

Illinois EE Stakeholder Advisory Group Non-Energy Impacts Working Group Meeting

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

10:00 – 12:00 pm

Teleconference

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Meeting Materials

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- [November 5 SAG Non-Energy Impacts Working Group Agenda](#)
- [SAG Facilitator Introduction to November 5 Meeting](#)
- [Opinion Dynamics Presentation: Overview of Ameren Illinois NEI Research](#)
- [Guidehouse Presentation: Economic & Societal NEI Research Update and Updated COBRA Model](#)
- [Guidehouse Presentation: Participant NEI Research Updates for ComEd](#)

Attendees

Name	Company or Organization
Celia Johnson	Facilitator (Celia Johnson Consulting)
Zoe Knaus	SAG Facilitation Support (Inova Energy Group)
Abigail Miner	IL Attorney General's Office
Andrey Gribovich	DNV
Andy Vaughn	Leidos
Channel Turbides	ComEd
Charles Ampong	Guidehouse
Chris Vaughn	Nicor Gas
Courtney Golino	Guidehouse
Diana Dorman	Energy Solutions
Elder Calderon	ComEd
Elizabeth Horne	ICC Staff
Jason Fegley	Leidos
Jeff Erickson	Guidehouse
Jim Fay	Energy Research and Analysis
Jonathan Ricketts	Opinion Dynamics

Name	Company or Organization
Keely Hughes	The JPI Group
Lilieric FlorezMonroy	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Mark Szczygiel	Nicor Gas
Matt Armstrong	Ameren Illinois
Nick Warnecke	Ameren Illinois
Randy Opdyke	Nicor Gas
Sam Sungaila	Guidehouse
Scott Mallory	Brubaker & Associates
Seth Craigo-Snell	SCS Analytics
Sophie Berne	Guidehouse
Stephanie Dorman	Armstrong Ceilings
Ted Weaver	Dunsky Climate + Energy Advisors
Thomas Manjarres	Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas
Yeab Lakew	Guidehouse
Zach Ross	Opinion Dynamics

Meeting Notes

See **red text** for follow-up items.

Introduction to SAG Non-Energy Impacts Working Group Meeting

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

Purpose of November 5 Meeting:

1. For Opinion Dynamics and Guidehouse to provide a high-level overview of non-energy impact research;
2. For Guidehouse to present the updated COBRA model; and
3. For Guidehouse to present an update on non-energy impact participant research for ComEd.

Overview of Ameren Illinois Non-Energy Impacts Research

Zach Ross, Opinion Dynamics

Summary of Ameren Illinois NEI Studies:



Utility NEI Research – Arrearage Reductions

- Scoped utility NEI evaluation study early in 2018-2021 cycle based on discussions with SAG, other evaluators, and AIC
- Discontinued work toward evaluation in 2020 after it became clear that obtaining the necessary data for the study would be extremely time consuming
- Have continued to study program effects on arrearages and bill reductions through other avenues (e.g. recent Arrearage Reduction Pilot report)

IQ Participant NEI Research

- Study design and methods developed in coordination with other Illinois evaluators and with SAG
- Initial screening exercise conducted in 2019-2020 further refined areas of focus
- Study found a monetizable, statistically significant decrease in the use of medical assistance programs after participating in IQ Initiative
- Monetized impacts of this change and incorporated them into benefit-cost testing
- Other effects were either not statistically significant or could not be monetized with our chosen methods
- Further details and results available in study report: Ameren Illinois Income Qualified Participant Non-Energy Impacts Assessment

Nonresidential NEI Research

- Exploratory research to identify, characterize, and monetize the NEIs associated with select measures and customer segments relevant to the AIC Business Program
- Research activities included lifecycle cost engineering analysis for O&M NEIs and in-depth interviews with participants for non-O&M NEIs
- Results were produced in case study format to support AIC Business Program marketing/targeting: AIC Nonresidential NEIs Case Study Results

Societal NEI Research

- Analysis of reduction of air pollution emissions linked to AIC EE portfolio and resulting health benefits
- Uses US EPA AVERT & COBRA tools to develop avoided cost schedules
- Uses NREL Cambium to model future grid changes and emissions rates
- First analysis conducted using 2018 program data and completed in 2021
- Updated analysis using 2023 program data completed in 2024
- Impacts realized in Illinois are incorporated into benefit-cost testing and are a significant contributor to portfolio benefits overall

Abigail Miner (via chat): Have there been significant changes to the AVERT and COBRA tools in the past year? Are they still useful and accurate?

