

**Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)  
SAG Portfolio Planning Process 2024 Project Plan  
Final Clean (2/29/2024)**

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**I. Introduction and Background**

This SAG Portfolio Planning Process 2024 Project Plan includes an overview of Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) activities from January 1, 2024 through the first quarter of 2025. The SAG is independently facilitated by Celia Johnson, of Celia Johnson Consulting<sup>1</sup>, with facilitation meeting support provided by Inova Energy Group.<sup>2</sup>

By statute, Illinois utilities are required to file individual 4-year Energy Efficiency Portfolio Plans (EE Plans) for approval with the Illinois Commerce Commission (Commission) on or before March 1, 2025. The utility EE Plans that will be filed in early 2025 represent the sixth EE Plan filings for electric utilities (Ameren Illinois<sup>3</sup> and ComEd) and the fifth EE Plan filings for gas utilities (Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas).

Since 2008, SAG has served as a forum to educate stakeholders on utility energy efficiency offerings in Illinois, and provided an opportunity for Illinois utilities and stakeholders to work together to discuss a variety of policy and technical topics and reach consensus on issues requiring resolution. Illinois utilities and stakeholders have achieved a number of successes throughout the years, including reaching consensus on a variety of Commission directives, the

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<sup>1</sup> Celia Johnson Consulting is a WBE-certified consulting firm focused on professional facilitation services.

<sup>2</sup> Inova Energy Group is a WBE-certified consulting firm operating in the energy space.

<sup>3</sup> Ameren Illinois is a dual-fuel utility.

development of and updates to the Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual, the development of a statewide Illinois Technical Reference Manual, and more.

Over the years, SAG participants have expressed interest in reducing litigation in EE Plan dockets. The first SAG Portfolio Planning Process was held in 2015-2016 to provide a consensus-seeking process to discuss draft EE Plans in advance of EE Plan filings with the Commission. A follow-up consensus process was initiated in 2017, following the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA). The second SAG Portfolio Planning Process was held in 2020, to inform the development of the 2022-2025 Illinois utility Energy Efficiency Plans. A follow-up consensus process was held with electric utilities in 2021, following the passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). In 2024, the SAG will engage in its third Portfolio Planning Process, to discuss draft 2026-2029 EE Plans with Illinois utilities and interested stakeholders.

The Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual (Policy Manual) describes this process:

*Program Administrators shall work in a cooperative and iterative manner with SAG participants to develop the next multi-year Plan. Such cooperation includes discussion of foundational issues to Plan development; including budgets, Portfolio objectives, Program ideas, and Program design. Program Administrators and SAG shall seek to develop and communicate such foundational assumptions in a manner that supports efficient and timely modeling of proposals for a comprehensive Plan. A primary purpose of these cooperative and iterative discussions is to reduce the number of non-consensus issues and litigation associated with the applicable Plan dockets.<sup>4</sup>*

The 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process (hereafter referred to as “SAG Planning Process”) will follow a similar framework to the 2020 process, the most recent iteration, concluding with final negotiations between individual utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders.<sup>5</sup> Key elements of the SAG Planning Process are described within this Project Plan.

## **II. Objective**

The objective of the SAG Planning Process is for non-financially interested parties to reach consensus on 2026-2029 individual utility EE Plans for Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas, prior to each utility filing an EE Plan with the Commission for approval by March 1, 2025.<sup>6</sup>

## **III. Disclaimer**

As described in Section 3.1 of Policy Manual Version 3.0, SAG discussions are intended to be in the nature of settlement discussions. As a matter of general agreement, written and/or oral

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<sup>4</sup> See Policy Manual Version 3.0, Section 3.9, SAG Review, iii. Draft Portfolio Outlines

<sup>5</sup> Eligibility to participate in final negotiations is addressed in the “SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy” – see Section V, Participation.

<sup>6</sup> The Illinois utilities participating in SAG are required by statute to file individual Energy Efficiency Portfolios Plans with the Illinois Commerce Commission for approval on or before March 1, 2025.

positions or statements made during SAG meetings shall not be used by any party to contradict or impeach another party's position, or prove a party's position, in a Commission proceeding.

