

**Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group:
2026 SAG Plan
June 1 to December 31, 2026
Final (7/31/2026)**

I. Background

The Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) is an advisory body established by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) that is open to all interested participants. SAG is a forum that allows parties to provide early and ongoing input on energy efficiency programs, express different opinions, better understand the opinions of others, and foster collaboration and consensus, where possible and appropriate. The SAG is independently facilitated by Celia Johnson, Celia Johnson Consulting LLC. Inova Energy Group will continue as a subcontractor to Celia Johnson Consulting in 2026, providing meeting support to the Facilitator.

SAG participants include Illinois utilities administering energy efficiency programs (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, and Peoples Gas – North Shore Gas); stakeholders representing environmental advocacy, consumer advocacy, and ratepayer advocacy; ICC Staff; program implementation contractors; independent evaluators; the Illinois TRM Administrator; community-based organizations; and other interested companies and organizations. Participation in large group SAG, SAG Subcommittee and SAG Working Group meetings is open to all interested parties, unless a topic may present a financial conflict of interest.

This 2026 SAG Plan includes an overview of SAG activities from June 1 to December 31, 2026. The annual SAG Plan is typically developed in December each year, and presented to the Large Group SAG in January. However, development of the 2026 SAG Plan was delayed due to the passage of the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act in October 2025. The Large Group SAG held several meetings from January to March 2026 related to updated utility EE Plan filings. Confidential negotiations between each utility and non-financially interested stakeholders occurred during the first half of 2026.

Illinois utilities (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas) each filed revised Energy Efficiency Plans for 2027-2029 with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC or Commission) for approval on June 1, 2026.¹ While utility EE Plan approval dockets are open at the Commission, SAG will not discuss items that are at issue in those dockets. Following past precedent, SAG takes a meeting break following EE Plan filings. SAG meetings will be scheduled as-needed from June to August 2026. Regular SAG meetings are proposed to resume in September 2026.

¹ ICC Docket Numbers, revised EE Plans, and Stipulated Agreements are posted on the SAG website Resources page: <https://www.ilsag.info/resources/>

II. SAG Meetings

Table 1 below describes various categories of SAG meetings, including the SAG Steering Committee, Large Group SAG, SAG Technical Advisory Committee, SAG Subcommittees, and SAG Working Groups.

Table 1: SAG Meetings	
Meeting Category	Description
SAG Steering Committee	Members of the SAG Steering Committee include senior representatives of utilities, community-based organizations, and non-financially interested stakeholder participants. The Steering Committee provides substantive feedback to the SAG Facilitator on: (1) annual SAG Plans; and (2) progress towards meeting annual SAG Plan goals to ensure that the time spent on SAG is as productive and valuable as possible.² The SAG Steering Committee meets annually to review the draft SAG Plan for the upcoming year. A mid-year check-in meeting is scheduled on an as-needed basis. The SAG Steering Committee distribution list includes Illinois utility representatives and non-financially interested stakeholders that signed the most recent EE Plan stipulated agreement with Illinois utilities. For 2026, the SAG Facilitator included non-financially interested stakeholders that signed a 2027-2029 revised EE Plan Stipulated Agreements with an Illinois utility, or participated in one or more of the revised EE Plan individual utility negotiations.
Large Group SAG	Large Group SAG meetings cover Program Administrator reporting, Portfolio planning, Program planning, fund shifts, and topics of general interest, as directed by the Commission or requested by SAG participants. Topics are scheduled as time and resources permit.³ Participation in the Large Group SAG is open to all SAG participants, unless there is a topic that involves a financial conflict of interest. The SAG Facilitator prioritizes topics and issues that are required by Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual Version 3.1, or as it may be updated from time to time; directives to SAG from the ICC; and ICC-approved stipulated agreements between individual utilities and non-financially interested parties. Large Group SAG meetings are generally held on a quarterly basis. Due to open EE Plan approval dockets in 2026, two quarterly meetings will be held instead of four. A third quarter teleconference meeting is planned in September and a fourth quarter in-person meeting is planned in November.

