

Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group

2020 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Proposed Energy Efficiency Ideas Template

Due Date: By 5:00 pm (CST) on Monday, April 27, 2020

Purpose: The [SAG Portfolio Planning Process](#) is an opportunity for SAG participants to understand current energy efficiency (EE) portfolios and provide feedback to Illinois utilities (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas) as they develop their 2022-2025 EE Plans. The objective of the SAG Portfolio Planning Process is to reach consensus on EE Portfolio Plans prior to utilities filing plans for approval with the Illinois Commerce Commission on or before March 1, 2021.

SAG participants are invited to submit:

1. Feedback on current portfolios, focused on suggested changes for the 2022-2025 EE Plans;
2. Stakeholder ideas/approaches for utility consideration, such as program approaches or new measures that have been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions; and
3. Innovative ideas that could be researched during the next EE Plan cycle by utilities, evaluators, SAG, or another advisory group (IL-TRM Technical Advisory Committee; Income Qualified EE Advisory Committee).

How to Submit an Energy Efficiency Idea:

- SAG participants are encouraged to make a good faith effort to fill out as much information as possible in this template by the due date. Templates submitted after the April 27th deadline may not be considered due to time constraints.
- If you need help filling out the Energy Efficiency Idea Template or researching required information, contact the SAG Facilitator for assistance: Celia Johnson (Celia@CeliaJohnsonConsulting.com).
- Ideas will be reviewed by a small group Review Committee, organized by the SAG Facilitator. The SAG Facilitator may follow-up and request additional information after ideas are submitted.
- SAG participants that submit an idea may be invited to present their idea at the May 12-13 SAG meetings. Utilities will respond to feedback and ideas during the June 16-17 SAG Meetings.
- Please email your idea, with any supplemental materials, to the SAG Facilitator via the email above. Questions may be directed to the SAG Facilitator by email (Celia@CeliaJohnsonConsulting.com) or by phone: (312) 659-6758.

Submitter Contact Information

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Energy Efficiency Idea Questions

Please check the boxes below to identify 1) the type of idea; 2) which Illinois utility or utilities will be impacted by the idea; and 3) which EE sector the idea impacts.

Check	Type of Energy Efficiency Idea
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Measure or New Program Idea
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Program Approach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovative Idea

Check	Illinois Utility Impacted by Energy Efficiency Idea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ameren Illinois
<input type="checkbox"/>	ComEd
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicor Gas
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Illinois Utilities

Check	Energy Efficiency Sector Targeted by Energy Efficiency Idea
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Single Family (non-income qualified/income eligible)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Multifamily (non-income qualified/income eligible)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Single Family Income Qualified/Income Eligible
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residential Customers – Multifamily Income Qualified/Income Eligible
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Small Business Customers (commercial & industrial sector)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium/Large Business Customers (commercial & industrial sector)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (research & development, emerging technologies, market transformation)

Additional Questions

1. **Description of Idea:** Describe the proposed idea, including the purpose of the suggested idea and rationale. Describe whether this is an idea that could be implemented in an existing EE program, or whether the idea involves establishing a new measure or program. Please indicate whether additional research may be required before implementation.

Questions to consider: What issue will this proposed change resolve? Will the proposed change increase participation and result in increased energy savings? Will this reduce costs? Will this increase customer satisfaction? Will this help achieve statutory goals? Will this help increase program penetration?

Centralized Resources Such as Measure Calculators and Dataset Requirements. This idea would improve overall energy efficiency program management and administration. The idea is for the utilities to collaborate on developing certain **centralized resources**, including measure calculation tools and standardized dataset requirements, that would be used by multiple implementation contractors (ICs).

In order to track and measure the impact of each energy efficiency program, the utilities and their implementation contractors must develop detailed calculation tools for each measure, using calculation methodologies from the most recent version of the TRM. Many of the implementation contractors create their own measure calculators to compute the savings from various measures and projects. All of the calculations then get reviewed and checked by the program evaluator. This is currently an inefficient process in which each IC is “re-creating the wheel.”

This fragmented system could be centralized so that the utilities create uniform, standard measure calculators that would be used by multiple implementation contractors (to the greatest extent possible). For some programs, it might not be possible to use a standardized measure calculator, if the program measures are unique to the program. However, in many cases, programs offer measures that are very similar, if not the same, as other programs. If centralized, the utility would create these calculator tools so that the implementation contractors are all not creating their own tools, and to ensure a standardized approach across programs as to energy savings calculations. Additionally, the evaluators would only need to review one set of calculation tools, instead of performing a separate review of various tools, each created by different ICs.

In addition, each IC must deliver detailed program data to each utility regarding every measure that was installed in the program year. In the case of joint programs (funded by both natural gas and electric utilities), each utility has a different system, format, and definitions for the dataset. Due to the detailed amount of data required from each program, the ICs serving joint programs spend a large amount of time extracting, formatting, and updating the datasets to match each utility’s requirements. Centralized dataset requirements would remove these inefficiencies. The utilities that co-fund joint programs would determine the data requirements and definitions needed for each dataset. Rather than providing unique datasets to each utility, the ICs would deliver one single dataset, with both electric, gas, and electric-gas measures, to each utility and subsequently the program evaluators.

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

This idea would not require any marketing to utility customers, but rather would be an administrative change related to how programs are implemented by the utilities.

3. **Background:** Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

Questions to consider: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

The idea is based on knowledge of the current market and the many costs of each IC developing their own calculators. By centralizing and standardizing resources and dataset requirements, the programs would become more streamlined and efficient, improving overall cost effectiveness.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

Questions to consider: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

This idea applies to overall program administration and is not applicable to any single customer segment. Overall, by reducing the amount of work completed by each IC, this idea has the potential to redirect resources to other purposes, such as increasing the incentives available.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

This idea would be best offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan and beyond.

6. **Estimated Budget:** Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

Overall, this proposal will reduce costs. Some initial costs would be incurred to develop the centralized and standardized tools and definitions, but savings would occur as ICs would need fewer resources to develop these tools and comply with non-standardized dataset definitions.

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

This idea is not tied to any specific programs or participation goals.

Sources

If any sources will be useful to Illinois utilities in reviewing ideas, please either provide links within this template or send attachment(s) to the SAG Facilitator with the Energy Efficiency Idea submittal.