- *Zach Ross: I am not sure if AVERT has seen significant changes, COBRA has seen more in the past year. These tools are industry standard, well maintained, EPA approved, peer reviewed, and the most accurate tools I am aware of.*

Macroeconomic & Job Impact Research

- Completed annually in alignment with Policy Manual Section 6.7, capturing direct, indirect, and induced effects
- Uses IMPLAN input-output analysis software to build a multiplier set that can be used for quick-turnaround annual reporting

- Model updated once per cycle, multiplier approach used to estimate annual impacts for evaluation report
- Results provided by April 30 of each year for the prior year and included in annual portfolio Integrated Impact Evaluation Report

Future Research Plans

- *Participant NEIs*: No current plans for additional research
- *Societal NEIs*: Impacts will be reported annually using existing avoided cost schedule; we expect to update models at some point in 2026-2029 cycle but have not yet determined in what year this update will occur
- *Utility NEIs*: No current plans for additional research
- *Macroeconomic & Job Impacts*: Impacts will be reported annually using multipliers; we expect to update models in the 2026 year
- Opinion Dynamics is currently in the process of evaluation planning for the 2026-2029 cycle and welcome any comments from SAG on future areas for NEI research or around the value of NEI research.

Ted Weaver: Can you elaborate on the chart on page four?

- *Zach Ross: Yes, this study represents customers who participated in Ameren's IQ program. We surveyed them before and after they participated and compared them to another group who did not receive program benefits to identify any outside factors. The bars on the left represent before participating in the IQ program and the bars on the right are after.*
- *Ted Weaver: Assistance decreased for the top three categories. It is interesting that energy assistance increased, but customers are more likely to use this when they are aware of it.*
- *Zach Ross: The comparison and treatment groups are not exactly aligned, but we see a similar change. Our report will expand upon whether there is a significant change relative to the control group.*
- *Ted Weaver: Will Ameren use these results?*
- *Zach Ross: We have been able to monetize reduced medical assistance. There is a certain number of dollars allocated to a decreased use of medical assistance. We identified significant differences on the other impacts but could not monetize due to our chosen methods.*

Guidehouse Presentation: Economic & Societal NEI Research Update and Updates COBRA Model

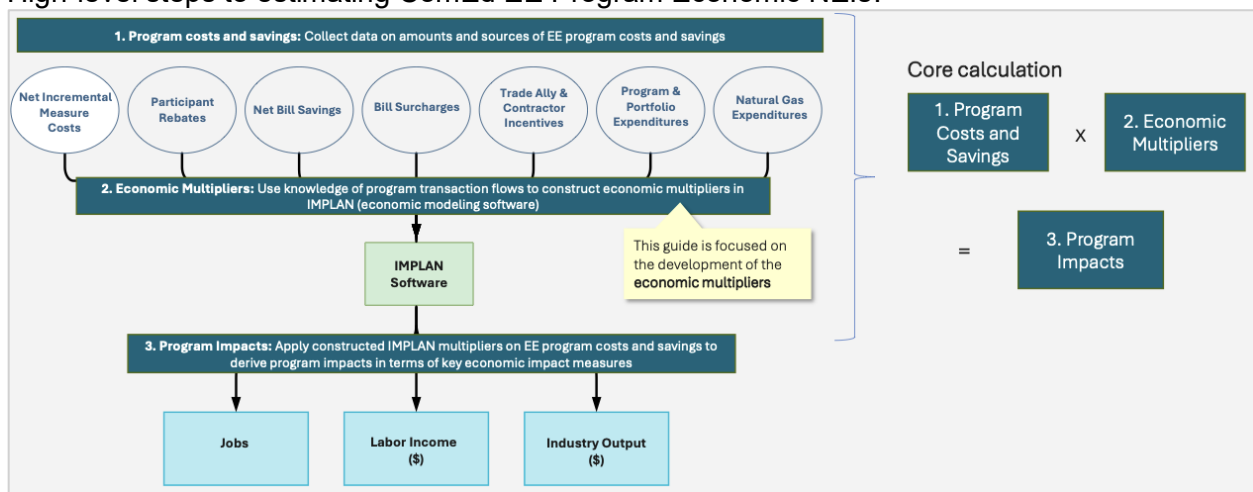
Charles Ampong, Guidehouse

NEI Research Updates

- Background on Non-Energy Impacts (NEIs)
 - Energy efficiency programs reduce pollution and demand for electricity generation from fossil fuel and onsite natural gas usage, and improve outdoor air quality and subsequently public health, particularly in communities impacted by poor air quality days. Program investments also support the Illinois economy and create jobs for weatherization contractors and in the broader community.
- Societal Health NEIs
 - Reduction in emissions from fossil-fueled electricity generation and onsite natural gas usage reduces adverse health impacts that can be monetized from the value of illnesses and deaths avoided.