#### IV. SAG Guiding Principles

As described in the Policy Manual:

*The SAG is an advisory body, not a decision-making body. It is a forum that allows parties to express different opinions, better understand the opinions of others, and foster collaboration and consensus, where possible and appropriate.<sup>7</sup>*

All SAG participants are encouraged to follow guiding principles to support collaborative discussion, including:

1. ***Build trust and collaboration.*** SAG meetings are intended to build trust and collaborative working relationships among participants.
2. ***Educate and inform.*** SAG meetings are intended to educate and inform participants on specific topics. Parties are encouraged to ask questions and request follow-up if additional information would be informative to the group.
3. ***Offer constructive approaches and solutions.*** Parties are encouraged to raise issues and voice concerns when they don't support specific initiatives discussed at the SAG, including offering constructive approaches and solutions where possible.
4. ***Focus on the merits.*** SAG discussions should focus on the merits of an issue, rather than assertions of prior litigation positions that have already been resolved, unless there is a compelling reason/rationale to revisit the issue.
5. ***Ensure all interests are represented.*** Participation in SAG is open to all interested participants to encourage the discussion of a broad variety of interests, unless a topic presents a financial conflict of interest.
6. ***Participate in consensus discussions in good faith.*** Topics addressed in SAG may involve consensus decision-making. SAG participants will participate in consensus discussions in good faith, by engaging in respectful dialogue and listening to differing opinions of various parties.

Additional information about SAG processes and participant roles and responsibilities can be found in the SAG Process Guidance document. SAG planning documents can be found at:

<https://www.ilsag.info/sag-planning/>

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<sup>7</sup> See Policy Manual Version 3.0, Section 3.3, Advisory Role

## V. SAG Website

The SAG website will serve as a resource during the Planning Process, with large group SAG agendas, meeting presentations and notes posted on specific meeting pages. Notes and follow-up from negotiation meetings between utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders will not be posted on the SAG website.

A dedicated Portfolio Planning Process page with information on large group SAG meetings, templates and other resources can be found at:

<https://www.ilsag.info/meetings/portfolio-planning-process/>

## VI. Participation

Participation in the majority of Large Group SAG, SAG Subcommittee, and SAG Working Group meetings is open to all interested participants, to encourage discussion by stakeholders representing a variety of interests. 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; Illinois Commerce Commission Staff; program implementation contractors; independent evaluators; the Illinois Technical Reference Manual Administrator; community-based organizations and other interested companies and organizations.

Portions of Planning Process meetings may need to be closed to financially-interested parties, as described in the policy below. Final negotiations at the conclusion of the Planning Process will be held with utilities and non-financially interested parties.

### **SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy**

**Definition:** A non-financially interested stakeholder participant does not have a financial interest in Illinois utility energy efficiency portfolios, or a financial interest with Illinois utilities. A “financially interested party” means any person or entity, or employee of an entity, that engages in the purchase, sale, marketing or implementation of energy efficiency products, services, programs, pilots or research. A “financially interested party” may also engage in other work with utilities outside of energy efficiency.

**Policy:** A financial conflict of interest may be present when a SAG participant, in the judgment of the SAG Facilitator, may have a financial stake in a SAG discussion topic and participation by the financially interested party could have adverse consequences, such as hindering complete and frank discussions, or the participant may gain an undue advantage or benefit by participating. SAG participants that may have a financial conflict of interest in specific meetings topics must recuse themselves from participating in those meetings or portions of those meetings for relevant topics. Notwithstanding this restriction, the designated agent(s) of a participating utility shall not

be considered to have a financial conflict of interest for purposes of participating in SAG discussions.<sup>8</sup> Conflicts may change from time to time.

