



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, June 12, 2014**

**3:30 - 5:30 PM**

Conference Room B  
Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

- Members Present:** Abigail Anthony, Joe Cirillo, Marsha Garcia, Julie Gill, Marion Gold, Jennifer Hutchinson, Dan Justynski, Michael McAteer, Joe Newsome, Paul Ryan
- Members Absent:** Chris Powell
- Consultants Present:** Mike Guerard, Sam Huntington, Scudder Parker
- OER Staff Present:** Chris Kearns, Rachel Sholly
- Others Present:** Karen Bradbury, Mark Kravatz, Jeremy Newberger, Belinda Wong, Chon Wong

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Paul Ryan called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM. Joe Cirillo made a motion to move the approval of the minutes to last on the agenda. Dan Justynski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### 2. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Marion Gold reported on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) 2014 Allocation Plan to spend the 2013 auction proceeds (*see attached one-pager and two letters of support*). She noted that 2013 RGGI proceeds were significantly higher than the previous year and will likely continue increasing in future years. The RI Office of Energy Resources (OER) has presented the Plan to the EERMC subcommittee, the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), so all required parties have been consulted. She added that Chris Powell was not in favor of providing funds for electric vehicles even with the connection to renewable energy. Abigail Anthony explained that this opposition was because it did not seem logical to him to use RGGI revenues to promote electric vehicles, which would add electric load and increase RGGI compliance costs to consumers. He felt that RGGI funds should not be used to transfer the carbon reduction burden from the transportation sector to the electric sector. Scudder Parker noted that electricity is the only paying partner on RGGI; the transportation sector is not.

Legislation adding two new members to the EERMC has passed. As a result, next year the Council will appoint a workforce development representative and a municipal representative.

Dan Justynski made a motion to move agenda item #7 "Other Business" to item #4. Joe Cirillo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Other Business**

#### *Discussion and Vote on Executive Committee Formation*

Commissioner Gold explained that some Council members have been discussing the need for an Executive Committee (*see attached*) to address administrative matters, including overseeing budgets, consultant team selection and management, PUC dockets, and annual and 3-year plans. The Committee would also develop the EERMC meeting agendas. The Committee would have publicly posted meetings and we would take minutes, following all the Robert's rules. It would also consider the creation of additional ad hoc committees as needed.

Commissioner Gold added that draft rules of procedures for the Council were developed some time ago but were never codified. One of the Committee's first responsibilities will be to review those procedures and finalize them, which would include the appointment of a Vice Chair.

Chairman Ryan said that the general purpose of the Executive Committee would be to allow that group to get into the weeds and discuss issues in more depth so that the full Council meetings will not need to get as detailed.

Mr. Parker asked if this group would be responsible for finalizing language on official documents, and if so, could they do it via email as a formal committee. Chairman Ryan explained that email decisions are not allowed in Rhode Island. If there are not more than two voting members on a phone call at one time, it does not need to follow open meetings rules. The final decision will be made by the Council's legal counsel.

The Council discussed the idea of employing the consent agenda model, in which the full Council does one vote on everything that the Executive Committee has approved. It might be a way of streamlining meetings. Abigail Anthony noted that there are some things that would make sense for consent agenda and some things that would not.

**Mr. Justynski made a motion to create the Executive Committee. Joe Newsome seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### *Discussion and Vote on Financing Study Proposal*

Commissioner Gold reviewed the "Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Financing White Paper Proposal" (*see attached*). It was put together by Danny Musher at OER in consultation with the Consultant Team, Ms. Anthony, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) and National Grid. The white paper would explain the purpose of the study, define terminology, review what other jurisdictions have done, look at what financing methods make sense for Rhode Island, look at costs and benefits, etc. This idea arose during a PUC hearing conversation on the benefits that financing

might bring – allowing Rhode Island to go broader and deeper without increasing the system benefit charge. There is a need to further define the level of primary data collection expected.

Commissioner Gold proposed that the EERMC grant authority to the newly created Executive Committee to constitute a formal committee to finalize the finance proposal and approve and release it on behalf of the EERMC. Specifically, a motion was requested to (1) fund the finance study with the EERMC budget up to \$50,000 to hire a consultant; (2) empower the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Council to approve and release the formal solicitation based on this proposal; and (3) empower the Executive Committee to appoint an ad hoc Finance Advisory Committee, including National Grid, the Division, CommerceRI, the Consultant Team and the OER, to guide and inform the process.

Chairman Ryan suggested that Bill Penn be consulted on this as he has worked on financing for many years including establishing the Clean Water Finance Agency. Michael McAteer added that National Grid provided detailed comments and fully supports this proposal. Mr. Parker noted that the Consultant Team will not be eligible to bid on this solicitation but will provide oversight as needed.

**Mr. Justynski made a motion to approve the “Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Financing White Paper Proposal” dated June 9<sup>th</sup> with funding up to \$50,000 from the EERMC, as well as approve the new Executive Committee to issue the request for proposals and review the results to make a recommendation to the Council. Ms. Anthony seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Gold added that she has checked with most Council members on changing the July meeting from July 10<sup>th</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>. A vote was not needed, but the change will need to be posted on the Secretary of State website. The first Executive Committee meeting will be held on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.

#### *Discussion on 2014 Energy Expo Outcomes and Vote on 2015 Sponsorship*

Rachel Sholly presented slides and handouts summarizing the 2014 Energy Expo goals, outcomes, and expenses, as well as ideas for a potential 2015 Energy Expo (*see attached*). Commissioner Gold commented that the Rhode Island Builders Association is very excited about this partnership and they have invited the OER and National Grid to be involved in the Home Show planning, which is starting now. This also ties in with the cooperative work being done on energy branding and marketing.

Chairman Ryan asked if additional funds for an event management consultant would be helpful. Commissioner Gold said that the OER has considered engaging the URI Energy Fellows. Abigail asked what budget year these funds would come from. Ms. Sholly felt that it would be possible to pay them in 2015 if needed. Mr. Newberger thought that payments were made in 2013 for the 2014 Expo. The funds could come from either budget year, or both. Mr. Justynski felt that it would be prudent to set aside some funds in the event that they are needed. Commissioner Gold felt that this could be useful. Chairman Ryan suggested setting aside \$15,000. The group decided to postpone a vote on allocating additional event planning funds until a more specific need is determined.

**Chairman Ryan made a motion to authorize participation and at this time commit \$50,000 for the 2015 Energy Expo. Ms. Anthony seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Policy/Planning Issues**

##### *3-Year Energy Efficiency Program Plan Update*

Mr. Newberger reported on the status of the development of the new 3-Year Energy Efficiency Program Plan (*see attached*). He reported that at the PUC open meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> went through the entire “Least Cost Procurement Standards with Proposed 2014 Revisions” document and approved all proposed revisions. They also asked for a Technical Reference Manual with cost saving information in addition to energy saving information by March 31<sup>st</sup>. National Grid can now take what the Council has approved and begin to develop the 3-Year Plan. Ms. Anthony expressed appreciation for the Division’s and the PUC’s support and engagement in this process. It seems as though the new chief advisor to the chair understands least cost procurement and the overall energy efficiency goals. All commissioners were engaged and paying attention to the issues and how they fit into broader state energy goals. Others who were present echoed those comments.

