



Overview of SEE Action Energy Efficiency Resources for Delaware

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About SEE Action: The State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network (**SEE Action**) is a project of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that advances state and local investment in energy efficiency. Topical working groups include stakeholders and experts from across the country representing state and local governments, associations, business leaders, non-government organizations, and others.

NEEP's Role: The Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships is a non-profit organization designated by the U.S. Department of Energy¹ to provide policy and programmatic support, share best practices and link states in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic region with DOE guidance and materials. We wish to bring these resources to the attention of those working to advance efficiency as a resource in Delaware, and are available to help disseminate and interpret SEE Action and other relevant DOE resources.



Help for Delaware's EE Policymaking Efforts: SEE Action has a number of guidance papers and online materials that are very germane to the work that Delaware is currently undertaking to establish the first statewide efficiency programs, per **SB 150**. The Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC), including staff from state energy office (DNREC), the regulated and unregulated utilities, the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility and other stakeholders are working through important matters relative to goal setting, cost recovery, program portfolio and evaluation, measurement and verification framework.

Following are links to relevant guidance documents that we encourage policymakers, utility program administrators, EEAC councilors and interested parties to review as you shape the policies and programs that will allow Delaware harness the power of cost-effective energy efficiency in the years to come.

[Setting Energy Savings Targets for Utilities](#) – This paper helps policymakers understand how electric and natural gas utilities can achieve greater efficiency by establishing numeric energy savings targets and goals for energy efficiency programs. Given the issues that the Delaware EEAC is considering as part of the DNREC staff developed strawman discussed on October 14 — what will be counted toward goals, how to consider third-party administered programs, will there be hard and soft goals, etc. — this paper is especially relevant.

Among the pertinent issues reviewed in this paper:

- Legal authority for setting targets
- Who the targets apply to (utilities, a state agency, or some other organization)
- Target levels including what savings are included, how savings are to be evaluated, and specific metrics and baselines to use
- How much flexibility to allow and whether to include cost caps
- Whether to count savings from supply-side as well as demand-side efficiency measures, or count savings from codes and standards
- The creation of multi-year goals
- The need for lost utility revenue recovery and the use of performance incentives

¹ NEEP is funded in part by the U.S. DOE Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs to support programs, policies and technologies that advance energy efficiency in states and local communities.



[Analyzing and Managing Bill Impacts of Energy Efficiency Programs: Principles and Recommendations](#) – This paper provides policymakers with principles and recommendations to understand and manage concerns about bill and rate impacts resulting from requiring utilities to provide efficiency programs. For states creating or ramping up investments in efficiency as a cost-effective resource, it is important for policymakers, program administrators and stakeholders to understand how impacts on customers are weighed. Importantly, benefits as well as cost must be considered for entire rate classes — program participants and non-participants alike — with the goal of moving more and more customers into the participant column.

The experts of SEE Action recommend an approach based on first thoroughly assessing and understanding the rate and bill impacts expected from a proposed set of efficiency programs — then managing energy efficiency programs and budgets to mitigate rate increases. In analyzing rate and bill impacts of energy efficiency programs, it is important to account for the long-term savings as well as the short-term costs. It is also important to account for all ways in which rates may be affected, including reduced generation costs and reduced wholesale electricity prices. On page three of this short paper, the authors outline helpful principles for managing both rate and bill impacts.

Another useful resource for Delaware to explore is a recent presentation made by former Massachusetts utility regulator Tim Woolf on [“Energy Efficiency: Rate, Bill and Participation Impacts.”](#) NEEP is happy to connect DNREC staff and the EEAC to further resources on this topic.

[Energy Efficiency Program Impact Evaluation Guide](#) – SEE Action describes this paper as the key efficiency evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) resource for novices and experts. It includes definitions, concepts, and steps for calculating savings, avoided emissions, and other impacts.

Also see the [Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification \(EM&V\) Resource Portal](#) – an EM&V resource compendium for energy efficiency program administrators and project managers. The resources focus on tools and approaches that can be applied nationwide, address EM&V consistency, and are recognized by the industry.

One of the issues under consideration in Delaware is whether to maintain a state specific Technical Reference Manual (TRM) or join the Mid-Atlantic TRM curated by NEEP. Regional consistency in EM&V protocols is a general theme of the portal, with NEEP’s [EM&V Forum](#) and [Regional Energy Efficiency Database \(REED\)](#) highlighted as resources. Since Delaware is statutorily obligated to develop an EM&V framework, these resources are germane to current and ongoing work being overseen by DNREC.

[Energy Efficiency Collaboratives](#) – Energy efficiency collaboratives vary greatly and are typically designed for a specific jurisdiction, making them hard to compare side by side. This guide seeks to highlight a few common elements and draw conclusions on the overall effectiveness of specific characteristics of collaboratives. This guide defines and examines four different types of collaboratives in terms of their origin, scope, decision-making method, membership, duration, available resources, and how they interact with and influence their respective commissions.

Delaware Guidance: With the EEAC in its nascent stages, it may be helpful to review what SEE Action considers as best practice for stakeholder boards to help oversee the creation, implementation and review of expanded energy efficiency programs. The Delaware EEAC best fits the “Enhanced Collaborative” model. Beginning on page 11, the paper describes the scope and structure of such boards, noting that they typically are headed by a high-level staff person, maintain an operating budget and are supported by staff and or consultants. In



Delaware, utility representatives are voting members, which is different from other states. Members of the Council and DNREC may find this paper informative. NEEP will reflect back to SEE Action the progress that Delaware has already made implementing best practices, as this paper was written before creation of the EEAC.

More Resources Available, New Ones Coming Soon

While the above resources are a few that NEEP believes are most applicable to Delaware's current energy efficiency policy and program development, the SEE Action Network has many valuable resources including guidance papers, case studies, technical guidance and discussion forums at: www4.eere.energy.gov/seeaction.

Topical areas include:

- Behavior-Based Energy Efficiency
- Combined Heat and Power
- Commercial and Public Building Energy Efficiency
- Energy Efficiency Financing
- Energy Use Data Access
- Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification
- Industrial Energy Efficiency
- Ratepayer-Funded Efficiency through Regulatory Policy
- Residential Energy Efficiency

SEE Action has announced forthcoming resources including guidance papers on Clean Power Plan compliance, performance incentives and addressing the issue of large customer "opt out." For help interpreting any of these resources or connecting with the SEE Action Network and other offerings from the U.S. Department of Energy, please contact Natalie Treat, NEEP's Public Policy Outreach Manager at ntreat@neep.org or 781/860-9177 x121.