



BUREAU OF ENERGY AND
TECHNOLOGY POLICY

May 27, 2021

E3 PHASE 1 PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

DEEP BETP



TODAY'S MEETING

- Please remain muted except when making a comment or question during discussion portions.
- Use the raise hand feature in order to be recognized during discussion portions.
- Feel free to enter questions in the chat, Kate or Rose will do their best to address them.
- All materials (including recording) will be posted to our E3 webpage

We have set aside half of this meeting for discussion and look forward to hearing from you!

Agenda

- 6:30-6:50 Introduction, meeting practices, energy efficiency overview, and E3 vision statement
- 6:50-7:05 Review Recommendations 1-3: using outside experts, tracking and setting goals for program participation
- 7:05-7:20 Discuss Recommendations 1-3
- 7:20-7:35 Review Recommendations 4-6: focusing on moderate-income customers, making it easier to participate in low-income programs, and improving outreach
- 7:35-7:50 Discuss Recommendations 4-6
- 7:50-8:05 Review Recommendations 7-8: options for addressing health and safety issues and renters' needs
- 8:05-8:20 Discuss Recommendations 7-8
- 8:20-8:30 Next steps, final comments, and closing



2021 Plan Update to the 2019-2021 Conservation & Load Management Plan

*Connecticut's Energy Efficiency & Demand Management Plan
Connecticut General Statutes—16-245m(d)*

Submitted by: Eversource Energy, United Illuminating,
Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, and Southern
Connecticut Gas

Filed: November 1, 2020

Conservation and Load Management Plan (C&LM)

- Implement cost-effective energy conservation programs, demand management, and market transformation initiatives
- Save all ratepayers money by reducing demand on electric system
- Reduce harmful emissions from fossil fuel plants, addressing climate, health, and environmental justice concerns
- Provide sustained energy savings to help address the affordability gap
- Improve productivity and lower operating costs for local businesses

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2020 C&LM Program Benefits



Saved program participants \$59.3 million in 2020 alone, with the estimated total savings of \$675.25 million over the life of the energy improvements



Produced \$72 million in tax revenue



Every \$1.00 collected results in an additional \$4.84 of clean energy investment



Increased state gross product by \$6.2 billion



Saved the equivalent of a 122 MW power plant



Resulted in 186,081 tons of avoided CO₂ emissions

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C&LM Residential Energy Efficiency Solutions



DIMENSIONS OF EQUITY IN THE EEJ GC3 REPORT

Distributive Equity - are program benefits going to the most vulnerable communities?

Procedural Equity - are planning and decision-making processes open to everyone?

Contextual Equity - what are the social, racial, economic, and other factors at play?

Corrective Equity - how can we right past wrongs and create accountability?

E3 VISION STATEMENT

Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective energy resources and has the potential to reduce energy burdens, cut carbon emissions, and promote community resilience. However, **conscious effort is required to ensure that these benefits are conferred equitably among Connecticut Residents.**

Equitable energy efficiency programs:

- Reduce energy burdens for all customers
- Recognize and work to remediate past harm by prioritizing historically overburdened and underserved communities
- Mitigate and work to eliminate barriers to participation in energy efficiency programs
- Include accessible and transparent process for incorporating residents' priorities and lived experiences into program design and decision-making
- Increase access to the benefits of clean energy and the clean energy economy

E3 PHASE 1 PROCESS:



May 5, 2021

- Release Draft Phase 1 Determination
- Public comment period opens
- Announce details for public technical meeting



May 20, 2021: Public Technical Meeting

May 27, 2021: Public Input Session

June 18, 2021: Deadline for Public Comment



July 2021: Release Phase 1 Determination



Final Determination will incorporate public feedback from all channels.

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THE E3 DRAFT DETERMINATION

What's inside?

- Vision statement for equity in energy efficiency
- Outline of the E3 process
- Eight recommendations to advance equity
- Guided questions for public comment
- Phase I timeline



THANK YOU TO OUR PUBLIC COMMENTERS!

Commenters were critical to the development and direction of the initial eight proposed E3 Actions and Recommendations.

Our commenters also helped:

- Establish the scope of the proceeding
- Identified additional topics to include

The depth and breadth of public comments indicated that this Proceeding should contain multiple phases.



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RECOMMENDATION 1

Utilize outside expertise and recruit a more diverse board to embed equity in decision-making

- Direct the Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) to hire a diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant in 2021.
- Develop a process to increase the diversity of the EEB

Advancing equity in energy efficiency requires expertise in energy as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Outside expertise would provide an objective view of Connecticut's and potential improvements.