Mike Guerard went over the timeline for developing and approving the proposed Plan and discussed the key high-level variables (*see attached*). Some of the key things this Plan will look at are participation levels, equity, financing, collaboration with others who do similar work, system integration, and integration with the System Reliability Procurement plan. Mr. Parker noted that because energy efficiency is growing up it is time to explore to what extent it can help with managing the size of transmission and distribution upgrades, winter peak issues, load shaving, etc. Mr. Newberger added that the 3-Year Plan will work to reorient National Grid programs to achieve these objectives, so the programs will look the same on the outside but different on the inside.

Chairman Ryan asked for confirmation that the 2015 Annual Plan is due on November 1, 2014. Mr. Newberger confirmed and added that in 2015 and 2016 the deadline will be October 15<sup>th</sup>. This year the date was pushed back to November 1<sup>st</sup> because there are two filings this year.

#### **5. General Updates on Energy Efficiency Programs and System Reliability Procurement**

##### *Update on 2013 Gas and Electric Spending*

Mr. Newberger reported that the Company filed its year-end report on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Subsequently, the Company discovered that the savings reported were under-reported for a couple of reasons. First, because there was an accrued spending at year-end, so they had not processed all completed projects by year end, causing the spending to go through without the correlating savings. Second, a MA discovery identified a few impact factors that need to be added to saving, which also apply to RI. In summary, the savings would increase from 100% to 102% for electricity and from 108% to 112% for natural gas.

The Company will refile the report, but one thing needs to be resolved first. On the spending side, it looks as though reported expenses have been overstated. The Company is working on this and should have a final number by the end of July at which point the report will be refiled.

On the gas programs, a spreadsheet error was made reporting the year-end fund balance going back to the beginning of 2012, which resulted in \$4 million less gas funds for 2014 than expected. Because of the cold winter, the Company has received more energy efficiency funds than expected. The Company plans to underspend budgets by about \$1 million, while still reaching 100% of the

savings targets. They will reduce spending on things like marketing to reduce demand a bit. They are also planning to defer some pilots and adjust incentives. If the Company ends up with a shortfall at the end of 2014, it will attempt to reconcile it in 2015, that is, collect additional funds to cover the deficit. This would be a challenge to persuade, so they are doing the prudent thing now by adjusting the programs. Jennifer Hutchinson noted that the Company has already reached out to PUC and Division staff on this issue, so everyone is aware of the issue and the Company's efforts to manage it. Mr. McAteer reiterated that they intend to meet 100% of their savings target.

## **6. Deeper Update on Energy Efficiency Program**

### *Presentation on RI Alliance for Healthy Homes*

Marsha Garcia introduced the Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Homes (RIAHH) and Mark Kravatz from Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (*see attached*). Mr. Kravatz talked about the impetus for this effort being serious health and safety issues in Rhode Island's primarily old housing stock and how it relates to energy. The goal is to align, braid and coordinate organizations, resources and efforts in these areas to streamline addressing these issues. Mr. Kravatz thanked National Grid, the OER and the EERMC and its Consultant Team for their participation in the working group.

Regarding the housing system map slide Mr. Newsome said that no ordinary person can navigate that. Mr. Parker noted that the infrastructure that is attempting to help people overcome barriers has become a barrier itself. Mr. Kravatz added that GHHI had 32 interns last summer that developed a 375-page Rhode Island Healthy Homes Informational Compendium, covering the 29 health and safety conditions that are included in the healthy homes assessment. This summer, 39 interns will continue to collect information and maintain a publicly accessible wiki site including all the data they compile.

Ms. Anthony asked Mr. Kravatz about the structure for the EERMC to provide input in order to make this system better. Mr. McAteer asked about the top priorities that can have the biggest impact and what tactical approaches National Grid can take to change the system. Mr. Kravatz said this will be happening in the upcoming strategic planning phase. Commissioner Gold invited Mr. Kravatz to present to the PUC, noting that we could be doing a better job of explaining these issues to the PUC.

Mr. Kravatz thanked the EERMC for being a part of the Alliance in part because it raises awareness among the other health and safety representatives the importance of energy efficiency at this table. Mr. Parker added that Rhode Island is incredibly lucky to have Mr. Kravatz leading this charge and acknowledged Mr. Guerard for getting the Council engaged in this effort.

## **7. Public Comment**

Karen Bradbury announced that tomorrow Senator Whitehouse will be hosting the first Municipal Energy Workshop including panels on energy efficiency and renewable energy. There are 75 attendees registered from 23 cities and towns. She thanked the OER and National Grid for their partnership on planning this workshop. The next workshops will address NGO's and low income followed by small business.

## **8. Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

This item was inadvertently skipped. As there was no vote on this item, it will be addressed at a future meeting.

## **9. Adjournment**

Mr. Cirillo made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Garcia seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30 PM; Conference Room B



## OER Posts Proposed 2014 RGGI Allocation Plan

*\$7 Million to Grow Energy Efficiency and Low-To-No Carbon Clean Energy Resources*

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources is pleased to announce its proposed plan to distribute **\$7.06 million** in proceeds from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)\* auctions held during 2013. The proposed plan is now available for public comment at [www.energy.ri.gov](http://www.energy.ri.gov).

**The proposed plan will advance the state's energy policy goals and contribute to economic growth by investing in low-to-no carbon clean energy resources, including energy efficiency and renewable generation.** The investments will reduce electric consumption, generate energy cost savings for Ocean State residents and businesses, and assist state agencies and municipalities to more efficiently manage their energy cost burden.

The plan proposes to strategically deploy funds to support the following clean energy programs and investments:

- ❖ **More than \$3.6 million for low-cost, carbon-free energy efficiency measures for residential, commercial, and industrial energy consumers.**
- ❖ **\$1.3 million for renewable energy projects at Rhode Island public and private schools (k-12), which must also include an educational component that supports the understanding of renewable energy.**
- ❖ **\$775,000 to replace high-pressure sodium streetlights with highly-efficient LED lighting and control technologies throughout the state and its municipalities.**
- ❖ **\$725,000 will be made available to municipalities to support the deployment of electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging stations, and renewable energy installations that will offset any new electrical demand.**
- ❖ **\$500,000 to support investments in clean energy and efficiency measures at state facilities.**
- ❖ **\$125,000 to support clean energy investments made by the state's two municipal electric utilities, Pascoag Utility District and Block Island Power Company.**

The OER believes that this plan will drive energy and cost savings for local consumers and the public sector, as well as:

- ❖ **Advance state energy and environmental policy goals;**
- ❖ **Support local jobs and economic growth in Rhode Island's clean energy economy;**
- ❖ **Further diversify our local energy supply portfolio; and**
- ❖ **Enhance energy security and sustainability.**

Public comments on the proposed plan may be submitted in writing to the Office of Energy Resources at One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island 02908. A Public Hearing on this proposal will also be held on July 2, 2014, at 1 p.m. in Conference Room A, Second Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island. For further inquiries, please call Christopher Kearns at (401) 787-4748.

