

Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council 2018 Priorities

JANUARY 17, 2018

In 2018, the Council will monitor the last year of 2016-2018 Plan implementation, while turning its attention to planning for the 2019-2021 Plan.

The Council has set specific priorities for 2018 that reflect its desire that Massachusetts' energy efficiency activities continue to be aggressive and delivered equitably and cost-efficiently. Additionally, the Council continues to strongly support pursuing new program strategies and measures as a way of readjusting program offerings in response to the decline of claimable lighting savings. In light of these matters of ongoing importance, these priorities also refer to (but do not enumerate) its recommendations for the 2019-2021 Plan.

Additional areas of focus will arise during the 2018 planning year; with that in mind, the Council has set five overarching priorities for 2018. The Council requests that the PAs continue to provide progress updates on these priorities in their 2018 quarterly reports.

1. Continue to aggressively pursue 2016-2018 Plan goals—along with new initiatives and strategies—through the last year of the Plan.

In the final year of the 2016-2018 Plan, the Council supports the PAs in their aggressive efforts to acquire savings via existing program offerings. In addition, the Council asks that the new initiatives and program delivery strategies that were highlighted in the October 26, 2015 Council resolution continue to receive the full attention of the PAs through the end of the Plan period. These include:

- The renter initiative and the moderate income initiative
- Continued implementation of DPU-approved active demand management demonstrations
- Combined heat & power (CHP) installation activities
- Segment-specific approaches in the commercial & industrial (C&I) sector, especially for small business and non-profits
- Initiatives targeting multifamily buildings

2. Integrate the Council's recommendations for the 2019-2021 Plan into the Plan to the Council's satisfaction.

The EEAC planning workshops that began in September of 2017 will result in a number of recommendations that together express the priorities of the Council for the 2019-2021 Plan.

The Council thanks the PAs for their helpful input and thoughtful participation in the workshops, and asks that:

- The recommendations that result from this collaborative process are integrated into the April 2018 draft of the 2019-2021 Plan in a manner faithful to their intent
- The PAs additionally will address, at the May 16th Council meeting and in writing, why any recommendations not incorporated into the Plan were left out
- The PAs engage with the Council Consultants on the key drivers process
- The final plan is delivered to the EEAC, by a date to be determined prior to the July 18th meeting of the Council, to allow appropriate time for EEAC review and consideration

3. Deliver requests for mid-term modifications (MTMs) to the 2016-2018 Plan to the Council with adequate time for review.

In the past, it has been necessary for the PAs to make more budgetary modifications and related changes during the last year of the Plan than earlier in the Plan period.

Due to the expected number of these requests in 2018, the work involved in reviewing them, and the demanding work load of the planning year, the Council asks that the PAs provide MTM requests to the Council at least five weeks prior to the full EEAC meeting at which a resolution vote can take place.

4. Provide the Council with a roadmap by May 16, 2018 which will describe their strategy and timeline for addressing the transformation of the lighting market.

The PAs' waning ability to claim electric savings in the rapidly-transforming lighting market has been the subject of much discussion in 2017. This challenge will have a substantial influence on the development of the 2019-2021 Plan and subsequent Plans.

The Council asks that the PAs provide a roadmap by May 16, 2018 that clearly describes their strategy and timeline with respect to future lighting initiatives. This important information will be crucial to the Council's informed engagement in the Plan development process.

5. Identify opportunities to advance an integrated approach to demand-side management which includes active demand management and integration of distributed resources.

The Council asks that the PAs continue to assess the intersection between energy efficiency and broader energy systems issues, and supports the PAs' endeavor to build on demonstration projects to develop a robust suite of cost-effective active demand management programs. Areas of interest to Councilors include:

- Optimization of Massachusetts' energy system via integrated energy efficiency and demand management activities
- Opportunities and challenges related to the intersection of energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy storage
- The likely impacts of grid modernization investments and strategies
- Opportunities to partner with the Commonwealth's cities and towns as a means to amplify and improve program delivery strategies
- How geographically-targeted deployment of efficiency can lead to system benefits