- Participant NEIs
 - Participant improved health, thermal comfort, and productivity from EE upgrades like HVAC and building envelopes can be monetized.
- Economic NEIs
 - Direct Impacts
 - Jobs created to manage and implement programs
 - Program implementation contractor incentives
 - Participant rebates
 - Bill savings
 - Indirect Impacts
 - Contractors buying equipment from suppliers
 - Suppliers increasing their own production
 - Induced Impacts
 - Household spending due to increase in income from lower bills and an increase in jobs
 - Economic NEI: Methodology
 - Analyzing these transaction flows for economic NEIs takes place and three parts

High-level steps to estimating ComEd EE Program Economic NEIs:



- Multipliers for impacts of net ratepayer savings:
 - *Residential*: EE programs that look increase residential customer bill savings
 - *Income Qualified*: EE programs that look increase income qualified customer bill savings
 - *Commercial/Public*: EE programs that look increase commercial and public sector customer bill savings
- Multipliers for impacts of program costs:
 - *Net Incremental Costs (IMC)*: Year-over-year increases in costs to provide programs
 - *Program Administration Costs*: Costs incurred by ComEd to administer programs
 - *Voltage Optimization (CapEx)*: Capital expenditure costs associated with voltage optimization program
- Multipliers for impacts of program intermediate inputs:
 - *Lost Electric Utility Fuel Expenditures*: ComEd reduced spend on fuels used to generate electricity

- *Lost Gas Utility Fuel Expenditures*: ComEd reduced spend on fuels used to generate gas

Economic NEI: Impact

- Economic impacts in 2024 result from initial spending triggered by the implementation of the utilities' 2024 EE programs.
- The impacts beyond 2024 are derived from the persisting effects (CPAS) of 2024 EE programs in the form of net ratepayer bill savings
- There are no anticipated changes to the current methodology for CY2026 analysis. However, Guidehouse will conduct a review of the IMPLAN inputs and develop new economic factors for use in the CY2026 analysis.

Impact Category (CY2024)	ComEd
Job Years	29,179 Job Years
Labor Income	\$2,003 M
Industry Output	\$8,149

Societal NEI: Methodology

- Ongoing research marked with a star.
- Portfolio-Level Annual Saving (ComEd CPAS)
- Avoided Emissions and generation Tool (AVERT)*
 - Emissions avoided from electric savings
 - Adjusted past 5 years
 - CY2026 Forecast Research
- Co-Benefits Risk Assessment (COBRA)*
 - Health Impacts Screening & Mapping Tool
 - Adjusted AVERT Output
 - Updated COBRA Model
- Apply Discount Rate to Program Year*
 - IL TRM v 14 Update to discount rates

Emission Forecast and AVERT Model

- Societal NEI
 - Guidehouse runs production cost modeling at individual generator level till 2050 using 5-year intervals and interpolates the annual emission trends as AVERT adjustment factors, to account for the impact on marginal emissions rates
 - Adjusted AVERT model are used as input to COBRA modeling
 - CY2024 programs had some measures with 30-year effective useful life, which triggered the analytics team to use 2040-2050 emission trends to extrapolate emission rates up to 2053
 - For CY2025-26, more measures could have 30-50 years EUL timeframe, which warrants additional forecast research

Emission Forecast Adjustment

- CY2026 Forecast Research
 - In 2024, Guidehouse reviewed the NEI Working Group proposed NREL Cambium Model and DOE's Annual Energy Outlook (AEO) emission profiles against EPA's AVERT Model.

- We adjusted AVERT forecast after 5 years through 2030, using recent emission rates. The adjusted model closely represented NREL SRMER forecast but did not compensate for long-range emissions forecast.
- We recommended "Blended" model. It's the combination of AEO and NREL SRMER & LRMER rates. Blended model is then applied to AVERT's output to better adjust for long-term forecasting.