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\*Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a regional, market-based cap and trade program designed to reduce electric power sector greenhouse gas emissions. Nine states currently participate in the effort, including Rhode Island. For more information, visit: [www.energy.ri.gov/rggi/](http://www.energy.ri.gov/rggi/) or [www.rggi.org](http://www.rggi.org).

*Block Island Power Company*

P.O. Box 518 – Block Island, RI 02807

(401) 466-5851 Fax (401) 466-5068

June 6, 2014

Mr. Nicholas S. Ucci  
Chief of Staff  
State of Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Ucci:

Mr. McGinnes and I were most pleased to meet with you and your staff recently to discuss a possible role for the Block Island Power Company (BIPCo) in the 2014 Plan for the Allocation and Distribution of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Auction Proceeds.

We are excited that this plan offered to divide \$125,000 between Pascoag Utility District and BIPCo for energy efficiency, renewable energy and other cost effective, electric based clean energy investments. BIPCo is the sole electricity producing utility in Rhode Island and its production is diesel oil generation. All efficiency programs for the Island would have the immediate effect of reducing emissions on the Island.

BIPCo has been in discussion with the Town of New Shoreham concerning street light replacement and has tested lamps from three suppliers. The General Electric lamp proved to be the most durable in our weather conditions and offered an appealing degree of illumination as well. We suggest that a program to replace our incandescent street lamps with LED lamps would be a significant energy efficient program for the Island.

BIPCo would like to offer a rebate program to allow both residential and commercial customers to upgrade old technology appliances with new “energy star” appliances to further reduce consumption

BIPCo has a Net Metering program in place in that all forms of renewable energy production may participate. This program has opportunity for additional units. Our program is limited to residential units only.

I hope that this letter conveys to you our sincere interest in obtaining funds to improve out energy efficiency on Block Island and our deep appreciation to be included in this program.

Sincerely yours,

  
Albert R. Casazza, President

Cc: Cliff McGinnes



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## **Stakeholder Coordination and Leveraging: RI Alliance for Healthy Homes**

**Presented by:**

**Mark Kravatz – GHHI/Alliance for Healthy Homes**

**Marsha Garcia - EERMC**

**June 12, 2014**

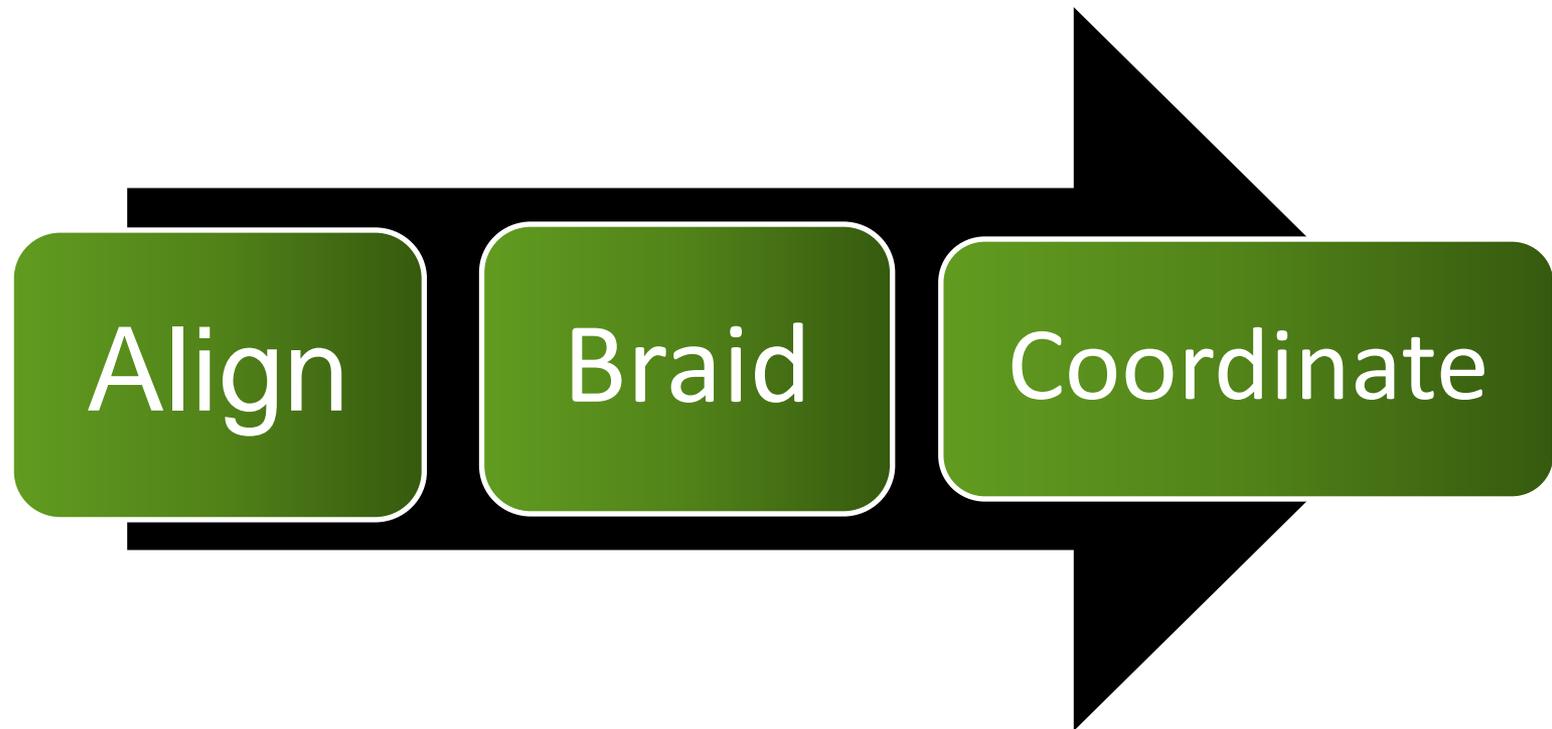
- *Policy Recommendation: Support coordination of efficiency services for economically vulnerable RI consumers:*

“The EERMC intends to build on activities... to support synergies and leveraging of efforts... with multiple private, public and non-profit entities that remain firmly committed to meeting housing affordability challenges in RI. While energy is a key component... issues related to health and safety also impact affordability. **Tremendous opportunity lies in leveraging funds, and then coordinating and synchronizing housing interventions to address energy, health and safety in a comprehensive package.**”