² See Policy Manual Version 3.1, Section 3.3, Advisory Role: SAG Steering Committee

³ See Policy Manual Version 3.1, Section 3.3, Advisory Role: Large Group SAG

Table 1: SAG Meetings	
Meeting Category	Description
SAG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings address updates to the IL-TRM, EM&V issues, and other issues of a technical nature. General SAG attendees will be briefed on topics covered in the TAC, as needed.⁴ In recent years, TAC meetings have focused on the annual Illinois TRM update process, facilitated by the Illinois TRM Administrator, VEIC. The SAG Facilitator coordinates with the IL-TRM Administrator and participates in TAC meetings, as needed. Energy efficiency topics of a technical nature that are unrelated to the Illinois TRM update process are addressed in SAG Subcommittee or SAG Working Group meetings.
SAG Subcommittees	SAG Subcommittees are established for necessary issue-specific topics based on Commission directives, Policy Manual requirements, stipulated agreements or SAG requests. Subcommittees are established as need arises.⁵ Participation in a SAG Subcommittee is open to all SAG participants, unless there is a topic that involves a financial conflict of interest. SAG participants may self-select to join a Subcommittee. The SAG Facilitator maintains a separate distribution list for each Subcommittee. Subcommittee meetings are scheduled as needed. In 2026, two (2) SAG Subcommittee will be convened by the SAG Facilitator: 1. Equity Subcommittee 2. Policy Manual Subcommittee (if needed)
SAG Working Groups	SAG Working Group meetings address short-term issues that need resolution. SAG Working Group participants may recommend next steps to SAG Subcommittee(s) or the Technical Advisory Committee.⁶ SAG Working Group meetings are established to provide an opportunity for updates on a specific area of interest. Participation in a SAG Working Group is open to all SAG participants, unless there is a topic that involves a financial conflict of interest. SAG participants may self-select to join a Working Group. The SAG Facilitator maintains a separate distribution list

⁴ See Policy Manual Version 3.1, Section 3.3, Advisory Role: *SAG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)*. Meetings address updates to the IL-TRM, EM&V issues, and other issues of a technical nature. General SAG attendees will be briefed on topics covered in the TAC, as needed. More detailed TAC responsibilities in the context of updating the IL-TRM are outlined in the IL-TRM Policy Document. The most current IL-TRM Policy Document is posted on the Illinois Commerce Commission website: <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/programs/illinois-statewide-technical-reference-manual-for-energy-efficiency>.

⁵ See Policy Manual Section 3.1, Section 3.3, Advisory Role: SAG Subcommittees

⁶ See Policy Manual Section 3.1, Section 3.3, Advisory Role: SAG Working Groups

Table 1: SAG Meetings	
Meeting Category	Description
	for each Working Group. Working Group meetings are scheduled as needed. In 2026, two (2) Working Groups will be convened by the SAG Facilitator: 1. Market Transformation Savings Working Group 2. Non-Energy Impacts Working Group

A. Recurring SAG Activities

There are a number of topics that require recurring discussion in the SAG, as referenced in Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual Version 3.1. The SAG Facilitator will organize the following SAG activities related to recurring topics in 2026:

1. Reports-Outs: Semi-annual narrative reports and quarterly template reports will be posted to the SAG website and circulated to SAG participants by email. Illinois utilities will present one report-out in 2026.
2. Annual Report-Outs: Annual reports will be posted to the SAG website. Due to the abbreviated SAG Plan in 2026, there will not be an annual report-out presentation from utilities this year.
3. IL-TRM Update Process: Circulate information about the IL-TRM measure prioritization process prior to the launch of the annual IL-TRM process; post IL-TRM deliverables on the SAG website; and circulate IL-TRM deliverables and other materials to SAG, as requested by the IL-TRM Administrator.
4. Evaluation Work Plans: Schedule SAG meeting(s) on an annual basis for evaluators to present an overview of draft EM&V work plans for the next program year. Draft EM&V work plans will be posted to the SAG website for review and comment. Notice will be circulated to SAG directing that comments on draft EM&V work plans shall be submitted to utilities, ICC Staff, and evaluators within fifteen (15) business days, or such other timeline mutually agreed to by the Parties. Final EM&V work plans will be posted on the SAG website.
5. Evaluation Reports: Draft and final evaluation reports will be posted on the SAG website, as they are made available by independent evaluators.
6. Net-to-Gross Updates: Organize and facilitate meeting(s) to discuss annual updates to Net-to-Gross (NTG) values in September 2026, for the 2027 program year. Independent evaluators share initial NTG recommendations by September 1, 2026, with final values determined by October 1, 2026. Draft and final NTG documents and other NTG meeting communications will be posted to the SAG website and circulated to SAG.