Updated Real Discount Rate for CY2026-2029:

Program Year	Nominal Discount Rate	Real Discount Rate	Inflation Rate
2026-2029	4.33%	2.0% (EPA's Social Cost of Carbon Report)	2.28% (US EIA/AEO Inflation Forecast)
2022-2025	2.40%	0.42% (10yr Treasury Bond Rates)	1.98%

- IL TRM updated inflation rate and real discount rate that will apply for CY2026
- To study the effect of moving the real discount rate to 2.0%, Guidehouse ran 2024-2053 simulation in COBRA using a 4.33% nominal discount rate, which is based on the 2.0% real discount rate and the 2.28% inflation
- Results are presented after the COBRA modeling updates section

Updated COBRA Model: Cobra v4.1

- EPA COBRA v4.1 estimates the number of health incidents avoided and the corresponding economic (monetary) values for the following conditions:
 - Infant and Adult Mortality
 - Non-fatal Heart Attacks
 - Hospital Admissions related to Respiratory and Cardiovascular Conditions
 - Acute Bronchitis
 - Upper and Lower Respiratory Symptoms
 - Asthma Exacerbations (attacks, shortness of breath, & wheezing)
 - Asthma Emergency Room visits
 - Minor Restricted Activity Days
 - Work Loss Days

2024 COBRA Model Changes

- Comparing EPA COBRA Model v4.1 to COBRA Model v5.1
 - Inclusion of Health Impacts of O₃ Formation
 - Added health impacts of O₃ Formation because of changes in NO_x and VOC emissions
 - Revised Health Impact from PM_{2.5}
 - Updated PM_{2.5} health impact model to use new health impact functions
 - Additional Health Impact Updates
 - Added health impact from hospital admissions for Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's Disease, incidence of stroke and lung cancer, asthma onset, and incidence of hay fever/rhinitis.

COBRA Modeling Results – ComEd:

ComEd Societal NEI Estimates						
Sector	0.42% RDR, COBRA v4.1		0.42% RDR, COBRA v5.1		2% RDR, COBRA v5.1	
	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per kWh	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per kWh	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per kWh
Business	\$ 256,417,468	\$ 0.0310	\$ 622,136,378	\$ 0.0649	\$ 266,294,876	\$ 0.0278
Residential + IE	\$ 181,766,610	\$ 0.0317	\$ 604,797,391	\$ 0.0645	\$ 277,318,956	\$ 0.0296
Voltage Optimization	\$ 31,330,740	\$ 0.0303	\$ 95,542,419	\$ 0.0637	\$ 38,675,780	\$ 0.0258
Total Lifetime Health Benefits	\$ 469,514,818	\$ 0.0311	\$ 1,322,476,188	\$ 0.0646	\$ 582,289,611	\$ 0.0285

- CY2023 Societal NEI results were based on COBRA v4.1 modeling
- CY2024 results were based on updated COBRA v5.1
- Under the same 0.42% real discount rate, CY2024 COBRA modeling results in significantly more savings per kWh due to the additional health impacts mentioned above. Expected in CY2025 as well.
- With the blended adjusted AVERT Model and updated 2% real discount rate with COBRA v5.1, CY2026 results could be calibrated back to similar levels as CY2023.

Gas Utility Benefits Forecast

- The blended AVERT adjustment factor was specific to electric utilities (ComEd); such adjustment does not need to be applied to gas utilities
- COBRA modeling changes would still apply to gas utilities, resulting in significantly more health benefits
- Guidehouse ran 3 different gas health benefit models based on CY2022 and CY2023 data to show impact of COBRA modeling and real discount rate changes:
 - First model is based on CY2022 data with 0.42% discount rate and the original COBRA v4.1
 - Second model based on CY2023 data with 0.42% discount rate but updated COBRA v5.1
 - Third model based on CY2023 data with updated 2% discount rate and COBRA v5.1

COBRA Modeling Results – Nicor Gas:

Nicor Gas Societal NEI Estimates						
Sector	0.42% RDR, COBRA v4.1		0.42% RDR, COBRA v5.1		2% RDR, COBRA v5.1	
	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm
Business	\$ 10,268,983	\$ 0.1676	\$ 57,387,697	\$ 0.7281	\$ 48,646,115	\$ 0.6172
Residential + IE	\$ 15,461,480	\$ 0.1581	\$ 89,056,934	\$ 0.7011	\$ 74,215,706	\$ 0.5843
Total Lifetime Health Benefits	\$ 25,730,463	\$ 0.1618	\$ 146,444,631	\$ 0.7114	\$ 122,861,821	\$ 0.5968

- COBRA modeling changes resulted in significantly more health benefits in 2024 (\$0.71/therm) compared to \$0.16/therm from previous year.