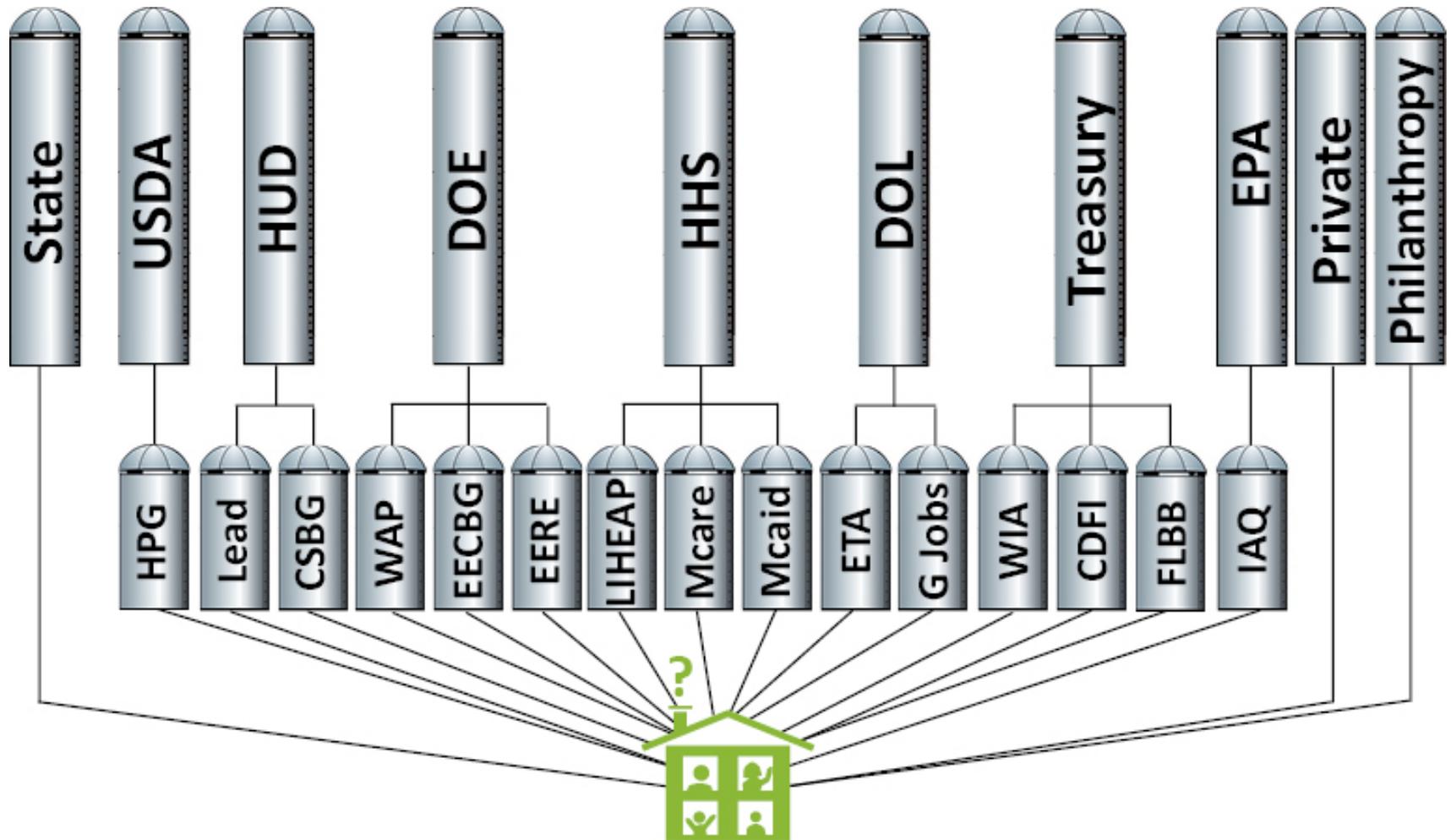
- *Policy Recommendation:*

“Through sustained focus on supporting these joint efforts, additional success in expanding the implementation of enhancements ..will be achieved. The Council will also advise the Assembly, the OER and other state agencies to help **maximize coordination, design and delivery of comprehensive service models** to meet the needs of this sector.”

- The Alliance for Healthy Homes brings this objective to fruition, and serves as a key model for statewide collaboration and coordination.
- While it meets the Policy Recommendation's intent for affordable housing, the initiative covers ALL residential customers in the state, providing a mechanism to support all RI residents
- EERMC has contributed to the process through Consultant Team support and Marsha Garcia's participation in the Alliance steering committee



# Where Do Families Go For Help?



# Collective Financial Burden

- Nearly 9M families live in unhealthy homes
- Billions of taxpayer dollars lost annually
  - \$43.4B = lead poisoning
  - \$20B = asthma-related illness
  - \$19B = trip and fall injuries for seniors
- 14 million missed school days
- Low-income households spend 14% of income on energy vs. 3.5% for other households

# GHHI – A New Way of Doing Business

**A comprehensive approach for integrated health, safety, lead hazard reduction, energy efficiency, and weatherization interventions in low- to moderate-income homes that results in:**

- Innovation in service delivery
- Improved health, economic and social outcomes
- Sustainable, healthy homes in low-income neighborhoods
- Community-based “green” jobs and training
- Development of new technology to streamline systems
- Recommended new standards, policies and practices

# GHHI National Partners



The Campaign for  
**GRADE-LEVEL  
READING**





# About the RIAHH



## Mission

To align, braid and coordinate information, resources and service for improving the health, safety and energy efficiency of all Rhode Island homes.

## Align, Braid, Coordinate

The RIAHH works at the macro level to provide an organized structure to:

- Facilitate a professional discourse to better understand the negative affects of unhealthy housing on Rhode Islanders;
- Organize robust amounts of data, information and networks to better inform about the negative impacts of unhealthy housing;
- Coordinate cross-sector action plans and innovative solutions that results in measurable positive impacts

# Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Homes Executive Steering Committee



**RhodeIslandHousing**  
working together to bring you home



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF  
ENERGY RESOURCES**

State of Rhode Island  
**RI Energy Efficiency & Resource** Management Council



**Green & Healthy Homes Initiative™**

# Who Does RIAHH Serve?

Primary: Healthy Housing Professional Community

- Community Based Healthy Housing Advocacy and Services Organizations
- Residential Building Professionals
- K-12 Education
- Financial Institutions
- Health Care Providers
- Health Care Insurance Providers
- Legislative Bodies (State and Local)
- Public Health Professionals
- Home Visiting and Community Health Workers
- Research-Based Organizations/ Higher Education
- State and Federal Agencies
- Utility Providers
- Workforce Training Providers