Topics that may present a financial conflict of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Discussion of proprietary and/or confidential information (e.g., current and prospective program implementers, contractors, and product representatives);
2. Current and past program performance (e.g., current program implementers and contractors);
3. Future bids (any company or organization that participates in review of a future bid package, evaluation criteria/score card and/or bid responses will not be eligible to submit a bid response);
4. Evaluation contractor performance (e.g., current and prospective independent evaluation contractors);
5. Final consensus to resolve policy issues, including but not limited to final negotiations in the Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual update process; and
6. All negotiations on portfolio planning for utility Energy Efficiency Plans.

Prior to the discussion of confidential topic(s), SAG participants may be asked by a utility or utilities to sign a non-disclosure, or confidentiality agreement.

## **VII. Coordination with Illinois Technical Reference Manual Administrator**

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings address annual updates to the Illinois Technical Reference Manual (IL-TRM). IL-TRM TAC meetings are facilitated by the independent Illinois TRM Administrator, VEIC. SAG participants will be briefed on topics covered in the TAC, as needed. The SAG Facilitator coordinates with the IL-TRM Administrator and participates in TAC meetings, as needed. During the annual IL-TRM update process, IL-TRM deliverables are posted on the SAG website and circulated to SAG. In 2024, the IL-TRM Version 13.0 update process is anticipated to conclude by October 1.

## **VIII. Coordination with Income Qualified EE Advisory Committees**

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act included requirements for a Low Income Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (LIEEAC). There is one LIEEAC Committee in Ameren Illinois' service territory (Income Qualified South EE Advisory Committee) and one LIEEAC Committee in northern Illinois, in the ComEd service territory (Income Qualified North EE Advisory Committee). The LIEEAC is separate from SAG.

The SAG Facilitator will coordinate with the IQ North EE Committee and IQ South EE Committee, through either their individual facilitator or Leadership Team, as applicable, to discuss how to include interested IQ North and IQ South EE Committee participants in the SAG Planning Process. The purpose of this coordination is to ensure that community-based

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<sup>8</sup> Objections to individual or company participation in a discussion that has been identified by the SAG Facilitator as presenting a financial conflict of interest will be further addressed by interested utility and stakeholder attorneys, on an as-needed basis.

organizations and other stakeholders that do not traditionally engage at SAG meetings have an opportunity to provide feedback to Illinois utilities as they develop their individual 2026-2029 EE Plans.

## **IX. Energy Efficiency Ideas Process**

The SAG Planning Process will include an opportunity for interested SAG participants to share feedback and ideas for utilities to consider as they develop their 2026-2029 EE Plans. This is referred to as the “Energy Efficiency Ideas” process.

Interested SAG participants are invited to propose Energy Efficiency Ideas as part of the SAG Planning Process, including:

1. Feedback on current portfolios, focused on suggested changes for the 2026-2029 EE Plans and / or
2. Energy efficiency ideas for utility consideration, such as program approaches or new measures that have been successfully implemented in another jurisdictions

SAG participants are encouraged to work together to submit joint ideas, and to focus on the highest priority ideas when making a submission. If an EE Idea involves a measure that should be included in the IL-TRM, stakeholders will be encouraged to also submit the measure suggestion and workpaper through the 2024 IL-TRM update process.

**EE Ideas Submittal Deadline:** Friday, March 15, 2024

SAG participants are expected to make a good faith effort to fill out as much information as possible in the template by the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. The SAG Facilitator may follow-up and request additional information after templates are submitted. Templates submitted after the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline may not be considered due to time constraints.

Following the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, the SAG Facilitator will organize EE Idea submittals, post on the SAG website, and circulate to the large group SAG distribution list and the SAG Steering Committee. In early April, the SAG Steering Committee will review submitted ideas to discuss 1) if there are any questions or clarifications needed on submittals and 2) if a utility has already implemented the idea submitted.

Energy Efficiency Ideas will be presented to the Large Group SAG in April. Utilities will respond to feedback and ideas in May Large Group SAG meetings.

