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| Energy Savings Kits Market Rate Impact Evaluation Report  Energy Efficiency Plan: Program Year 2023  (1/1/2023-12/31/2023) | | | | | | | |
| Prepared for:  Nicor Gas Company  DRAFT  April 3, 2024 | | | | | | | |
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Table of Contents

[1. Introduction 1](#_Toc163049617)

[2. Program Description 1](#_Toc163049618)

[3. Program Savings Detail 3](#_Toc163049619)

[4. Program Savings by Measure 4](#_Toc163049620)

[5. Impact Analysis Findings and Recommendations 6](#_Toc163049621)

[5.1 Impact Parameter Estimates 6](#_Toc163049622)

[5.2 Findings and Recommendations 7](#_Toc163049623)

[Appendix A. Impact Analysis Methodology A-1](#_Toc163049624)

[Appendix B. Program Specific Inputs for the Illinois TRC B-1](#_Toc163049625)

List of Tables, Figures, and Equations

[Table 2‑1. 2023 Volumetric Findings Detail 1](#_Toc163049608)

[Table 2‑2. 2023 Installed Measure Quantities 2](#_Toc163049609)

[Table 3‑1. 2023 Annual Energy Savings Summary 3](#_Toc163049610)

[Table 4‑1. 2023 Annual Energy Savings by Measure 4](#_Toc163049611)

[Table 4‑2. 2023 Annual Energy Savings by Measure and Home Type 5](#_Toc163049612)

[Table 5‑1. 2023 Verified Gross Savings Parameters 6](#_Toc163049613)

[Table A‑1. 2023 Verified Gross Savings Parameters A-1](#_Toc163049614)

[Table B‑1. 2023 Verified Cost Effectiveness Inputs B-1](#_Toc163049615)

# Introduction

This report presents the results of the impact evaluation of the Nicor Gas 2023 Energy Saving Kits (ESK) Market Rate program and a summary of the energy impacts for the total program, as well as relevant measure and program kit structure details. The appendix presents the impact analysis methodology and cost-effectiveness input summary. Program year 2023 covers kit deliveries between January 1 through December 31, 2023.

# Program Description

The Nicor Gas ESK Market Rate program provides hot water (marketed as water savings kits) and weatherization efficiency measures (via weatherization kits) that reduce customer natural gas consumption. The offering targets customers through direct email, outreach events, targeted emails, Nicor Gas energy efficiency program website promotions, and through financial heating assistance intake centers. The kits are free and available to all Nicor Gas single-family (SF) and multi-family (MF) residential customers upon request. There are three kit versions containing water saving measure combinations (abbreviated Kit 1, Kit 2, and Kit 3). A fourth kit combination (Kit 4) includes weatherization gas space heating reduction measures. The weatherization measures include outlet and switch gasket covers, foam tape weatherstripping, v-seal weatherstripping, a self-adhesive door sweep, and a roll of rope caulk. Table 2‑1 summarizes total 2023 kit distributions. Customers may request one of either Kit 1, Kit 2, or Kit 3, plus up to two of Kit 4.

The program had 28,023 participants in 2023, as shown in Table 2‑1.

Table 2‑1. 2023 Volumetric Findings Detail

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participation | Total |
| **Water-Savings Kits**  Participants \* | 9,960 |
| **Weatherization Kits**  Participants \* | 18,063 |

\* Participants are defined as distributed kits

Source: Nicor Gas tracking data and Guidehouse evaluation team analysis.

Table 2‑2 summarizes the installed measure quantities that are the basis for verified energy savings.

Table 2‑2. 2023 Installed Measure Quantities

| Program Category | Program Path | Measure | Quantity Unit | Installed Quantity |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Energy Savings Kits | Water-Savings Kits | Bathroom Aerator | Each | 19,315 |
| Showerhead | Each | 18,374 |
| Kitchen Aerator | Each | 9,960 |
| Shower Timer | Each | 9,960 |
| Weatherization Kits | Rope Caulk | Feet | 437,400 |
| Foam Tape | Feet | 247,860 |
| V-Seal | Feet | 247,860 |
| Gasket | Each | 174,960 |
| Door Sweep | Each | 14,580 |
| Weatherization Kits - DAC | Rope Caulk - DAC | Feet | 104,490 |
| Foam Tape - DAC | Feet | 59,211 |
| V-Seal - DAC | Feet | 59,211 |
| Gasket - DAC | Each | 41,796 |
| Door Sweep - DAC | Each | 3,483 |

Source: Nicor Gas tracking data and Guidehouse evaluation team analysis.