- A10 Energy
- Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living
- Beauchemin Design
- Blackstone Valley Community Action Program
- Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Rhode Island
- Brown University
- Childhood Lead Action Project
- Citizen's Housing and Planning Organization (CHAPA)
- City of Providence Office of Planning & Development
- City of Providence Office of Sustainability
- CleaResult
- Community Action Partnership of Providence Weatherization Assistance Program
- Community College of Rhode Island
- Community Health Worker Association of Rhode Island
- Community Works Rhode Island
- Comprehensive Community Action Program
- Conservation Services Group
- Convergence Rhode Island
- Emerald Cities
- Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island
- EPA
- Environmental Studies (Brown U.)
- Family Services of Rhode Island
- Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- Haig & Associates
- Hospital Association of Rhode Island
- Housing Network of Rhode Island
- Housing Works Rhode Island
- Innovative Safety Services
- International Institute of Rhode Island
- Kelly Taylor Interior Decoration
- LISC- Rhode Island
- Memorial Hospital
- Milenio Associates
- National Grid
- Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
- New Ecology/ WEGO Wise
- North West Woolen
- Ocean State Energy Audits
- Optimal Energy
- People's Power & Light
- Providence Center
- Providence Housing Authority
- Providence Plan
- Providence Public Schools
- Rebuilding Together of Rhode Island
- Rhode Island Builders Association
- Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
- Rhode Island College
- Rhode Island Committee on Occupation Health & Safety
- Rhode Island Department of Children Youth & Families
- Rhode Island Department of Health
- Rhode Island Department of Human Services
- Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Resource Management Council
- Rhode Island Foundation
- Rhode Island Housing
- Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission
- Rhode Island Legal Services
- Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
- Rhode Island Office of Housing & Community Development
- Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General
- Rhode Island Parent Information Network
- RhodeMap RI
- RISE Engineering
- Smith Hill Community Development Corporation
- State of Rhode Island Office of Planning
- Taubman Center for Public Policy (Brown U.)
- The House of Hope CDC
- U.S. Green Building Council of Rhode Island
- University of Rhode Island
- USDA
- WaterWise
- West Elmwood Housing Corporation
- Westbay Community Action

80+ Participants and Counting...

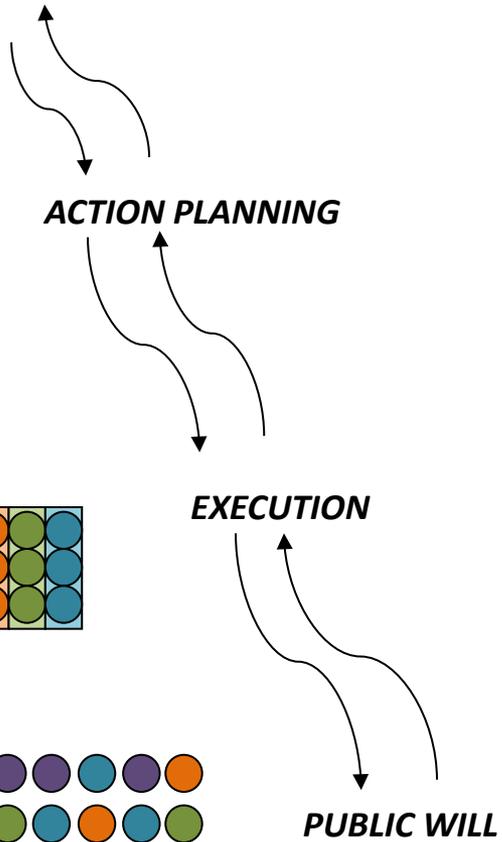
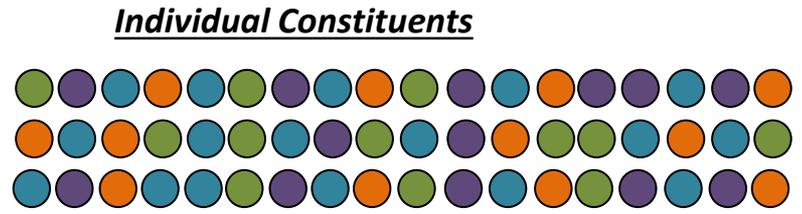
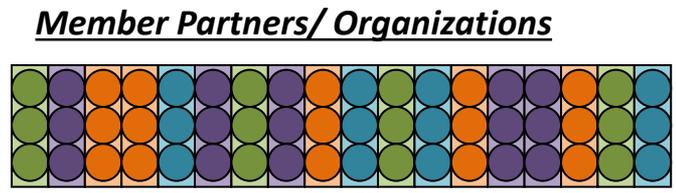
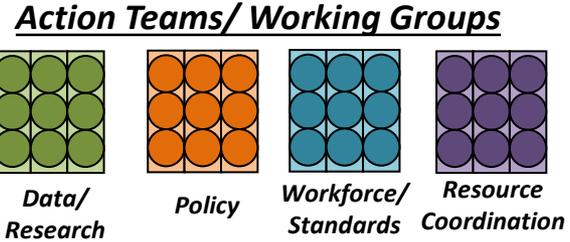
# The Value of the RIAHH

- Open sourced and easily accessible information collection & management;
- Cross-sector solutions to tackle large and complicated societal problems like Healthy Housing;
- Cross-sector solutions that results in greater community impact (Health outcomes, energy cost savings, health care cost savings, educational cost savings);
- Mechanism for leveraging and braiding resources;
- More competitive for resources;
- Data Sharing and Organization
- Collegial learning environment and networking;
- Clearinghouse for healthy homes training and professional learning;
- Communications structure;
- Creation of open sourced resources & tools;
- Better organized, trained and qualified workforce;
- Legislation & policies;
- Measurement of impact and progress.

