

Memorandum

NEIs to Consider for HEA Evaluation

To: New Hampshire Utilities

From: HEA '16-'17 Opinion Dynamics Evaluation Team

Date: August 6, 2018

Re: Input for HEA Non-Energy Impacts Analysis

Overview

In this memorandum, Opinion Dynamics Corporation presents a summary of the input and guidance received from the EM&V staff of the four NH Utilities—Unitil, Eversource, Liberty Utilities, and New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC)—and the Benefit/Cost (B/C) Working Group about which NEIs to consider when evaluating the the NHSaves Home Energy Assistance (HEA) Program for 2016 and 2017. These groups suggested a variety of NEIs to consider and while some of the suggestions we received were similar, other recommendations diverged. The evaluation team will use this feedback to guide the review of the applicable research and literature to assess which NEIs are feasible to include in the current work scope to evaluate the HEA program.

Input from Project Kick-Off Meeting

During the project kick-off meeting in June with the NH EM&V Working Group, we discussed the overall goals of the NEI research including the intended use of this information and the preferred NEIs to capture. During that kick-off meeting, we learned the following:

- The EM&V Working Group is interested in focusing on utility and participant NEIs.
- Starting in 2018, the utilities applied a 10% adder to account for NEIs in all programs. The EM&V Working Group is interested in using this research to quantify specific low-income NEIs to potentially supplement or replace this adder.
- The EM&V Working Group is looking for “evidence-based” NEIs from the HEA evaluation. The NEIs we capture in the HEA evaluation will be considered for future cost-effectiveness testing but will not be retroactively applied to the 2016-2017 program.

- There is a larger, national, study of NEIs in the multifamily and low-income sectors¹. This study is just underway and will not have results in time for our HEA evaluation but may be a good source of information in the future for the B/C working group.
- DNV-GL is doing an NEI study statewide in NH for the entire portfolio of programs. There are two phases to that work. The first phase will cover the low-income sector primarily through literature reviews, secondary data, and prior research conducted by DNV GL. There may be some overlap in what they capture for low-income programs and our anticipated NEI literature review. The EM&V Working Group suggested that we wait for DNV-GL's phase 1 results and then focus our NEI research on filling gaps for low-income programs. However, DNV-GL's timeline for Phase 1 results is not until November and final results would be too late to consider for our evaluation. As such, we will attempt to contact DNV-GL in July/August and see if we can obtain any early results or findings related to low-income programs.

Input from Benefit/Cost Working Group

Members of the evaluation team from Opinion Dynamics attended the B/C Working Group meeting on July 11th to solicit its feedback on the NEIs we should consider. During this meeting, we learned the following:

- B/C Working Group members mentioned a variety of social, economic, and participant NEIs, some of which were very general while others more refined. These included, but are not limited to, the societal NEIs of reduced GHG emissions and increased jobs in the region; participant NEIs included improvements in health and safety, changes in hardship faced by participants such as savings on water bills and other bills, home improvement benefits, and reduced days of employment and school missed; utility NEIs mentioned were improved system reliability, changes in arrearages, reduced reliance on utility assistance programs and debt write-offs.
- While there will be some overlap of our evaluation of NEIs from the NHSaves HEA Program and the NEI study that DNV-GL is conducting, there are some differences. The Opinion Dynamics evaluation of the NHSaves HEA program will evaluate NEIs based on primary data collected from program participants. The DNV-GL study is comprised of a literature review and does not rely on primary data collection. While DNV-GL is not expected to complete its study in time for our evaluation team to fully consider its findings and use as part of the NEI analysis included in this evaluation, we will take any interim results and incorporate them into our study, should this information become available in time. Members of the B/C Working Group suggest that we align categories/classifications of NEIs across studies to the extent possible.
- For the NEIs we explore through a literature review, the Working Group asked us to inform them about which NEIs are simpler to calculate. They also asked us to identify which NEIs we can estimate with more certainty, particularly those that vary less by climate or region. Attendees noted these would be ideal

¹ <http://www.threecubed.org/>

NEIs to include in our study for the HEA Program. For those NEIs that are calculated through relatively simple formulas, the Working Group asked that we consider using the primary data we collect through our evaluation activities and adjust these types of NEIs, where applicable.

- The Working Group suggested we speak with program implementers, program staff, and agencies that work with the participants to hear their perspective on the types of NEIs we should consider for the analysis.

The utilities and the B/C Working Group suggested the following material as part of our literature review, though some of these documents are currently under development and may not be available for us to consider:

- 2018-2020 NH Statewide EE Plan, Order Approving Settlement Agreement, Order# 26.095, January 2, 2018
- 2018-2020 NH Statewide EE Plan, Order Approving Settlement Agreement, Docket #17-136
- NEEP NEI Final Report for NH, June 2017
- NH Saves 2018-2020 NH Statewide EE Plan, Testimony from Michael Goldman and Roger Colton, Docket #17-136
- Skumatz, Lisa, Ph.D. Non-Energy Benefits / NEBs – Winning at Cost-Effectiveness Dominos: State Progress and TRMs, 2016 ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings.
- Skumatz, Lisa, Ph.D. Non-Energy Benefits/Non-Energy Impacts and Their Role & Values in Cost-Effectiveness Tests: State of Maryland. March 31st, 2014. Prepared for Natural Resources Defense Council.
- National Efficiency Screening Project, National Standard Practice Manual for Assessing Cost-Effectiveness of Energy Efficiency Resources, Spring 2017.
<https://nationalefficiencyscreening.org/national-standard-practice-manual/>
- Quantifying Non-Energy Benefits from ComEd's Income Eligible Programs: Findings and Recommendations from Secondary Research, Draft, Prepared by Navigant, March 6, 2018.