# Program Savings Detail

Table 3‑1 summarizes the energy savings the Energy Savings Kit Market Rate program achieved by path in 2023. Savings are also tracked by whether kits were delivered to single- or multi-family homes. The only savings achieved by the program from disadvantaged communities (DAC) were via Kit 4.

Table 3‑1. 2023 Annual Energy Savings Summary

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Program Category | Program Path | Ex Ante Gross Savings (Therms)\*\* | Verified Gross RR\* | Verified Gross Savings (Therms)\*\* | NTG† | NPSO‡ | Verified Net Savings (Therms)\*\* |
| **Energy Savings Kits** | **Water-Savings Kits** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kit 1 | 14,412 | 100% | 14,412 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 16,614 |
| Kit 1 MF | 3,399 | 100% | 3,399 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 3,919 |
| Kit 2 | 183,898 | 100% | 183,898 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 211,998 |
| Kit 2 MF | 39,171 | 100% | 39,171 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 45,157 |
| Kit 3 | 9,322 | 100% | 9,322 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 10,746 |
| Kit 3 MF | 1,639 | 100% | 1,639 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 1,889 |
| ***Water-Saving Kits Subtotal*** | ***251,842*** | ***100%*** | ***251,842*** |  |  | ***290,323*** |
| **Weatherization Kits** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kit 4 | 279,006 | 100% | 279,006 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 266,083 |
| Kit 4 MF | 43,358 | 100% | 43,358 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 41,349 |
| Kit 4 - DAC | 64,252 | 100% | 64,252 | 1.00 | NA | 64,252 |
| Kit 4 MF - DAC | 12,757 | 100% | 12,757 | 1.00 | NA | 12,757 |
| ***Weatherization Kits Subtotals*** | ***399,373*** | ***100%*** | ***399,373*** |  |  | ***384,441*** |
| **Total or Weighted Average** | | **651,215** | **100%** | **651,215** |  |  | **674,764** |

\* Realization Rate (RR) is the ratio of verified gross savings to ex ante gross savings, based on evaluation research findings.

\*\* Ex ante savings reported in the tracking data and in Table 3-1 are claimed at the kit level, so ex ante savings presented at the measure level in the subsequent tables do not sum exactly to the program total due to rounding differences. Table 3-1 ex ante savings by kit differs by 18 Therms compared with ex ante savings by measure shown in other tables in the report. The measure level and total verified gross and net savings presented in other tables (Table 4-1) are those considered as the total verified savings for the program.

† A deemed value. Available on the SAG web site: <https://www.ilsag.info/evaluator-ntg-recommendations-for-2023/>. Disadvantaged communities (DAC) designated sites based on census track used a NTG of 1.0.

‡ The market rate net savings were multiplied by a residential non-participant spillover (NPSO) factor of 1.048 (not applicable to DAC designation sites).

Source: Guidehouse evaluation team analysis.

# Program Savings by Measure

The program includes nine different measures offered to customers either in water-saving or weatherization kits, as shown in Table 4‑1. The 2023 ESK program achieved most net savings from efficient Showerheads (161,888 therms), followed by Rope Caulk measure (98,997 therms), and Foam Tape (92,603 therms). Table 4‑2 further details measure-level savings by whether the kit measures were delivered to single-family or multi-family homes.

Table 4‑1. 2023 Annual Energy Savings by Measure

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Program Category | Program Path | Savings Category | Ex Ante Gross Savings (Therms) | Verified Gross RR\* | Verified Gross Savings (Therms) | NTG† | NPSO‡ | Verified Net Savings (Therms) |
| **Energy Savings Kits** | **Water-Saving Kits** | Showerhead | 140,430 | 100% | 140,430 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 161,888 |
| Kitchen Aerator | 58,257 | 100% | 58,257 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 67,159 |
| Shower Timer | 39,307 | 100% | 39,307 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 45,313 |
| Bathroom Aerator | 13,846 | 100% | 13,846 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 15,961 |
| ***Water-Saving Kits Subtotal*** |  | ***251,840*** | ***100%*** | ***251,840*** |  |  | ***290,321*** |
| **Weatherization Kits** | Rope Caulk | 79,908 | 100% | 79,908 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 1.048 |
| Foam Tape | 74,747 | 100% | 74,747 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 1.048 |
| V-Seal | 68,719 | 100% | 68,719 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 1.048 |
| Door Sweep | 59,492 | 100% | 59,492 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 1.048 |
| Gaskets | 39,471 | 100% | 39,471 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 1.048 |
| Rope Caulk - DAC | 19,089 | 100% | 19,089 | 1.00 | NA | NA |
| Foam Tape - DAC | 17,856 | 100% | 17,856 | 1.00 | NA | NA |
| V-Seal - DAC | 16,416 | 100% | 16,416 | 1.00 | NA | NA |
| Gasket - DAC | 9,429 | 100% | 9,429 | 1.00 | NA | NA |
| Door Sweep - DAC | 14,212 | 100% | 14,212 | 1.00 | NA | NA |
| ***Weatherization Kits Subtotal*** |  | ***399,339*** | ***100%*** | ***399,339*** |  |  | ***384,408*** |
| **Total or Weighted Average** | |  | **651,178** | **100%** | **651,178** |  |  | **674,729** |