7. Adjustable Savings Goals: Organize and facilitate discussions regarding gas utility Adjustable Savings Goals for the 2026 program year, if needed. At a minimum, draft Adjustable Savings Goal spreadsheets for gas utilities will be circulated to interested stakeholders for review. The 2026 update to gas utility Adjustable Savings Goals will be posted on the SAG website.⁷
8. Updates to the Policy Manual: Organize and facilitate Policy Manual Subcommittee meetings on an as-needed basis.

B. SAG Coordination

As described in the SAG Process Guidance document, Section VI, Coordination with Other Processes, the SAG Facilitator will coordinate with other Illinois energy efficiency advisory processes, including 1) Annual update process for the IL-TRM through the SAG TAC, facilitated by Vermont Energy Investment Corp. (VEIC), the IL-TRM Administrator⁸; 2) Income Qualified North EE Advisory Committee, facilitated by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus; and 3) Income Qualified South EE Advisory Committee, facilitated by Future Energy Enterprises.

C. SAG Subcommittees

There are two (2) SAG Subcommittees in 2026, including:

- Equity Subcommittee
- Policy Manual Subcommittee (if needed)

SAG Equity Subcommittee

Q3 SAG Equity Subcommittee Meeting: Tuesday, September 22 (9:30 am – 12:00 pm)

- Joint Meeting with IQ South EE Committee and IQ North EE Committee
- IQ South Advisory Committee report-out on 2026 activities
- IQ North Advisory Committee update
- E Source presentation on recent evaluation research study results for Ameren Illinois, including:
 - Income Qualified Electrification Targeting & Barriers Study
 - Income Qualified Credit & Collections Study

Q4 SAG Equity Subcommittee Meeting: Wednesday, October 28 (9:30 am – 12:00 pm)

- MDI Report-out from Illinois utilities, including results from 2025 and progress in 2026 (tentative)

⁷ See Adjustable Savings Goals policy for gas utilities: http://www.ilsag.info/adjustable_savings_goals.html

⁸ See IL-TRM page of the SAG website for additional information: <https://www.ilsag.info/technical-reference-manual/>

SAG Policy Manual Subcommittee

Due to the passage of the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act, the Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual needs to be updated to correct errors. The corrected Policy Manual will be filed with the Commission for approval. A proposed redline Policy Manual with corrections will be circulated to the SAG Policy Manual Subcommittee for review. If needed, a Policy Manual Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled to discuss edits. A formal Policy Manual update process is anticipated in 2027; the 2026 update will only be to correct errors due to new legislation.

D. SAG Working Groups

There are two (2) SAG Working Groups in 2026, including:

- Market Transformation Savings Working Group
- Non-Energy Impacts Working Group

Market Transformation (MT) Savings Working Group

Tuesday, October 6 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)

- Utility MT updates (topics TBD)

Non-Energy Impacts Working Group

Monday, November 2 (10:00 – 11:30 am)

- ComEd NEI Research: Guidehouse update
 - Participant NEI preliminary findings (single family)
 - Emissions forecast research
 - Economic multiplier research

III. Large Group SAG Topics for 2026

This section includes Large Group SAG topics anticipated to be scheduled in 2026. Meeting agendas will be finalized with presenters in advance of each meeting. Topics are scheduled at Large Group SAG meetings based on priority, as time and resources permit.