Abigail Miner (via chat): That increase is completely attributable to the additional health impacts?

- *Charles Ampong: That is correct.*

COBRA Modeling Results – PGL & NSG:

NSG Societal NEI Estimates						
Sector	0.42% RDR, COBRA v4.1		0.42% RDR, COBRA v5.1		2% RDR, COBRA v5.1	
	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm
Business	\$ 1,759,151	\$ 0.1986	\$ 6,073,029	\$ 0.7244	\$ 5,295,369	\$ 0.6317
Residential + IE	\$ 1,039,553	\$ 0.1940	\$ 10,003,590	\$ 0.7192	\$ 8,226,258	\$ 0.5914
Total Lifetime Health Benefits	\$ 2,798,704	\$ 0.1968	\$ 16,076,620	\$ 0.7212	\$ 13,521,628	\$ 0.6066

PGL Societal NEI Estimates						
Sector	0.42% RDR, COBRA v4.1		0.42% RDR, COBRA v5.1		2% RDR, COBRA v5.1	
	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm	Lifetime Health Benefits	Lifetime Health Benefits per therm
Business	\$ 9,122,389	\$ 0.2050	\$ 32,048,955	\$ 0.7278	\$ 28,110,958	\$ 0.6384
Residential + IE	\$ 9,597,989	\$ 0.2002	\$ 38,981,293	\$ 0.7215	\$ 32,534,584	\$ 0.6022
Total Lifetime Health Benefits	\$ 18,720,379	\$ 0.2025	\$ 71,030,249	\$ 0.7244	\$ 60,645,542	\$ 0.6185

- COBRA modeling changes resulted in significantly more health benefits in 2024 (\$0.72/therm) compared to \$0.20/therm from previous years.

Scott Mallory: Can you elaborate on the additional health impacts?

- Charles Ampong: The original parameters used did not include ambient concentrations of ozone. The changes in PM_{2.5} were made to increase public health protection, which increased health benefits and monetization potential.
- Zach Ross (via chat): I'll note that while we did not include a comparison slide like Charles did between results, we saw the same types of changes described in the magnitude of benefits when updating the Ameren Illinois analysis to use COBRA v5.1.

Ted Weaver: There is a larger increase on the gas side. Are electric benefits derived from combustion? Per kWh, you would expect less.

- Charles Ampong: I will ask my colleagues and get back to you.
- Ted Weaver: If health impacts were not previously captured, then it seems like virtually all of the health impacts are coming from the effects of natural gas. Something else must be happening.
- Charles Ampong: We will look at the model adjustments. I think the difference is the emission rates.
- Ted Weaver: The electric side is decarbonizing, which might explain it.
- Zach Ross: We have similar numbers. If 100% of generation is gas, there is a higher effect on the electric side because source sufficiency for electric generation will be lower than thermal efficiency. We will look at this too.
- Charles Ampong: We are looking at marginal emissions reductions due to increased renewable energy.

Ted Weaver: Can you identify which line on page 9 is the AVERT model?

- Charles Ampong: The top blue line is the AVERT model, the second line from the bottom is the blended model.
- Yeab Lakew: The light blue line is the AVERT, similar to the NREL short rate model.
- Ted Weaver: If you ran the AVERT model on its own, it would follow the darker blue line? We previously decided to use a model closer to long term and apply a ratio each year, correct?
- Yeab Lakew: Yes.

- *Ted Weaver: This model only measures CO2, correct?*
- *Yeab Lakew: This model applies to all emissions, it is a CO2 equivalent.*
- *Ted Weaver: I thought there was analysis on greenhouse gasses and another analysis. Are you only measuring greenhouse gasses?*
- *Yeab Lakew: Yes.*

Andy Vaughn (via chat): Why would the 2039 Blended value on emissions be less than the other lines?