# Structure of the RIAHH

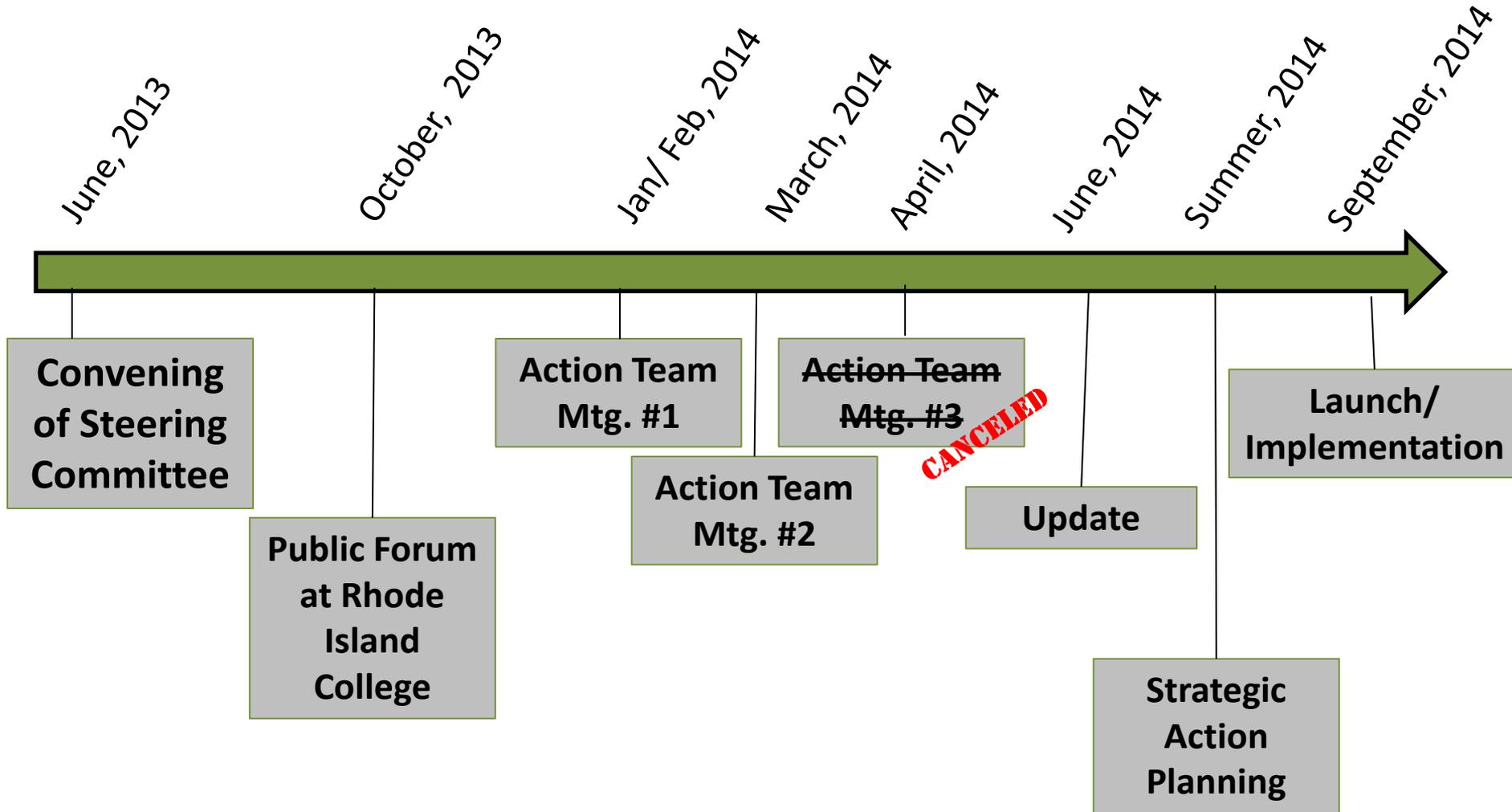


**GOVERNANCE, VISION  
STRATEGY, FUNDRAISING**



(Derived from: Kania & Kramer, 2013)

# Timeline



# RIAHH Foundational Products

For the next 3 ½ months, RIAHH will work to create a structure for an effective and impactful collective impact initiative. Specific deliverable products include:

- Alliance Business Plan (**FINAL DRAFT**)
- Alliance Strategic Plan (**SUMMER, 2014**)
- Alliance Compact Completed and Signed (**FINAL DRAFT, To be signed at September Launch**)
- Rhode Island Healthy Homes Informational Compendium (**COMPLETE**)
- Alliance Membership Packet (**Sept. Launch**)
- Action Teams Mission, Vision, and Values (**COMPLETE**)
- Action Teams Co-Chairs Elected (**July, 2014**)
- Action Teams Asset Maps Collected and Organized (**COMPLETE**)
- Action Teams Professional Learning Plan (**COMPLETE**)
- Action Teams Communication Plans (**COMPLETE**)
- Action Teams Budget Plans (**COMPLETE**)





Green & Healthy Homes Initiative™

**Mark Kravatz**

**Outcome Broker**

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

401.400.8425

[mkravatz@gghi.org](mailto:mkravatz@gghi.org)



June 9, 2014

Dr. Marion Gold  
Commissioner  
Office of Energy Resources  
One Capital Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Commissioner Gold:

The New England Clean Energy Council (NECEC) greatly appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2014 RGGI Allocation Plan.

NECEC is a clean energy business association whose mission is to accelerate New England's clean energy economy to global leadership by building an active community of stakeholders and a world-class cluster of clean energy companies. NECEC members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy, combined heat and power, energy storage, fuel cells and advanced and "smart" technologies. Our ranks also include venture investors, major financial institutions, universities, industry associations, utilities, labor and large commercial end-users.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a key part of Rhode Island's and the Northeast Region's strategy to reduce pollution from fossil fuels and shift to clean energy. By limiting carbon pollution from power plants, requiring emitters to buy permits to pollute and investing the revenues in energy efficiency and renewable energy, RGGI has helped Rhode Island meet its environmental and energy challenges while curbing dependence on fossil fuels and saving consumers money. RGGI-funded investments are also benefiting Rhode Island economically, boosting growth by \$69 million and creating 567 jobs during the first two and a half years of operation.

NECEC commends the 2014 RGGI Allocation Plan for ensuring that the revenues from the RGGI program are invested in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that will save energy, lower costs, create local jobs and reduce pollution. NECEC applauds the Plan for positioning the State and its municipalities to "Lead by Example" in the areas of energy efficiency, building efficiencies, and electric vehicles. Another strength of the Plan is its holistic approach to greenhouse gas reductions such as depicted in section 5.2.3.f that requires the combination of electric vehicles stations with renewable energy investments.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CPennock".

Charity Pennock  
NECEC Rhode Island State Coordinator

## **EERMC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL**

**June 12, 2014**

### **Purpose**

- Create a strong, engaged executive committee invested in all administrative matters

### **Members**

- EERMC Chair – Chair, Paul Ryan
- EERMC Vice Chair (Large C & I) – Chris Powell
- EERMC Environmental Representative – Abigail Anthony
- RI OER (Executive Director, Chief of Staff and OER staff person)
- Utility Representative
- Consultant Team

### **Scope of Duties**

- Oversee budgets, C-team selection and management, PUC dockets, annual and three year plans
- Provide coordinated and consistent direction to C-Team from EERMC/OER
- Check-in with OER staff on general administrative issues.
- Provide opportunity for C-Team to bring important issues from the Collaborative back to the EERMC
- Formalize proposal for ad hoc standing committees – C & I, Residential and System Reliability
- Liaison with Demand Collaborative
- Make suggestions for needed additional short-term committees
- Generally make sure that we're all on the same page
- Committee chair leads discussions and update Council after every committee meeting
- Consider allowing remote participation
- Meets monthly one week before the EERMC meeting
- Committee meetings are public

### **Meeting Schedule**

- Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Conference Room B
- Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Conference Room B
- Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Conference Room B
- Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Conference Room B
- Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Conference Room B
- Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Conference Room B

## Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Financing White Paper Proposal

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As Rhode Island continues to set nation-leading goals for customer-side investments in least-cost energy efficiency, increasing attention has been paid to the role that financing might play in expanding the reach of programs, lowering their overall costs, and otherwise supporting the wider and hastened adoption of efficient and clean energy technologies. This white paper proposal aims to better characterize the purpose, types, viability, and effectiveness of energy efficiency financing strategies as potential tools to support Rhode Island's public policy of Least-Cost Procurement. While the main focus of the study is financing in the context of Rhode Island's energy efficiency investments under Least-Cost Procurement, the hope is that the design and conclusions of the research may advance an understanding of the broader role financing might play in clean energy market transformation in Rhode Island, including in the areas of thermal renewable energy and transportation.

Rhode Island has taken several steps to date to expand financing opportunities for energy efficiency.