## **X. SAG Planning Process Negotiations**

The SAG Planning Process will conclude with final negotiations between individual utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders, in a process to take place from September 2024 to January 2025. Individual utilities may require the execution of non-disclosure or confidentiality agreements with negotiating stakeholders prior to participating in negotiation meetings.

Negotiations are anticipated to conclude with the execution of individual utility stipulated agreements. If a stipulated agreement is executed between a utility and negotiating stakeholders at the conclusion of the Planning Process, that agreement will be filed with the EE Plan submitted to the Commission for approval.

The SAG Facilitator will organize negotiation meetings, with facilitated mediation as needed. In addition, the SAG Facilitator will be responsible for tracking issues and follow-up to support negotiation discussions.

## **XI. SAG Meetings**

SAG meetings that will take place during the Planning Process include:

- Section A: Recurring SAG Activities
- Section B: Large Group SAG Meetings
- Section C: SAG Subcommittee Meetings
- Section D: SAG Working Group Meetings

A 2024 SAG Schedule Flowchart is posted on the [SAG Portfolio Planning Process website](#), and will be updated and shared with SAG as-needed.

### **A. Recurring SAG Activities**

There are a number of topics that require recurring discussion in the SAG, as referenced in the Policy Manual. For 2024, the SAG Facilitator will organize the following SAG activities related to recurring topics:

1. Quarterly Reports: Typically, quarterly utility report-outs are scheduled twice per year. Since 2024 will focus on the Planning Process, there will only be one utility report-out (February). Utility quarterly reports will be filed with the Commission, posted to the SAG website, and circulated to SAG participants by email.
2. Annual Reports: Typically, an annual utility report-out is scheduled following the end of each program year (combined with a quarterly report-out). Since 2024 will focus on the Planning Process, there will be one report-out (February). Annual reports will be filed with the Commission and posted to the SAG website.
3. IL-TRM Update Process: IL-TRM deliverables will be circulated to SAG and posted on the SAG website. Other information related to the IL-TRM will be circulated to SAG, if requested by the IL-TRM Administrator. The SAG Facilitator will participate in IL-TRM meetings, as needed.
4. Evaluation Work Plans: SAG meeting(s) are scheduled on an annual basis for evaluators to present an overview of draft EM&V work plans for the upcoming year. The annual SAG evaluation work plan meetings will be held in December 2024. 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: SAG meeting(s) to discuss annual updates to Net-to-Gross (NTG) values will take place in September 2024. Independent evaluators share initial NTG recommendations by September 1, 2024 with final values determined by October 1, 2024. 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: Discussions regarding gas utility Adjustable Savings Goals for the 2024 program year will be scheduled if needed. At a minimum, draft Adjustable Savings Goal spreadsheets for gas utilities will be circulated to interested stakeholders for review. The 2024 update to gas utility Adjustable Savings Goals will also be posted on the SAG website.<sup>9</sup>
8. Updates to the Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual: Policy Manual Subcommittee meetings are held on an as-needed basis. The Policy Manual and IL-TRM Policy Document were updated by the Policy Manual Subcommittee from June 2022 to fall 2023, and approved by the Commission in December 2023. The Policy Manual Subcommittee will not be convened in 2024.

## **B. Large Group SAG Meetings**

The SAG Portfolio Planning Process will kick-off in January 2024. Monthly large group SAG meetings will be held through October 2024. The majority of large group SAG meetings will be held by teleconference. Meetings will be closed to negotiating parties for final negotiations beginning in Fall 2024.

The large group SAG meeting schedule is described further below. The schedule is subject to change if a conflict arises. Schedule changes will be communicated to the large group SAG distribution list.