- *Seth Craigo-Snell: My guess is that the 2039 value is lower is the AEO long-run emission rate value.*
- *Ted Weaver: That is right. After 2045, the blended model is an average of the blue and orange lines. The yellow line starts at the short-term rate, and then it meets the average of the short- and long-term rate, then aligns in 2028. It takes three years to decrease, then follows the AEO approach until 2045, where it drops down to the average.*
- *Zach Ross: What Ted and Seth just described is consistent with the notes I have on the stakeholder agreement around this.*

Guidehouse Presentation: Participant NEI Research Updates for ComEd

Sam Sungalia, Guidehouse

Participant NEI Project Overview and Schedule

- Guidehouse is researching participant non-energy impacts (NEIs) in ComEd's Income-Eligible (IE) Programs
 - Single Family Energy Savings – CBA and IHWAP*
 - Multifamily Energy Savings – Income Eligible, Public Housing, and IHWAP*
 - Home Energy Upgrades include:
 - HVAC system upgrades and replacements
 - Energy efficient room air conditioner and refrigerators
 - Smart thermostats and advanced power strips
 - Energy efficient water heaters
 - Low-flow faucet aerators
 - Boiler replacement and tune ups
 - Steam trap testing, repair and replacement
 - Variable speed motor drives
 - Air sealing and insulation
 - Health and safety measures necessary to make the energy upgrades

Understanding Participant NEIs

- What is an NEI?
 - A Non-Energy Impact (NEI) refers to the additional benefits or outcomes that occur as a result of energy efficiency improvements, beyond just energy savings. These can include health, comfort, financial, and operational advantages that participants experience after upgrades.

Our Research Goal

- Through pre- and post-upgrade surveys with participants and interviews with property managers, our research seeks to identify, measure, and assign value to these NEIs. By doing so, we aim to:
 - Capture improvements in health, comfort, and productivity
 - Quantify cost savings and other benefits that enhance overall program value

- Strengthen cost-effectiveness tests for energy efficiency programs by including these broader impacts

Evaluating Participant NEIs

- Anticipated Participant NEIs
 - Reduced medical costs associated with asthma and arthritis, and from improvements to air sealing, insulation, and HVAC
 - Fewer missed days of work
 - Less reliance on loans for household necessities
 - Reduced O&M costs for multifamily buildings

Participant NEI Research: Ongoing and Evolving:

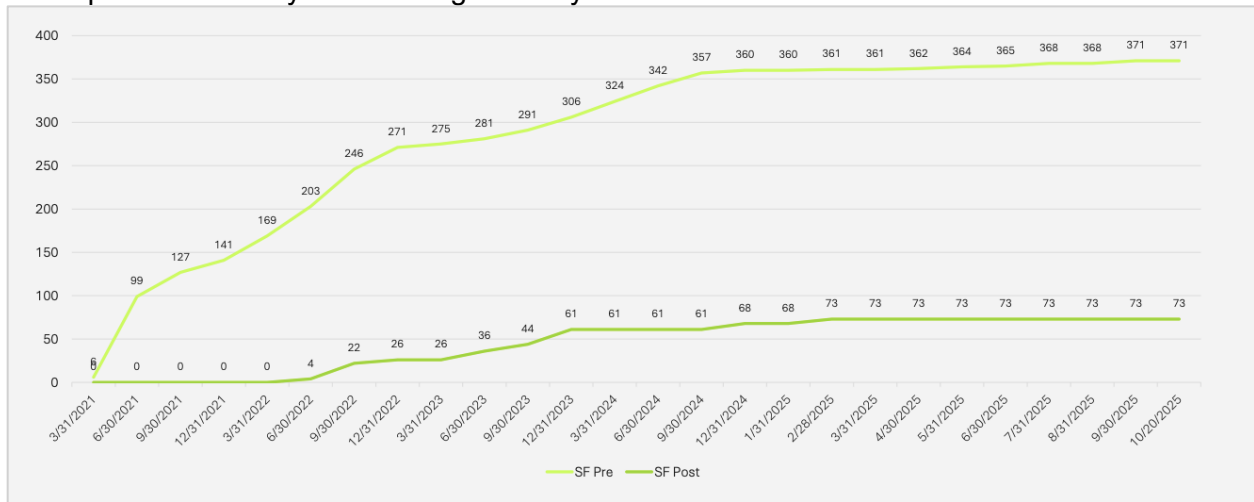
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Research Planning and Survey/Interview Instrument Development	Active	Active							
Single Family IE Pre-Survey			Active	Active	Active	Active	Active		
Single Family IE Post-Survey				Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	
Multifamily IE Pre-Survey			Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	
Multifamily IE Post-Survey				Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active
Building Owner and Property Manager Interviews			Active	Active					
Data Analysis and Monetization				Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active