\* Realization Rate (RR) is the ratio of verified gross savings to ex ante gross savings, based on evaluation research findings.

† A deemed value. Available on the SAG web site: <https://www.ilsag.info/evaluator-ntg-recommendations-for-2023/>. Disadvantaged communities (DAC) designated sites based on census track used a NTG of 1.0.

‡ The market rate net savings were multiplied by a residential non-participant spillover (NPSO) factor of 1.048 (not applicable to DAC designation sites).

Source: Nicor Gas tracking data and Guidehouse evaluation team analysis.

Table 4‑2. 2023 Annual Energy Savings by Measure and Home Type

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Measure | Quantity Distributed | Ex Ante Gross Savings (Therms) | Verified Gross RR\* | Verified Gross Savings (Therms) | NTG† | NPSO‡ | Verified Net Savings (Therms) |
| **Water-Saving Kits** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bathroom Aerators SF | 16,388 | 10,489 | 100% | 10,489 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 12,091 |
| Bathroom Aerators MF | 2,927 | 3,357 | 100% | 3,357 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 3,870 |
| Kitchen Aerators SF | 8,456 | 49,714 | 100% | 49,714 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 57,311 |
| Kitchen Aerators MF | 1,504 | 8,543 | 100% | 8,543 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 9,848 |
| Showerhead SF | 15,606 | 113,826 | 100% | 113,826 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 131,218 |
| Showerhead MF | 2,768 | 26,604 | 100% | 26,604 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 30,669 |
| Shower Timer SF | 8,456 | 33,601 | 100% | 33,601 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 38,735 |
| Shower Timer MF | 1,504 | 5,706 | 100% | 5,706 | 1.10 | 1.048 | 6,578 |
| **Weatherization Kits** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rope Caulk SF | 378,570 | 69,160 | 100% | 69,160 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 65,957 |
| Rope Caulk MF | 58,830 | 10,748 | 100% | 10,748 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 10,250 |
| Foam Tape SF | 214,523 | 64,693 | 100% | 64,693 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 61,697 |
| Foam Tape MF | 33,337 | 10,053 | 100% | 10,053 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 9,588 |
| V-Seal SF | 214,523 | 59,476 | 100% | 59,476 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 56,721 |
| V-Seal MF | 33,337 | 9,243 | 100% | 9,243 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 8,814 |
| Door Sweep SF | 12,619 | 51,490 | 100% | 51,490 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 49,105 |
| Door Sweep MF | 1,961 | 8,002 | 100% | 8,002 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 7,631 |
| Gaskets SF | 151,428 | 34,162 | 100% | 34,162 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 32,580 |
| Gaskets MF | 23,532 | 5,309 | 100% | 5,309 | 0.91 | 1.048 | 5,063 |
| Rope Caulk SF - DAC | 87,180 | 15,927 | 100% | 15,927 | 1.00 | NA | 15,927 |
| Rope Caulk MF - DAC | 17,310 | 3,162 | 100% | 3,162 | 1.00 | NA | 3,162 |
| Foam Tape SF - DAC | 49,402 | 14,898 | 100% | 14,898 | 1.00 | NA | 14,898 |
| Foam Tape MF - DAC | 9,809 | 2,958 | 100% | 2,958 | 1.00 | NA | 2,958 |
| V-Seal SF - DAC | 49,402 | 13,697 | 100% | 13,697 | 1.00 | NA | 13,697 |
| V-Seal MF - DAC | 9,809 | 2,720 | 100% | 2,720 | 1.00 | NA | 2,720 |
| Door Sweep SF - DAC | 2,906 | 11,858 | 100% | 11,858 | 1.00 | NA | 11,858 |
| Door Sweep MF - DAC | 577 | 2,354 | 100% | 2,354 | 1.00 | NA | 2,354 |
| Gaskets SF - DAC | 34,872 | 7,867 | 100% | 7,867 | 1.00 | NA | 7,867 |
| Gaskets MF - DAC | 6,924 | 1,562 | 100% | 1,562 | 1.00 | NA | 1,562 |
| **Total** | **1,448,460** | **651,178** | **100%** | **651,178** |  |  | **674,729** |

\* Realization Rate (RR) is the ratio of verified gross savings to ex ante gross savings, based on evaluation research findings.