### **Large Group SAG Schedule**

#### **January 2024**

- **Wed. January 17 (teleconference)**: Planning Process Kick-Off Part 1: SAG Facilitator presents overview of 2024 SAG Plan; introduction to “EE Ideas” opportunity

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<sup>9</sup> See Adjustable Savings Goals policy for gas utilities: [http://www.ilsag.info/adjustable\\_savings\\_goals.html](http://www.ilsag.info/adjustable_savings_goals.html)



## February 2024

- **Tues. February 13 and Wed. February 14 (teleconferences):** Kick-off Part 2: Utilities (Ameren IL, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas) present overview of current EE programs and considerations for 2026-2029 EE Plans
- **Wed. February 21 (teleconference):** Utilities (Ameren IL, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas) present overview of Income Eligible / Income Qualified EE Programs
- **Thurs. February 1 SAG Participant Deliverable:** Comments due on 2024 SAG Plan; Survey responses due
- **Wed. February 7 SAG Facilitator Deliverable:** SAG Facilitator to finalize 2024 SAG Plan

## March 2024

- **Tues. March 5 (teleconference):**
  - a. Address follow-up questions from February meetings, if needed
  - b. Discuss leveraging other EE opportunities
    - i. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency update on Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) federal opportunities
    - ii. National Consumer Law Center IRA Rebate Program Design and Consumer Protection Recommendations
  - c. SAG Facilitator process reminder – eligibility to participate in final EE Plan negotiations; reminder on EE Ideas March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline
- **Friday, March 15 SAG Participant Deliverables:** Energy Efficiency Idea submittals due

## April 2024

- **Friday, April 5 SAG Participant Deliverable:** Eligible stakeholders who want to participate in final EE Plan negotiations to notify SAG Facilitator
- **Tues. April 9 and Wed. April 10 (teleconferences):** Stakeholders present Energy Efficiency Idea submittal(s)
- **Tues. April 16 and Wed. April 17 (teleconferences):** Stakeholders present Energy Efficiency Idea submittal(s)

## May 2024

- **Tues. May 14 and Wed. May 15 (teleconferences):** Utilities (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas) present responses to stakeholder Energy Efficiency Idea submittals

## June 2024

- **Wed. June 12 (teleconference):**
  - a. Utilities (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas) present Total Resource Cost Test Non-Measure Level Inputs (e.g. carbon adder, benefits adder, etc.) including proposed changes to inputs for 2026-2029 EE Plans
  - b. Discuss EE financing mechanisms
- **Wed. June 26 SAG Participant Deliverable:**
  - a. Feedback on Non-Measure Level Inputs due

## July 2024

- **Wed. July 17 (teleconference):**
  - a. Discuss feedback on Non-Measure Level Inputs
  - b. Additional topic(s) TBD

## August 2024

- **Tues. August 13 and Wed. August 14 (teleconferences):**
  - a. Ameren Illinois, ComEd and Nicor Gas Draft Potential Study Results Presentation
  - b. Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Draft Potential Study Results Presentation
- **Fri. August 16 Negotiating Stakeholder Deliverable:** Negotiating stakeholders share initial EE Plan requests with utilities; utilities review requests while preparing draft EE Plans
- **Fri. August 16 Utility Deliverable:** Individual utilities (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas) share confidentiality agreements w/ negotiating stakeholders for signatures

## September 2024

- **\*Annual SAG Topic\* September Net-to-Gross (NTG) Meetings (teleconferences):**  
To discuss evaluator NTG recommendations and reach consensus on NTG ratios for the program year beginning Jan. 1, 2024. Meetings will be held on:
  - a. Wed. September 4
  - b. Wed. September 11
  - c. Wed. September 18
  - d. Wed. September 25
- **Mon. September 6 Negotiating Parties Deliverable:** Final signatures due for confidentiality agreements between individual utilities and negotiating stakeholders
- **Tues. September 10 and Wed. September 11 (teleconferences):** Ameren Illinois and Nicor Gas present individual draft 2026-2029 EE Portfolio Plans
- **Fri. September 13 Deliverable:** Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas share individual utility "batch files" with negotiating stakeholders
- **Tues. September 17 Stakeholder Deliverable:** Stakeholders interested in presenting feedback on Draft Ameren Illinois and Nicor Gas EE Portfolio Plans at Oct. 1-2 meetings to notify SAG Facilitator

