparency, availability and effectiveness of data and information to assess and improve Energy Efficiency Programs.

Consistent with its support for a comprehensive statewide database, the Council will work with the PAs to ensure that in the interim publicly available data on the implementation of the three-year plan can be used to support continuous program improvement. In 2016, the EEAC will focus on:

- Specific metrics as called out in the October 26 Council resolution needed to assess new program offerings
- The online Technical Reference Library that can enable more consistent reporting of program implementation
- The format of the Quarterly Reports and presentations provided by the PAs to ensure that the report is presented concisely and is useful for the PAs and EEAC
- EM&V studies and how the feedback from EM&V reports is feeding back into program implementation efforts

5. Identify opportunities for the Council to advance distributed resource investment, active demand response and strategic resource planning in a manner that decreases costs, increases reliability, supports innovation and improves both the environment and the economy.

The Council will assess potential ways within its statutory mandate to approach larger energy systems issues that may be impacted by future energy efficiency plans. In early 2016, the Council will call upon its consultants to develop a research plan covering timely and appropriate areas for the Council to address, such as:

- Efficiency in relation to other customer-side resources, and their relative challenges and opportunities for the evolution of our energy system
- The value of the timing of energy use
- Geographically targeted deployment of efficiency and other customer-side resources and how this can address local needs, produce systemic benefits and avoided costs
- Optimizing Massachusetts' grid and energy system (e.g. increasing electrification) given changing resources and priorities
- New uses for electricity that benefits customers and society but may increase electric use