A. Energy Efficiency Portfolio Topics

1. Utilities report-out on the progress of energy efficiency portfolios (September – Ameren Illinois and ComEd; November – Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas);
2. Ameren Illinois and ComEd each present an electrification update, including algorithms, models, and assumptions used to calculate bill impacts;⁹

⁹ See IL EE Policy Manual Section 12.2, Electrification Bill Impacts: *At least once per year, electric utilities shall share algorithms, models, and assumptions used to calculate bill impacts, including how they are presented to Customers, with participants in the SAG. The electric utilities will present their approaches to interested SAG parties (leveraging existing meetings where possible), consider and discuss feedback, and provide responses.*

3. Update on federal energy efficiency opportunities through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), including Illinois utility updates, if needed;¹⁰ and
4. ComEd presents moderate income weatherization program design (tentative).¹¹

B. Evaluation Topics

1. E Source presentation on Partial Displacement Heat Pump Metering Study for Ameren Illinois;
2. Annual process to reach agreement on Net-to-Gross (NTG) values for the 2027 program year, with initial NTG value recommendations provided by independent evaluators; and
3. Annual meetings for evaluators to present draft evaluation plans for 2027.

IV. SAG Schedule

Table 3 below includes the proposed schedule for 2026 SAG meetings from June 1 to December 31, 2026, including the Large Group SAG, SAG Subcommittees, SAG Working Groups, and the SAG Steering Committee.

Final SAG meeting agendas will be circulated to participants approximately five (5) Business Days before each meeting. Meeting dates and the agenda topics listed in Table 3 are subject to change.

Table 3: 2026 SAG Schedule		
Date / Time	Agenda	Next Steps
Mon. June 8 Large Group SAG Meeting 1:30 – 3:30 pm Teleconference	Policy Issue: Discuss interpretation of the Net-to-Gross (NTG) Ratio for Disadvantaged Areas policy (see Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual Section 7.4), regarding how Trade Allies are considered in application of the policy.	Written comments due Friday, June 26. If needed, a follow-up discussion will be scheduled with interested parties.
Mon. June 15 MT Savings Working Group Meeting 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Teleconference	Status Update on Current Utility MT Initiatives	Follow-up items will be circulated after the meeting

¹⁰ See [ComEd 2026-2029 EE Plan Stipulation](#), page 17 (applicable to the 2026 Program Year): *ComEd shall provide quarterly updates to the Parties and the ICC regarding updates on agreements with DCEO and IL EPA and the impact of braided IRA funding on its energy efficiency and electrification programs, including any proposed adjustments to energy savings goals or attribution methodologies.*

¹¹ See [ComEd 2027-2029 EE Plan Stipulation](#), page 25: *ComEd will independently stand up a Moderate-Income Weatherization Program, as defined by statute, with annual funding of \$10M and with an average annual floor of \$8M. Any amount below \$10M will be reallocated to Income Eligible whole building programs. ComEd further commits to present program design elements at latest 90 days after launch but with best efforts within the 2026 program year. The parties agree these customers may be assessed a co-pay, but will be offered more robust incentives than available to market rate customers.*