## October 2024

- **Tues. October 1 and Wed. October 2 (teleconferences):** Interested stakeholders present initial feedback on Draft Ameren Illinois and Nicor Gas EE Portfolio Plans
- **Tues. October 8 and Wednesday October 9 (teleconferences):** ComEd, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas present individual draft 2026-2029 EE Portfolio Plans
- **Fri. October 14 Deliverable:** ComEd, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas share individual utility "batch files" with negotiating stakeholders
- **Tues. October 15 Stakeholder Deliverable:** Stakeholders interested in presenting feedback on Draft ComEd, and/or Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas EE Portfolio Plans at Oct. 29-30 meetings to notify SAG Facilitator

## November 2024

- No large group SAG planning process meetings
- Final negotiation meetings continue

## December 2024

- **\*Annual SAG Topic\* Tues. December 3 and Wed. December 4 (teleconference meetings):** Evaluators present draft EM&V Work Plans for program year 2025
- Final negotiation meetings continue
- **Fri. Dec. 20 Negotiating Parties Deliverable:** Finalize Negotiations and Stipulated Agreements with Ameren IL and Nicor Gas

## January 2025

- No large group SAG planning process meetings
- Final negotiation meetings continue
- **Fri. Jan. 31 Negotiating Parties Deliverable:** Finalize Negotiations and Stipulated Agreements with ComEd, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas
- **\*Annual SAG Topic\*** SAG Facilitator to present 2025 SAG Plan for feedback (date TBD)

## February 2025

- No large group SAG planning process meetings

## March 2025

- No large group SAG planning process meetings
- Statutory deadline – March 1, 2025, individual utilities file 2026-2029 EE Plans with the Commission for approval

### C. SAG Subcommittee Meetings

SAG Subcommittees are established as needed for issue-specific topics based on ICC directives, Policy Manual requirements, and stipulated agreements. Participation in SAG Subcommittees is open to all SAG participants, unless a topic involves a financial conflict of interest.

In 2024, there are two (2) Subcommittee that will be convened by the SAG Facilitator:

1. Equity Subcommittee
2. Network Lighting Controls Subcommittee

A brief description of each Subcommittee is below, including planned topics for 2024.

### **SAG Equity Subcommittee**

Website: <https://www.ilsag.info/meetings/subcommittees/equity-subcommittee/>

#### **Purpose:**

To support equity in energy efficiency portfolios, as referenced in 2022-2025 EE Plan Stipulated Agreements. SAG Equity Subcommittee meetings will be held jointly with the Income Qualified (IQ) North EE Committee and IQ South EE Committee. Meetings will include an opportunity for

SAG and IQ EE Committee participants to coordinate on discussion of energy efficiency efforts related to equity.

**Background:**

Several of the 2022-2025 EE Plan Stipulated Agreements between individual utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders reference discussing a variety of topics related to equity, diverse contractor hiring, and progress on the utilities’ Market Development Initiatives in a new SAG Subcommittee. The first meeting of the Equity Subcommittee was held in June 2022. Meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

**2024 Meetings:**

- **Q1 (Wednesday, March 13):**
  - Ameren Illinois Market Development Initiative Assessment (JPI Group presentation)
  - SEEL presentation on DCEO grant opportunities
  - Nicor Gas Market Development Initiative Update
- **Q3 (Wednesday, July 24):**
  - ComEd Market Development Initiative Update – Phase 2
  - Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas Market Development Initiative Update
  - IQ North EE Committee update (tentative)
  - IQ South EE Committee update (tentative)

**SAG Network Lighting Controls Subcommittee**

Website: <https://www.ilsag.info/meetings/subcommittees/network-lighting-controls-subcommittee/>

**Purpose:**

To discuss measures associated with network lighting controls with Ameren Illinois, ComEd and interested stakeholders, including strategies for accelerating adoption of networked lighting controls, luminaire level lighting controls, and other related measures.

**Background:**

The 2022-2025 EE Plan Stipulated Agreements between Ameren Illinois, ComEd and non-financially interested stakeholders referenced creating a new Subcommittee to discuss updates on the measures associated with network lighting controls.