Participant NEI Multifamily Survey Distribution Efforts:

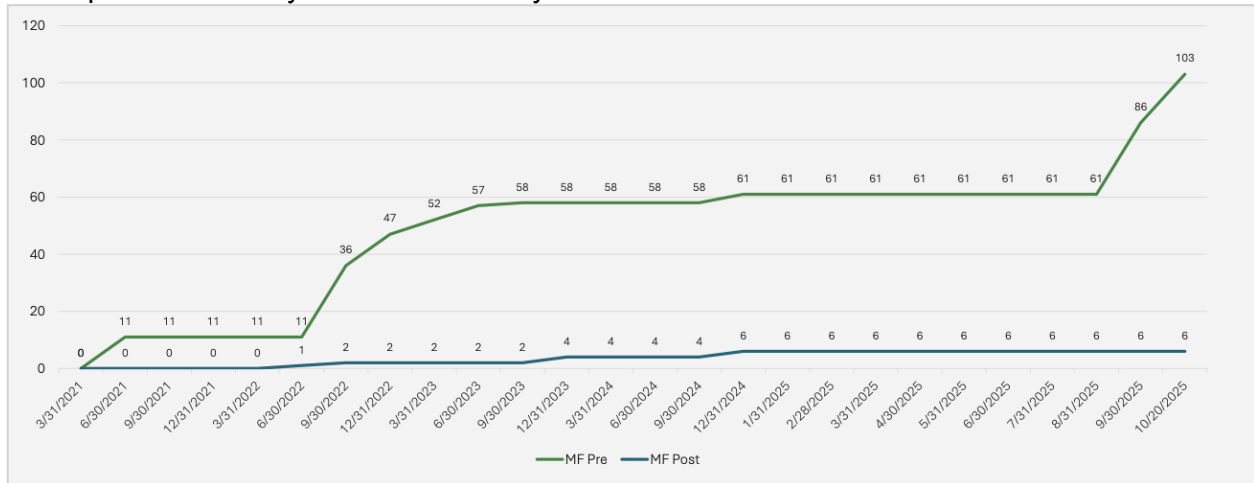
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 – Guidehouse Presentations to Implementation Contractor (IC) on Multifamily (MF) survey card distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 – MF pre-survey distribution begins via IC leave behind • Q4 – MF pre-survey cards mailed to tenants • Q4 – Posters hung in common area as reminder of survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 – Home Energy Savings Retrofits (IHWAP) Community Action Agencies (CAA) kick-off • Q2 – MF post-survey distribution begins • Q1-Q4 – Survey reminder cards mailed to potential participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 – Mailing of survey invitation and reminder cards stops due to returned cards (i.e. unable to be delivered) • Q2 – Leave behind survey invitations mailed to community organization offices for distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 – Guidehouse MF survey distribution Training with ComEd Energy Efficiency Service Providers (EESPs) • Q1 – Franklin training and campaign to increase MF survey responses; Franklin hand delivered 900 survey invitation cards through March 31, 2024

- Our research approach for multifamily participants has evolved over time to address and overcome survey distribution challenges. Additional updates were made in 2025 and are covered later in this presentation.

Participant NEI Survey Status: Single Family:



Participant NEI Survey Status: Multifamily:



Participant NEI Survey Statistics: Single Family Baseline

- In 4+ years of data collection, respondents reported cases of asthma, arthritis, and thermal stress (n= 347 completed/allowable partially completed surveys)
 - 83 households with asthma
 - 90 adults, 14 children
 - 174 households with arthritis
 - 204 adults, 2 children
 - 65% of households used an emergency inhaler at least once in the last year
 - 63% of households with arthritis went to urgent care or their doctor at least once in the last year
 - 35-45% of households struggled to pay energy bills, their mortgage, medical expenses, or food expenses over the past 12 months

Participant NEI Survey Statistics: Multifamily Baseline

- In 4+ years of data collection, respondents reported cases of asthma, arthritis, and thermal stress (n= 75 completed/allowable partially completed surveys)
 - 12 households with asthma

- 13 adults, 2 children
- 17 households with arthritis
 - 19 adults, 2 children
- 100% of households with asthma used an emergency inhaler at least once in the last year
- 30% of households with arthritis went to urgent care or their doctor at least once in the last year
- 25-35% of households struggled to pay energy bills, their mortgage, medical expenses, or food expenses over the past 12 months