† A deemed value. Available on the SAG web site: <https://www.ilsag.info/evaluator-ntg-recommendations-for-2023/>. Disadvantaged communities (DAC) designated sites based on census track used a NTG of 1.0.

‡ The market rate net savings were multiplied by a residential non-participant spillover (NPSO) factor of 1.048 (not applicable to DAC designation sites).

Source: Nicor Gas tracking data and Guidehouse evaluation team analysis.

# Impact Analysis Findings and Recommendations

The Guidehouse team determined verified gross savings for each measure by conducting a tracking system review and measure level calculations. Calculated verified gross savings applied Illinois TRM v11.0 methodology including inputs and formulas. The evaluation team’s verified gross savings calculation uses non-rounded input values for per-kit unit therm savings. In contrast, Nicor Gas savings report extracts rounds ex ante per-kit gross savings to two digits after the decimal point. These rounding differences cause minor differences in total therms for the program (typically less than 0.1%) are not Nicor Gas calculation errors.

## Impact Parameter Estimates

Table 5‑1 shows the unit therm savings and realization rate findings by measure from the evaluation team’s review. The realization rate is the ratio of the verified gross savings to the gross ex ante savings. Following Table 5‑1 are findings and recommendations, including discussion of all measures with realization rates more or less than 100%. Appendix A provides a description of the impact analysis methodology.

Table 5‑1. 2023 Verified Gross Savings Parameters

| Measure | Unit Basis | Ex Ante Gross (therms/unit) | Verified Gross (therms/unit) | Realization Rate | Data Source(s) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Water-Saving Kits** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bathroom Aerators SF | Each | 0.64 | 0.64 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.4.4 |
| Bathroom Aerators MF | Each | 1.15 | 1.15 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.4.4 |
| Kitchen Aerators SF | Each | 5.88 | 5.88 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.4.4 |
| Kitchen Aerators MF | Each | 5.68 | 5.68 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.4.4 |
| Showerhead SF | Each | 7.29 | 7.29 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.4.5 |
| Showerhead MF | Each | 9.61 | 9.61 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.4.5 |
| Shower Timer SF | Each | 3.97 | 3.97 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.4.9 |
| Shower Timer MF | Each | 3.79 | 3.79 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.4.9 |
| **Weatherization Kits** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gaskets SF | Feet | 0.23 | 0.23 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| Gaskets MF | Feet | 0.23 | 0.23 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| Foam Tape SF | Feet | 0.30 | 0.30 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| Foam Tape MF | Feet | 0.30 | 0.30 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| V-Seal SF | Feet | 0.28 | 0.28 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| V-Seal MF | Feet | 0.28 | 0.28 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| Door Sweep SF | Each | 4.08 | 4.08 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| Door Sweep MF | Each | 4.08 | 4.08 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| Rope Caulk SF | Feet | 0.18 | 0.18 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |
| Rope Caulk MF | Feet | 0.18 | 0.18 | 100% | 2023 IL TRM v11.0 Vol. 3, Section 5.6.1 |

\* Program Tracking Data (PTD) provided by Nicor Gas, extract dated January 30, 2024.

† State of Illinois Technical Reference Manual version 11.0 from <http://www.ilsag.info/technical-reference-manual.html>.

## Findings and Recommendations

**Finding 1.** All 2023 kit level and measure level components were consistent with TRM (v11.0) inputs and formulas. There were no program participants which received more kits than one hot water kit and two weatherization kits. Guidehouse found that the tracking data was complete and all ex ante savings were consistent with the appropriate calculations in the IL-TRM v11.0.

**Recommendation 8.** Continue to maintain high quality of data tracking and ensure the process for mapping DAC qualified projects are maintained or improved in the tracking system.