**2024 Meetings:**

- **Wednesday, April 24:** Ameren Illinois and ComEd present updates on network lighting control progress in 2023. Provide an opportunity for Subcommittee participants to share feedback on network lighting control measures for the utilities’ 2026-2029 EE Plans.

**D. Working Group Meetings**

SAG Working Group meetings are established to discuss short-term issues that need resolution. Participation in SAG Working Groups is open to all SAG participants, unless a topic involves a financial conflict of interest.

In 2024, there are three (3) Working Groups that will be convened by the SAG Facilitator:

1. Market Transformation Savings Working Group
2. Non-Energy Impacts Working Group
3. Reporting Working Group

A brief description of each Working Group is below, including planned topics for 2024.

### **Market Transformation Savings Working Group**

Website: [https://www.ilsag.info/mt\\_savings\\_working\\_group/](https://www.ilsag.info/mt_savings_working_group/)

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the SAG Market Transformation Savings Working Group (MT Savings Working Group) is:

1. To provide a forum to discuss policy issues related to market transformation (MT) savings evaluation and estimation
2. To provide an opportunity to review specific MT initiatives and the data/approach proposed to be used to develop savings, including but not limited to:
  1. Logic Models
  2. Savings/unit
  3. Total market unit data collection
  4. Natural market baseline data and projections
  5. Service territory accounting
  6. Market progress indicators
  7. The duration of any MT savings credit
3. To discuss evaluation questions related to MT initiatives; and
4. To discuss, and if possible, reach consensus on savings protocols for MT initiatives that may be included in the IL-TRM

#### **Background:**

Market transformation programs were administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity from 2008 – 2017. Per the Future Energy Jobs Act, the administration of these programs shifted to the utilities on June 1, 2017. The MT Savings Working Group was created in early 2019. In 2019, the MT Savings Working Group reached agreement on a “Framework for Counting Market Transformation Savings in Illinois”, which was included in IL-TRM Version 8.0. Since the development of the framework, the MT Savings Working Group meets on an as-needed basis to address Illinois-specific market transformation topics as described in the purpose section above.

#### **2024 Meetings:**

- Q1 (Wednesday, February 28):
  - SAG Facilitator Reminder: Any suggestions related to MT in the next utility EE Plans (2026-2029) need to be submitted through the large group SAG
  - Brief Status update on MT initiatives from Illinois utilities
  - Stretch Codes and Building Performance Standards: Natural Market Baseline and Program Logic Models (Slipstream and MEEA)
  - Gas Heat Pumps Update (Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas)

- Q2 (Wednesday, May 8):
  - High Performance Windows Update (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas)
  - Efficient Rooftop Units Update (Nicor Gas)
  - Retail Products Platform 2023 evaluation results (ComEd)
- Q3 (Wednesday, July 10):
  - Luminaire Level Lighting Controls Update (Ameren Illinois)
  - Secondary Glazing System Update (ComEd, Nicor Gas)

### **Non-Energy Impacts Working Group**

Website: <https://www.ilsag.info/nei-working-group/>

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Non-Energy Impacts Working Group (NEI Working Group) is to discuss draft research results from Illinois NEI studies as well as defensible methodologies to use across the state related to calculating non-energy impacts.

#### **Background:**

Non-Energy Impacts (NEIs, also referred to as Non-Energy Benefits or NEBs) include effects from energy efficiency programs or measures, beyond energy savings. Impacts can be either positive or negative. Positive impact examples include increased comfort in participating customer homes, improving indoor air quality, and water savings. An example of a negative impact is increased maintenance requirements to keep equipment operating efficiently. The NEI Working Group was created in 2018 to discuss NEI research plans and draft research results from Illinois NEI studies, as well as defensible methodologies to use across the state related to calculating non-energy impacts. Since 2020, a limited number of meetings have been held to discuss progress updates on NEI studies, as needed.