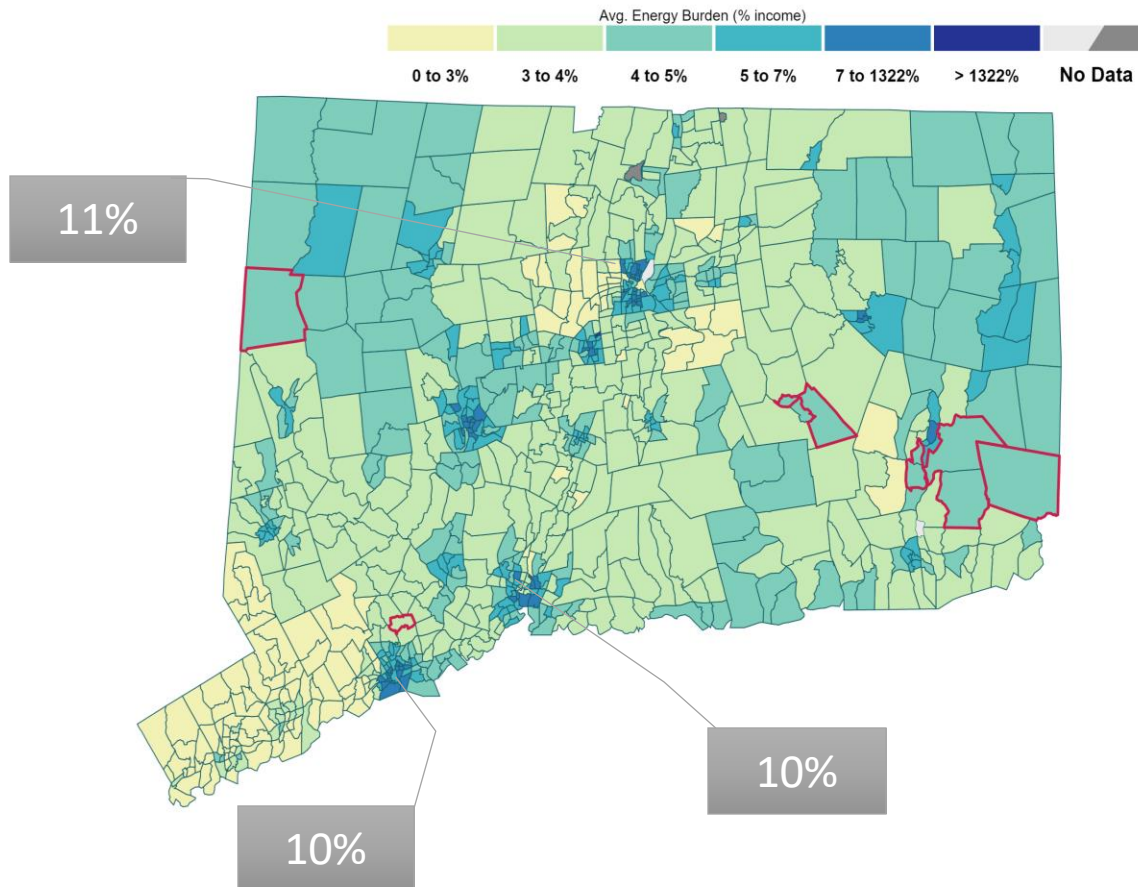
RECOMMENDATION 2

Create a plan for effectively assessing C&LM participation

- Determine which communities have participated in energy efficiency programs, and if there are any communities that we're missing.
- Create a plan to track participation in these communities moving forward.

This recommendation seeks to characterize the current state of program participation across multiple dimensions of equity that are not covered in the current Equitable Distribution Reporting process.

RECOMMENDATION 2 - POTENTIAL DATA POINTS



The DOE LEAD tool demonstrates average energy burden by census tract

How do different communities participate in energy efficiency programs?

- Environmental justice communities with high levels of air pollution
- Communities of color
- Areas with high energy burdens – spending a more than 6% of their income on energy bills
- Areas with high rates of asthma
- Areas where people struggle to pay their energy bills or face utility shutoffs

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RECOMMENDATION 3

Develop metrics and goals to assess equitable distribution of C&LM funds

- Revisit existing equity metrics
- Maintain goals for spending on low-income efficiency programs
- Make goals to increase participation in high-need or high-impact communities
- Annually report progress towards goals in the C&LM Plan Update and C&LM Reporting



This Recommendation builds on the data points covered in Recommendation 2 and on existing secondary metrics for equity.



Discussion Break

- What kinds of expertise should we be looking for in the DEI consultant?
- Are there any other communities or groups that we should focus our efforts on?
- Do the proposed metrics tie directly to the greatest equity challenges?

RECOMMENDATION 4

Assess program participation among moderate-income customers and the extent to which energy efficiency programs meet their needs

- Define moderate income using examples from other agencies and groups
- Determine how moderate-income customers are participating in efficiency programs
- Explore ways to get more moderate-income customers into energy-savings programs



Evidence from other jurisdictions suggests that this customer class may not be fully served by energy efficiency programs.

RECOMMENDATION 4 – WHAT IS MODERATE-INCOME?

Household Size	60% State Median Income	80% Area Median Income (Stamford-Norwalk)	2020 ALICE Survival Budget
Single Adult	\$34,366	\$68,320	\$28,908 \$31,752 (senior)
Family of Four	\$66,089	\$97,600	\$90,660

Survival Budgets in the United Way ALICE report differ from 60% state median income threshold and DOH threshold.