Table 3: 2026 SAG Schedule		
Date / Time	Agenda	Next Steps
Tues. June 23 SAG Steering Committee Meeting 10:00 – 11:00 am Teleconference	SAG Planning Meeting: SAG Facilitator presents overview of draft 2026 SAG Plan and edits to SAG Process Guidance, with an opportunity for feedback.	Written feedback due Tuesday, July 7
Wed. July 15 Large Group SAG Meeting 10:00 – 11:00 am Teleconference	SAG Planning Meeting: SAG Facilitator presents final draft 2026 SAG Plan and edits to SAG Process Guidance, with an opportunity for feedback from interested SAG participants.	Written feedback due Monday, July 27; final SAG Plan and final SAG Process Guidance document will be posted by Friday, July 31 SAG Facilitator to finalize the 2025 SAG Plan and post on the website by Friday, July 31
September 2026 Large Group SAG Meetings Teleconferences	NTG Recommendations*: Four Large Group SAG teleconference meetings will be held to discuss evaluator Net-to-Gross (NTG) recommendations for the 2027 program year. • Meeting 1 – Thursday, September 3 (9:30 am – 12:00 pm): Evaluators present initial recommended NTG values for Illinois utilities. Discuss questions and follow-up. • Meeting 2 – Thursday, Sept. 10 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm): Follow-up discussion on recommended NTG values. Discuss consensus on recommended values. • Meeting 3 – Thursday, Sept. 17 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm): Follow-up discussion on recommended NTG values. Discuss consensus on recommended values. • Meeting 4 – Thursday, Sept. 24 (1:00 – 3:00 pm): Final meeting to discuss follow-up and consensus on recommend values.	NTG values for the program year beginning Jan. 1, 2027 must be finalized by independent evaluators by Oct. 1, 2026
Tues. September 22 Q3 Equity Subcommittee Meeting 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Teleconference	Joint Meeting with IQ South EE Committee and IQ North EE Committee • IQ South Advisory Committee report-out on 2026 activities • IQ North Advisory Committee update • E Source presentation on recent evaluation research study results for Ameren Illinois, including: ○ Income Qualified Electrification Targeting & Barriers Study ○ Income Qualified Credit & Collections Study	Follow-up items will be circulated after the meeting

Table 3: 2026 SAG Schedule

Date / Time	Agenda	Next Steps
Tues. September 29 Large Group SAG Meeting 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Teleconference	<u>Quarterly SAG Meeting (Quarter 3)</u> Utility report-outs on EE Portfolio progress: - Ameren Illinois Quarterly Report-out, with electrification update including bill impacts - ComEd Quarterly Report-out, with electrification update including bill impacts	Follow-up items will be circulated after the meeting
Tues. October 6 MT Savings Working Group Meeting 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Teleconference	Topics TBD	Follow-up items will be circulated after the meeting
Wed. October 28 Q4 Equity Subcommittee Meeting 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Teleconference	MDI Report-out from Illinois utilities, including results from 2025 and progress in 2026	Follow-up items will be circulated after the meeting
Mon. Nov. 2 Non-Energy Impacts Working Group Meeting 10:00 – 11:30 am Teleconference	Non-energy impact research updates for ComEd from Guidehouse	Follow-up items will be circulated after the meeting
Tues. Nov. 10 Large Group SAG Meeting 10:00 am – 4:00 pm In-person (Chicago) with teleconference option	<u>Quarterly SAG Meeting (Quarter 4)</u> Utility report-outs on EE Portfolio progress, for 2026 year to date: - Nicor Gas Quarterly Report-out - Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas Quarterly Report-out Leveraging the Inflation Reduction Act: Home Energy Rebate Program Update from Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and DCEO, and utility updates, if needed Partial Displacement Heat Pump Metering Study: E Source presents Ameren Illinois study results. ComEd Update: Moderate Income Program Design (tentative)	Follow-up items will be circulated after the meeting

Table 3: 2026 SAG Schedule

Date / Time	Agenda	Next Steps
Mon. Dec. 7 (Day 1) 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Teleconference Tues. Dec. 8 (Day 2) 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Teleconference	Draft EM&V Work Plans: SAG meets annually each December to discuss draft evaluation plans for the next program year. Day 1: Evaluators present an overview of draft 2027 evaluation plans for Ameren Illinois and ComEd EE programs Day 2: Evaluators present an overview of draft 2027 evaluation plans for Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas EE programs	Draft evaluation plans / EM&V work plans will be available for review and comment on or before December 15 SAG Facilitator will post draft evaluation plans on the SAG website and circulate notice to SAG
Tues. Dec. 15 <i>SAG Steering Committee Meeting</i> 10:00 – 11:00 am Teleconference	SAG Planning Meeting: SAG Facilitator presents overview of draft 2027 SAG Plan and edits to SAG Process Guidance, with an opportunity for feedback.	Written feedback due Friday, January 8, 2027