#### **2024 Meeting:**

- March (Date TBD): ComEd’s evaluator (Guidehouse) to present income qualified participant non-energy impact (NEI) research results

### **Reporting Working Group**

Website: <https://www.ilsag.info/reporting-working-group/>

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the SAG Reporting Working Group Metrics Process in fall 2023 and early 2024 is for Illinois utilities and interested stakeholders to reach consensus on specific reporting metrics to address the new reporting principles added to Policy Manual Version 3.0, including:

- Income Qualified Multi-Family Reporting Principles
- Income Qualified Health and Safety Reporting Principles
- Equity and Affordability Reporting Principles
- Diverse Contracting Reporting Principles

#### **Background:**

Illinois utilities prepare quarterly and annual reports on EE portfolio progress. Quarterly and annual reports are filed with the ICC, posted on the [Utility Reports page](#) of the SAG website, and

circulated to SAG. Illinois utilities typically report-out to the large group SAG twice per year on EE portfolio progress. There is a lengthy list of quarterly and annual reporting requirements included in the Policy Manual, and reporting is also referenced in 2022-2025 EE Plan [stipulated agreements](#). The SAG engaged in a year-long process through the Policy Manual Subcommittee to update the Policy Manual and IL-TRM Policy Document. The updated Policy Manual included four new “reporting principle” policies. The SAG Reporting Working Group meets on an as-needed basis to discuss utility reporting. The SAG Reporting Working Group is meeting in early 2024 to finalize metrics for the new policies, as described in the “Purpose” above. The SAG Reporting Working Group meets on an as-needed basis to discuss utility reporting.

**2024 Meetings:**

- **January 16 Meeting:** Discuss feedback received on Health and Safety Metrics, Equity/Affordability Metrics, and Diverse Contracting Metrics
- **January 23 Meeting:** Follow-up on open items from the December 19<sup>th</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup> Reporting Working Group meetings
- **February 7 Meeting:** Finalize open reporting metrics

**XII. SAG Facilitator Deliverables**

SAG Facilitator deliverables are described in Table 1 below. Additional tasks may be identified throughout the Planning Process, as time and resources permit.

<b>Table 1: SAG Facilitator Deliverables</b>			
<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Review and Approval</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
1	Finalize 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Project Plan and schedule	Present overview of 2024 activities to SAG; circulate final draft Project Plan for review and comment by interested SAG participants	Draft circulated by January 17; comments due by February 1; final version completed by March 5
2	Outreach to potential Planning Process participants, including prior EE Plan docket intervenors, to provide notice of SAG Portfolio Planning Process	N/A	During Q1 2024 – completed by end of March
4	Finalize Planning Process EE Ideas template. Stakeholder feedback and ideas are due by March 15, 2024, and will be presented during the April SAG meetings.	Develop with feedback from utilities and the SAG Steering Committee	By February 7, 2024
5	Organize and facilitate regular meetings with utility planners, approximately one (1) month prior to each large group SAG meeting.	N/A	Monthly or as needed, beginning in March 2024

<b>Table 1: SAG Facilitator Deliverables</b>			
<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Review and Approval</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
7	Finalize Portfolio Plan templates (to inform the fall 2024 SAG meetings where utilities will present draft 2026-2029 EE Plan Portfolios)	Develop with feedback from utilities and the SAG Steering Committee	By August 1, 2024
8	Facilitate the circulation of individual utility non-disclosure or confidentiality agreements to non-financially interested stakeholders participating in final negotiations	N/A	Confidentiality Agreements circulated by August 16, 2024; finalized by September 6, 2024
9	Facilitate the circulation of confidential 2026-2029 EE Plan Portfolio utility batch files to non-financially interested stakeholders	N/A	By September 13, 2024 for Ameren IL and Nicor Gas; by October 11, 2024 for ComEd, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas
10	Develop a final negotiation plan and schedule for September 2024 – January 2025	Develop with feedback from utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders participating in negotiations	Draft developed by end of Q1 (March 31, 2024); final by end of Q2 (June 30, 2024)