Defining this customer class:

- 21% of Connecticut households qualify for income-eligible efficiency programs (Home Energy Solutions – Income Eligible)
- Department of Housing defines “low- and moderate-income” as at or below 80% area median income
- According to a United Way study, 38% of Connecticut households are either below the Federal Poverty Level or are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households

RECOMMENDATION 5

Streamline the eligibility process for low-income households

- Share data with other state agencies to bring energy efficiency programs to the people that need them most
- Establish a working group to address this issue long-term
- Develop tools to connect eligible customers with efficiency opportunities



Demonstrating eligibility can be a barrier for some customers. DEEP is working on a data-sharing agreement with DSS, PURA, and the utilities to streamline the enrollment process for hardship designation.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Develop outreach plans for high-need or high-impact populations

- Develop a Community Engagement Plan that works with the goals of this Proceeding and C&LM Plan
- Use social media and other channels to advertise energy efficiency programs
- Develop practices to encourage and support public participation



Utilities are developing a community outreach plan, providing resources for community organizations to conduct outreach at the municipal level.



Discussion Break

- How would you define “moderate income”?
- Who should participate in a potential workgroup on streamlining eligibility?
- How can we encourage participation in public processes?

RECOMMENDATION 7



Support efforts to address energy efficiency health and safety barrier mitigation

- Create a program that makes it easier for customers to use loans to fix health and safety issues
- Use federal funding to address health and safety issues
- Work with utilities, contractors, and others to create a system for providing these services

Low- and moderate-communities are more likely to have a health and safety issue that prevents them from accessing weatherization programs.

RECOMMENDATION 8

Minimize the impact of HES and HES-IE landlord approval requirement and address barriers to participation among renters

- Meet with landlords to teach them about the benefits of energy efficiency and how to participate in programs
- Educate renters about how they can participate in programs
- Use federal funding and other sources to support upgrades in affordable housing



Compliance Condition No. 6 of the 2021 C&LM Plan Update requires the utilities to develop a proposal for tracking HES and HES-IE visits that do not proceed due to lack of landlord approval.



Discussion Break

- What outreach strategies can we use to specifically educate renters on how they can participate in efficiency programs?
- How can we encourage landlords to participate in efficiency programs?
- What should we include in a program to address health and safety issues?
- Other comments/questions?

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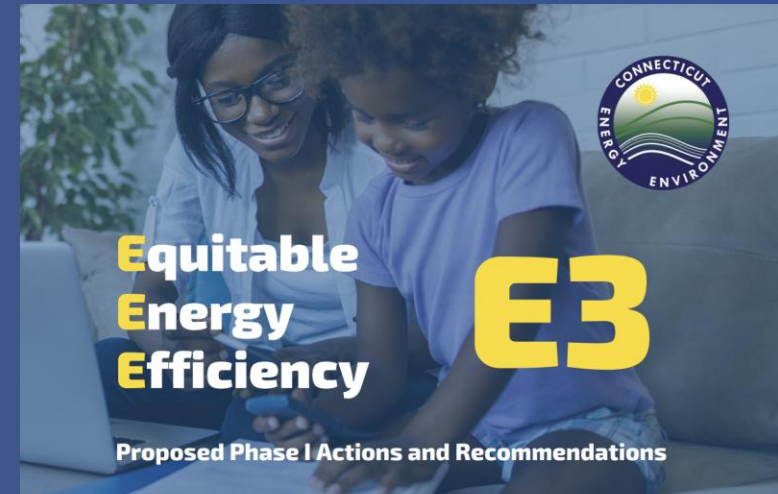


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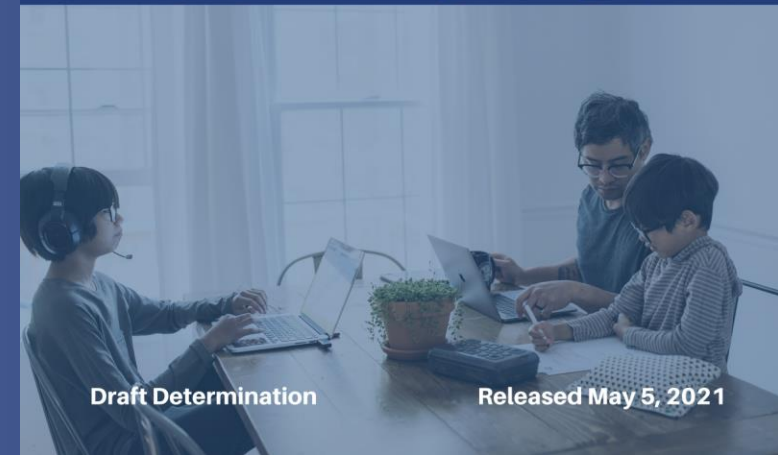
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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR TIME
AND
FEEDBACK!



Prepared by DEEP's Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy



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