##### Impact Analysis Methodology

The evaluation team determined verified gross savings for each program measure by conducting tracking system and savings calculation reviews. Measure inputs were checked against IL TRM (v11.0) inputs. The evaluation team also verified that each program measure meets the TRM defined physical, operational, and baseline characteristics. Verified gross realization rates are calculated by dividing the verified gross savings by the ex ante gross savings.

In 2023, the NTG estimates used to calculate the net verified savings were based on past evaluation research and defined by a consensus process through the Illinois Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG).[[1]](#footnote-2) Economically-disadvantaged areas (DAC) were identified by 2020 census track and evaluation used NTG of 1.0 for DAC projects, based on Illinois Policy Manual 3.0.[[2]](#footnote-3)

Table A-1 lists the 2023 per kit deemed savings and NTG values.

Table A‑1. 2023 Verified Gross Savings Parameters

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Measure | Ex Ante Gross Savings (Therms/kit) | Verified  Gross Savings (Therms/kit) | Average NTG Per Kit |
| **Water-Saving Kits** |  |  |  |
| Kit 1 | 18.43 | 18.43 | 1.10 |
| Kit 1 MF | 21.38 | 21.38 | 1.10 |
| Kit 2 | 25.72 | 25.72 | 1.10 |
| Kit 2 MF | 30.99 | 30.99 | 1.10 |
| Kit 3 | 17.79 | 17.79 | 1.10 |
| Kit 3 MF | 20.23 | 20.23 | 1.10 |
| **Weatherization Kits** |  |  |  |
| Kit 4 | 22.11 | 22.11 | 0.91 |
| Kit 4 MF | 22.11 | 22.11 | 0.91 |
| Kit 4 - DAC | 22.11 | 22.11 | 1.00 |
| Kit 4 MF - DAC | 22.11 | 22.11 | 1.00 |

*Source: Nicor Gas tracking data and Guidehouse evaluation team analysis.*

##### Program Specific Inputs for the Illinois TRC

Table B‑1 shows the Total Resource Cost (TRC) cost-effectiveness analysis inputs available at the time of producing this impact evaluation report. Additional required cost data (e.g., measure costs, program level incentive and non-incentive costs) are not included in Table B‑1 and will be provided to the evaluation team later. Guidehouse will include annual and lifetime water savings and greenhouse gas reductions in the end of year summary report.

Table B‑1. 2023 Verified Cost Effectiveness Inputs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Program Category | Program Path | Savings Category | Units | Quantity | Effective Useful Life | Ex Ante Gross Savings (Therms) | Verified Gross Savings (Therms) | Verified Net Savings (Therms) |
| **Energy Savings Kits** | **Water Savings Kits** | Showerhead | Each | 18,374 | 10 | 140,430 | 140,430 | 161,888 |
| Kitchen Aerator | Each | 9,960 | 10 | 58,257 | 58,257 | 67,159 |
| Shower Timer | Each | 9,960 | 2 | 39,307 | 39,307 | 45,313 |
| Bath Aerator | Each | 19,315 | 10 | 13,846 | 13,846 | 95,295 |
| **Weatherization Kits** | Rope Caulk | Feet | 437,400 | 20 | 79,908 | 79,908 | 76,206 |
| Foam Tape | Feet | 247,860 | 20 | 74,747 | 74,747 | 71,284 |
| V-Seal | Feet | 247,860 | 20 | 68,719 | 68,719 | 65,536 |
| Door Sweep | Each | 174,960 | 20 | 59,492 | 59,492 | 56,736 |
| Gaskets | Each | 14,580 | 20 | 39,471 | 39,471 | 37,643 |
| Rope Caulk - DAC | Feet | 104,490 | 20 | 19,089 | 19,089 | 19,089 |
| Foam Tape - DAC | Feet | 59,211 | 20 | 17,856 | 17,856 | 17,856 |
| V-Seal - DAC | Feet | 59,211 | 20 | 16,416 | 16,416 | 16,416 |
| Gasket - DAC | Each | 41,796 | 20 | 9,429 | 9,429 | 9,429 |
| Door Sweep - DAC | Each | 3,483 | 20 | 14,212 | 14,212 | 14,212 |
| **Total or Weighted Average** | | |  | **1,448,460** | **15.6** | **651,178** | **651,178** | **674,729** |

*Source: Nicor Gas tracking data and Guidehouse evaluation team analysis.*

1. <https://www.ilsag.info/evaluator-ntg-recommendations-for-2023/>**.** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.ilsag.info/wp-content/uploads/IL\_EE\_Policy\_Manual\_Version\_3.0\_Final\_11-3-2023.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)