1. As of 2014, National Grid had committed approximately \$13 million to energy efficiency revolving loan funds for small and large commercial and industrial customers; these funds revolve primarily through on bill repayment<sup>1</sup>.
2. For residential customers, National Grid supports a 0% interest HEAT Loan program through interest rate buy-down with participating lenders.
3. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) has also supported financing programs for energy efficiency investments. For example, the OER designated approximately \$2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to capitalize a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy to be administered by Commerce RI, in addition to existing loan products available through the state Renewable Energy Fund (REF).
4. Also, the OER made \$1 million available through a revolving loan fund administered by National Grid for municipal and state buildings through the Rhode Island Public Energy Partnership.
5. On the residential side, OER is spearheading a RGGI-funded investigation of the Home Energy Assistance Loan (HEAL) program developed by the Clinton Global Initiative.
6. Finally, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Residential Program<sup>2</sup>, which is set for launch in late-2014. This program will help facilitate investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy by giving municipalities the option to allow homeowners to purchase and install clean energy upgrades and pay them back over time as part of their property assessment.

In recent years, several developments have raised the idea of financing to the forefront of energy efficiency policy discussions in Rhode Island. Concerns regarding the level of ratepayer investment

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4451-NGrid-EEPP2014\\_11-1-13.pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4451-NGrid-EEPP2014_11-1-13.pdf) (Page 14)

<sup>2</sup> <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE39/39-26.5/INDEX.HTM>

required to secure least-cost energy efficiency resources have spurred interest in novel ways—such as financing—to possibly reduce long-term bill impacts on consumers.

At the same time, neighboring states, such as Connecticut and New York, have launched well-publicized “Green Bank” initiatives, which aim to leverage an initial state capitalization to jumpstart clean energy financing services through private lending markets. Finally, the draft ten-year update to the Rhode Island State Energy Plan (RISEP) recommends expanding financing and investment tools in order to achieve ambitious long-term goals for energy security, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability. The preliminary findings suggest that approximately \$7 billion (in net present value terms) of economy-wide clean energy capital investments in Rhode Island’s electric, thermal and transportation sectors may be necessary to reach goals.

To better understand the role financing could play in Rhode Island’s Least-Cost Procurement resource acquisition strategy and overall clean energy implementation plans, this proposed white paper would explore the following questions:

1. **Defining the purpose of an expanded focus on financing:** What specific objectives are we trying to address through financing, within the context of RI’s EE public policies, achieving RI’s broader energy goals, and maximizing benefits to RI consumers—both residents and the commercial and industrial sector?
2. **Clarifying terminology related to financing:** There are many different types of financing strategies and tools, and a wide variety of needs and challenges within specific market sectors. Can we define different strategies for addressing the objectives identified in #1? Can we establish a general lexicon/common terminology/“buckets” for these different strategies so we do not lose focus when referring to “financing” or a “Green Bank”, etc.? Define sub-options including, but not limited to, various options of revolving loan funds from on bill repayments, off bill examples, traditional lending, etc. Define financing terms and parameters and their importance including, but not limited to: funding flows, net cash flow, balance sheet impacts, secured vs. unsecured financing, eligibility criteria for loans, tax impacts for borrowers, debt and default rates based on other administrators’ experience.
3. **Reviewing how Rhode Island currently uses financing:** What existing financing programs and tools has RI explored, used, and gained some learning about to date, where do they fall into the lexicon established in #2, and how are they addressing the objectives identified in #1? Is there any data to support or refute the conclusion that these programs have assisted in addressing barriers/producing benefits/achieving goals? Is there data to indicate that financing is increasing energy savings over a baseline of no financing? Are there market or process barriers that keep existing channels of financing from being more impactful with EE projects? What segments of the potential EE customer base are well served now through existing programs, or existing market-based options? Where are the gaps?

4. **Learning what other jurisdictions have done regarding financing:** What new, novel financing strategies are being used in other states and jurisdictions and how do they fall into the lexicon established in #2? What are their features? Have they been successful in achieving their objectives to sustainable EE and clean energy investment, including those identified in #1? What supporting outreach and public education strategies have worked in other states and jurisdictions that might be applied to the RI program?
5. **Discussing which financing methods make sense for Rhode Island:** Among the financing strategies identified in #4, which pose the greatest potential for RI? What added value would they confer above and beyond what we have experienced through existing financing programs in RI? Are there specific characteristics about these programs that influence whether they would or would not be appropriate for Rhode Island? What are the benefits and drawbacks of these different strategies? Are there additional creative and perhaps unexplored options that might work, and if so how? Do any existing RI financing programs merit expansion? Are there proven methods other than financing such as tax incentives that jurisdictions have successfully employed to reduce barriers to private investment in energy efficiency programs? Is it possible to estimate how much financing is needed in RI over a certain number of years (3? 6?). If so, given approximately \$16 million currently flowing through National Grid's EE financing programs, what is the estimated annual amount of the EE and other clean energy loan marketplace in RI, especially as related to existing and proposed programs?
6. **Understanding the benefits and costs of financing:** What types of benefits could Rhode Island expect to capture if it adopted the financing strategies and programs described in #5? What new costs, if any, may new financing programs create? There is a widely-held assumption (that is not universally true) that financing programs inherently and automatically reduce energy efficiency procurement costs, use fewer ratepayer funds, and allow programs to offer smaller incentives than the existing model. Is there any evidence of cases where customer charges (SBC) have been reduced with the lowering of incentives? What information is there on the substitution ratio of financing with rebate in the eyes of different customer groups, and the role of interest rate buy-downs or non-interest lending on such decisions? To what extent, and if so how, can financing can reduce procurement costs—and what are the trade-offs?
7. **Specifying how Rhode Island would smooth the way for expanded use of financing:** How would any new financing initiatives best be worked into RI's existing energy efficiency and clean energy programs? If new financing efforts are recommended, how would they best work in concert with existing programs? What would the flow of transactions look like to be aligned with current EE delivery methods and how would this affect the customer experience?
8. **Exploring wider financing opportunities:** While the primary scope of investigation for this white paper focuses on the role financing could play in Rhode Island's existing Least-Cost Procurement model for acquiring energy efficiency resources, what implications do the findings of this study hold for the broader role of financing could play in helping achieve RI's clean energy goals across

other sectors (e.g. renewable energy, thermal, transportation)? Various states have used a “Green Bank” model as a tool to stimulate clean energy investment in markets other than energy efficiency—how might RI begin to understand if this approach is appropriate in our state within the context of our overarching energy public policy goals?

The EERMC proposes to engage a qualified vendor to produce a white paper addressing these questions. The EERMC would work with a select group of stakeholders representing the OER, DPUC, the Demand Collaborative, National Grid, Commerce RI, the state Treasurer’s office, and others in developing the study with the vendor. The anticipated budget is between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Given the potential to provide meaningful content to the upcoming 2015-2017 Energy Efficiency Procurement Plan to be filed September 1, 2014, as well as the 2015 Energy Efficiency Annual Plan, a target date of October 1, 2014 is proposed.