Participant NEI Methods Update

- Survey Instrument Update
 - In 2025, Guidehouse implemented several modifications to the pre- and post-surveys to improve response rates and reduce survey burden and complexity
 - Removed questions exclusively tied to heat or cold stress conditions
 - These conditions lag significantly behind asthma and arthritis for reported cases amongst participants due to low incidence and are difficult to monetize.
 - Removed questions exclusively related to Covid-19 due to less relevance.
 - Added a screening question to the pre survey for both SF and MF to ask if the participant is planning to move within the next 12 months and screen these respondents out.
 - Increased survey incentive from \$25 to \$75

High Touch Methodology for Multifamily Tenants

- Guidehouse worked with ComEd and implementation contractor Franklin Energy to design multifamily in-person survey events that would better engage potential respondents
- Through several working sessions, event siting criteria, timeline, protocol, and materials were designed to engage multifamily tenants to take the survey.
- Site events at seven multifamily properties were conducted in September and October 2025

Multifamily In-Person Events

- Franklin Energy, the implementation contractor, and Utilivate, on behalf of the Evaluation Team, conducted in person events at several sites in Sept and Oct 2025

Multifamily In-Person Survey Events:

Contractor	Date	Location	Number of Units
Franklin Energy	September 10 th	4455 S Greenwood	43
Franklin Energy	September 15 th	515 Circle Hill	140
Franklin Energy	September 23 rd	4850 S Drexel – Paramour	42
Franklin Energy	September 29 th	5120 S Hyde Park	41
Utilivate	October 3 rd	8015 S Vernon Ave	14
Franklin Energy	October 9 th	5043 S Drexel (Drexel Terrace)	25
Franklin Energy	October 20 th	5202 S Cornell Ave	27

Next Steps

- Participant NEI Research
 - Two main tasks remain to complete participant NEI research:
 - Complete data collection and survey fielding
 - Analyze survey responses and conduct monetization analysis
 - Data Collection
 - In-person events to collect multifamily pre-survey responses are ongoing and have successfully improved response rates
 - Guidehouse will send reminders to multifamily pre-survey respondents at 3, 6, and 9 months to maintain engagement
 - Additional approaches may be used to boost responses to the survey, such as mailing post cards directly to tenants
 - Surveys will be fielded until we reach 80 responses per condition of interest (Asthma and Arthritis) are collected across both multifamily and single-family cohorts
 - Survey Analysis and Monetization
 - In 2026, Guidehouse will begin working with single family survey data to update and refine the analysis plan, including adjustments to monetization values
 - Data collection is expected to conclude in June 2027, with results available by December 2027
 - Preliminary results from the single-family cohort will be complete may be ready in early 2027, as data collection for that group will finish before multifamily

Abigail Miner (via chat): Can you repeat why questions exclusively tied to heat or cold stress conditions were removed from surveys?

- *Sam Sungaila: To reduce survey burden and length, we examined the survey to identify where adjustments could be made. We noted that there were only 5 responses for heat and cold stress questions compared to 80 responses for asthma, so we removed them.*

With such low response numbers, there was no chance of getting statistically powered responses. It would also be difficult to monetize, as folks do not usually seek medical attention from heat and cold stress.

- *Zach Ross: The exact reasons described is why we could not monetize benefits in changes from thermal stress.*

Zach Ross: You do not use a comparison group while researching, correct?

- *Sam Sungalia: That is correct.*

Keely Hughes (via chat): What were some of the challenges gaining the trust of multi-family residents? Did you capture community trust data? Did your boots on the ground work come from the community?

- *Sam Sungalia: We had some skepticism from multifamily tenants on whether the survey was legit and tied to ComEd. We tried to put boots on the ground with friendly faces in these communities to assure them we were not stealing their information. Folks could also independently verify that the survey was legitimate with ComEd. We did not capture community trust data, but outreach data has information on that. Franklin Energy had existing relationships with the property managers and buildings where our events were held, which helped us decide site selections.*

Closing and Next Steps

Follow-up items:

1. Guidehouse and Opinion Dynamics will look into why there are smaller changes for electric vs. gas due to the updated COBRA model.
2. SAG Facilitator requests feedback on whether any NEI Working Group topics need to be addressed in 2026. Due to the anticipated impacts of utility EE portfolio planning because of recent legislative changes in Illinois, an NEI Working Group meeting will be scheduled later in 2026, if needed.