

## **Resolution of the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council**

### **Regarding EEAC Consultant Budget for 2013**

**September 10, 2013**

The Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC or Council) selected a consulting team led by Optimal Energy, Inc. (Optimal) to provide expert consulting services for 2013. During the course of providing these services, Optimal has determined that additional funds beyond those originally budgeted will be necessary to provide the proper level of service to the EEAC in the residential sector.

In February the EEAC approved a consulting team budget not to exceed \$1,450,000. The Council's Executive Committee has worked closely with Optimal throughout 2013, overseeing and approving its expenditures. At its August 28, 2013 meeting the Executive Committee reviewed and recommended Optimal's request for an additional \$30,000 be brought to the full Council. The additional amount would increase the total 2013 budget not to exceed amount to \$1,480,000.

The EEAC looks forward to continuing the strong working relationship that has been developed between the Optimal Energy consultant team, Council members and PA representatives. The Council recognizes the need to exercise fiscal restraint and prudence and believes that the request described in the attached memorandum from Optimal outlining the budget request is reasonable. The Council's Executive Committee has reviewed and discussed the request and recommends its approval by the full Council.

Be it resolved that the EEAC, having reviewed Optimal Energy's request, approves an increase in the consultant team's budget allocation of \$30,000.

The EEAC, on the recommendation of the EEAC Executive Committee, resolves the following:

1. Approves an EEAC Consultant budget increase for calendar 2013 in the amount of \$30,000, as detailed in the attachment to this resolution. Optimal expenditures during the rest of the year will continue to be reviewed by the Executive Committee on a monthly basis to ensure they are on track.
2. Approves a contract with Optimal and DOER as the Chair of the Council to cover the period from February 12, 2013 to December 31, 2013 and to request DPU approval of the EEAC budget for 2013 in the amount of \$1,480,000.



**Memorandum**

To: Energy Efficiency Advisory Council  
 From: MA EEAC Consultants  
 Date: August 28, 2013  
 Re: Budget Increase Request

The consulting team requests an additional \$30,000 for its 2013 budget. This additional funding will provide the following level of effort increase for the remaining 4 months of 2013:

Remaining Budget Period - September to December 2013			
	Current Budget: Average Monthly/Weekly Hours Remaining	Requested Increase: Monthly/Weekly Hours	Requested Total: Monthly/Weekly Hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	72/18	48/12	120/30

The additional funding is being requested to allow for deeper engagement by the residential consulting team, which was reconstituted in May with three new team members to provide additional value to the Council and to the program administrators. In order to support the Council and position the PAs for success under the current 3-year plan and beyond, the consultants must 1) possess a thorough understanding of current implementation challenges and opportunities across ten residential initiatives, 2) conduct analysis to support informed conclusions, and 3) prepare recommendations that are actionable by the PAs. Without that deeper engagement, the consultants' work may not be fully informed and will be of reduced value to the PAs and the Council. The current budget allows only limited engagement by consulting team members, with the main focus by necessity being on oversight. The additional funding for the team will allow for stronger and deeper engagement on best practices research and recommendations for additional energy savings opportunities.

The additional funding allows the consulting team to pursue that deeper engagement in carrying out the core work of the team. This work involves:

- Preparation for and participation in biweekly RMC meetings and others as appropriate
- Reviewing analysis of PAs annual, weekly, and monthly reporting, following up with individual PAs as necessary
- Initiative-level oversight (e.g., HES, residential consumer products), including reviewing agendas and minutes for ten working groups, engaging on specific topics as appropriate, and providing support for Council areas of inquiry (e.g., HES)
- Best practices research to position PAs for success under current 3-year plan and beyond.
- In addition to research efforts in progress for multifamily retrofits and new technologies, topics being





considered through a collaborative process with the PAs include:

- Home energy services
  - Behavior
  - Use of demographic, technical, and billing data to target savings opportunities
- Coordination with 1) evaluation team to ensure residential evaluations will produce information that improves program implementation, 2) C&I team to exchange information and ensure consistency and coordination, and 3) Councilors and DOER staff to ensure understanding of agency priorities and policies

Team members will also be participating in development of the database.

A major objective of the reconstitution of the consulting team is to rebuild the relationship with the PAs. The consulting team also feels it is important to generate new ideas for consideration by the PAs in this first year of the current 3-year plan to allow time for proper consideration and implementation. The additional funding allows us to bring the expertise of the new team members to bear in achieving these goals.