# 2014 Energy Expo Outcomes and 2015 Sponsorship



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**OFFICE OF  
ENERGY RESOURCES**

# Goals

- Increase the awareness and use of energy saving practices, products, and services
- Elevate the profile of Rhode Island energy policies and programs
- Support the development of Rhode Island's green economy
- Facilitate cross-sector networking among consumers, businesses, entrepreneurs, non-profits, government agencies, and other institutions

# Energy Expo Outcomes

- Many came specifically for energy information
- Built relationship between energy and residential industries
- Face-to-face consumer education
- Put energy front & center – show attendance & impressions
- 20,000+ attendees - 45% increase
- 95 Energy Expo companies exhibited
- 75+ people participated in RI Energy Leaders Recognition Event
  - Senators Reed and Whitehouse and Congressman Cicilline
- 710,000 coupons distributed through National Grid bills
- 1,300+ coupons redeemed
- \$100,000 paid advertising
- 550 free tickets distributed to EnergyWise customers - 300 redeemed
- 7 pallets of lightbulb kits sold by TechniArt on Saturday alone
- 33 new OER mailing list sign-ups

# 2014 Budget

## ADVERTISING

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Energy Expo specific ads	\$27,100
Energy Expo inclusion in overall ad campaign (15%)	\$20,350
PR & promotions (15%)	\$10,500
Printed coupon mailings specific to NGRID	\$4,200
Show signage and balloons	\$1,500
Energy Makeover prize	\$5,000
Marketing allocation - website, production, social media	\$10,000
	<b>\$78,650</b>

## OPERATIONAL COSTS

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Energy Expo Specific Expenses: A/V, parking, furniture, electric	\$6,000
Overhead: rent, insurance, security, ticketing, promoter	\$56,250
Printing: tickets, coupons, programs, flyers, etc.	\$9,000
	<b>\$71,250</b>

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<b>TOTAL ENERGY EXPO VALUE</b>	<b>\$149,900</b>
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# Ideas for 2015

- **More energy exhibitors, esp. small locals**
- **Use all four days**
- **Communicate more information**
  - Promote new programs, policies & issues
- **Enhance educational component**
  - More workshops
  - More interactive displays
  - Engage K-12 students
- **High-profile speaker**
- **Scavenger hunt**

## ENERGY EXPO 2014 OVERVIEW

### RESULTS

- 20,000 people attended - 45% increase from last year
- 95 energy companies exhibited
- 75+ people participated in RI Energy Leaders Recognition Event
- 3 members of the Congressional Delegation participated in Recognition Event
- 337 people signed up for home energy assessments
- 193 people signed up for the RI Energy Challenge: Find Your Four!
- 1,521 Green Box kits of high efficiency lighting were sold
- 300+ smart power strips were sold
- \$5,000 Home Energy Makeover was won by Kelly Rodgers of Chepachet, RI
- 710,000 coupons were distributed through National Grid bills - 1,300+ coupons were redeemed
- \$100,000 went toward paid advertising for entire Home Show
- 550 free tickets were distributed to EnergyWise customers – 300 were redeemed
- 33 people signed up for the OER mailing list
- Bob will send out survey results when they are ready

### SPONSORSHIP BREAKDOWN

(\$50,000 from EERMC; \$50,000 from National Grid)

Total Media Campaign of \$205,750

#### ADVERTISING

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<b>TOTAL ENERGY EXPO VALUE</b>	<b>\$149,900.00</b>
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## ENERGY EXPO 2014 DEBRIEF NOTES

### GOALS

- Questions:
  - Were these the right goals? Should next year's be the same?
  - To what extent did we achieve them?
- Goals:
  - Increase the awareness and use of energy saving practices, products, and services
    - More local energy companies would have helped with this goal
    - People wanted information on what they could do, not necessarily who they should go to
    - Energy tips materials at OER – PP&L had an efficiency booklet - DOE has good booklet too that we can get for next year
    - Lots of EV questions - people will ask about what's on display
    - A lot of people came with specific questions
    - Could Grid make a one-pager on home energy assessments for OER table?
    - Should we make an EERMC handout?
  - Elevate the profile of Rhode Island energy policies and programs
    - Energy prices will be increasing so we need to continue this type of outreach
    - A more robust education area would help with this
    - Can work on messaging and materials on policies and programs
  - Support the development of Rhode Island's green economy
  - Facilitate cross-sector networking among consumers, businesses, entrepreneurs, non-profits, government agencies, and other institutions
    - Have a networking event for energy professionals

### PRO'S & CON'S

- Questions:
  - What worked about each component?
  - What could use improvement?
- Components:
  - Home Show partnership
    - Both parties were thrilled with the partnership - win-win
    - Partnering with the Home Show was a good call and certainly made the planning easier
  - Exhibitors
    - Need to make this more accessible to smaller companies, but need to be careful with equity issues
    - Next year do a pavilion style with smaller or combined spaces and offer companies lower fee
    - Maybe ask those vendors to contribute to the educational aspects by participating in a seminar or doing a demo
    - Also starting earlier will give them more time to put a display together if needed
    - Show them how successful 2014 was
    - Exhibitor scavenger hunt next year

- Balloons seemed like a good idea, did they work? Surveys will tell us
  - Make sure to invite Grid vendors from Annual Report
  - Booth staffing for small organizations was tough – was also last-minute
    - Get them to commit and schedule staffing sooner
  - Will be easier to get renewable energy companies next year because of the REF program
  - It was great to see the number of residents who signed up for the home energy assessments. It might be nice to translate those numbers into GHG emissions reductions; this is something the public might be interested in or a possible way to get people hooked for next year. Something like "the Expo will help to reduce X # of emissions...". This isn't a big stretch because we did the same for our National Grid Community Initiative Pilot in Warwick and SK.
- Awards event
  - Rachel would like to hand this component off to someone else at OER – Chris volunteered
  - Start planning earlier
  - Got success stories out but didn't get any press - try for Thursday or Friday
  - Should try to have the new Governor announce something big
- Seminars
  - Attendance could have been better
  - Poster should be easier to read and titles should be catchier
  - Do a better job of getting the word out on the floor – little flyers to hand out?
  - Make area smaller
  - Look at topics – try to cater to what people want to learn about rather than what Grid wants to talk about
  - Alternative home heating options was most popular
  - Action oriented, what do I do, how do I do it
  - Seminars were too formal – take away stage – make more like interior design seminars - smaller
  - People also go to move around and see everything, not sit and learn
  - Ask speakers to send us their slides in advance
- Marketing & attendance
  - Home Show loved doing coupons as bill inserts – 1300 redeemed is really good
  - Ticket giveaways – start earlier
  - Lots of people came for the energy component
- Vehicle display
  - More next year would be good
  - Will be easier to get more when we show them the promotion that Smart Car got
  - National Grid has fleet of AFV's that can be used
- Raffles
  - Better coordination needed
  - Do winner profile – what work was done and who benefited from this?
- Demo house
  - Home Show really liked featuring energy aspects of the home and partnership with RINLA – brought a "green" aspect to the show
  - We should be more involved with the house and brochure next year
  - Mini split should have been showcased

- Could we put the energy area near the house?
- Kids' Activities
  - Poster or art contest would help get people there – partner with NEED schools
  - NEED area needs work – signs that explain what it is – make it look more formal
  - Could Barbara coordinate the kids component of the expo?
- General/other
  - Planning needs to start sooner
  - Can we move the energy area closer to the center?

#### **NEXT YEAR**

- March 5-8, 2015
- National Grid has committed to being a sponsor in 2015
- Next Step: Vote on EERMC sponsorship