

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, modern aesthetic. The text is centered on a white background within this design.

# Introduction to February 2024 SAG Meetings

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

# Agenda

- ▶ Guidelines for Collaborative and Inclusive Participation
- ▶ Brief Overview of 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process
- ▶ Purpose of February SAG Meetings
- ▶ SAG Reminders
- ▶ Opportunity to Submit Energy Efficiency Ideas
- ▶ Negotiations

# Guidelines for Collaborative and Inclusive Participation

1. Give presenters your time and attention
2. Provide space for all participants to speak up
3. Be patient when others speak; avoid interrupting
4. Avoid using acronyms or phrases that may not be understood
5. Focus comments / questions on today's agenda - anything raised outside of the meeting agenda will be tabled

## Options to participate:

- ❖ Speak up or raise your hand with a comment or question - state your name and organization
- ❖ Share a comment or question in the chat

If time runs short, questions will be captured for follow-up

# 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process

## ▶ In 2024, SAG will focus on the Portfolio Planning Process

- ❖ This is a consensus-seeking process to discuss foundational issues to EE Portfolio Plan development with IL utilities
  - Utilities are responsible for planning, developing and implementing EE portfolios
  - Utilities are working on EE Plans for the next 4-year cycle -> 2026-2029
  - Each utility is required by statute to file a 2026-2029 EE Plan with the ICC for approval by March 1, 2025
- ❖ SAG Planning Process occurs once every 4 years
  - SAG has an advisory role, including an opportunity for participants to share feedback and ideas with IL utilities
- ❖ Large Group SAG meetings will focus on Planning Process
  - SAG Subcommittee and SAG Working Groups will focus on current EE portfolio topics that need discussion
- ❖ Dedicated page on SAG website: <https://www.ilsag.info/meetings/portfolio-planning-process/>

# Policy Manual Describes the Planning Process

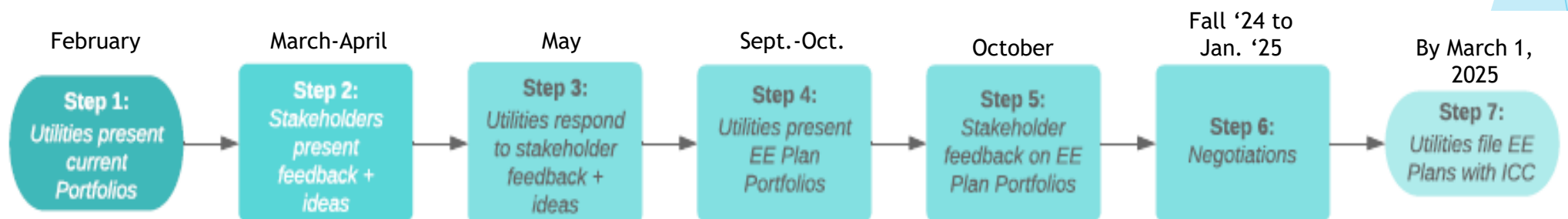
*Program Administrators shall work in a cooperative and iterative manner with SAG participants to develop the next multi-year Plan. Such cooperation includes discussion of foundational issues to Plan development; including budgets, Portfolio objectives, Program ideas, and Program design. Program Administrators 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.***

See Section 3.9, SAG Review, Draft Portfolio Outlines:

[Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual Version 3.0 \(Final\)](#)

# Planning Process Timeline

- ▶ **January to October 2024:** Monthly Large Group SAG meetings
- ▶ **October 2024 to January 2025:** Negotiation meetings with individual utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders
- ▶ **By January 31, 2025:** Finalize negotiations and 2026-2029 EE Plan stipulations
- ▶ **By March 1, 2025:** IL utilities file individual 2026-2029 EE Plans with the ICC for approval
- **2024 Schedule:** [2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Schedule Flowchart \(Final – updated 2/13/2024\)](#)



# February SAG Meetings

- ▶ To kick-off the SAG Planning Process with a common understanding of current EE Portfolios, and considerations for the utilities' development of 2026-2029 EE Plans
  - ❖ Utility presentations will also help inform the opportunity for SAG participants to submit “Energy Efficiency Ideas”
- ▶ Kick-off utility presentations:
  - ❖ Tuesday, February 13
    - ❖ ComEd EE Portfolio Presentation
    - ❖ Nicor Gas EE Portfolio Presentation
  - ❖ Wednesday, February 14
    - ❖ Ameren Illinois EE Portfolio Presentation
    - ❖ Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas EE Portfolio Presentation
  - ❖ Wednesday, February 21
    - ❖ All utilities present overview of Income Eligible/Income Qualified EE Programs

# Policy Manual References

**SAG Advisory Role:** *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.*

**SAG Disclaimer:** *Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) discussions are intended to be in the nature of settlement discussions. As a matter of general agreement, written and/or oral 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.*

See Section 3.3, Advisory Role and Section 3.1, Disclaimer:

[Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual Version 3.0 \(Final\)](#)



# SAG Guiding Principles

Guiding principles to support collaborative discussion:

**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.

# SAG Guiding Principles (cont.)

**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.

# Energy Efficiency Ideas

- ▶ **Opportunity for interested SAG participants to submit:**
  1. Feedback on current EE portfolios, suggesting 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 jurisdiction
  
- ▶ **Deadline for [EE Idea Submittals](#) - Friday, March 15, 2024**
  - ❖ This is not a formal RFP process
  - ❖ EE Ideas will be presented to SAG in April
  - ❖ IL utilities will respond to EE ideas at SAG in May
  
- ▶ **SAG participants encouraged to:**
  1. Focus on the highest priority EE ideas
  2. Work together to submit joint EE ideas, when possible
  3. Review the latest [utility EE reports](#) and participate in February SAG meetings to avoid proposing an EE idea already offered by a utility

# Energy Efficiency Ideas (cont.)

## ▶ Submitting EE Ideas:

- ❖ [Use the Electronic EE Ideas Template](#)
- ❖ Participants may use the [EE Ideas Word template](#) to collaborate on EE Idea submittals

## ▶ Coordination on EE Ideas:

- ❖ Several participants submitted initial EE Idea topics to SAG through an optional survey (due February 1)
- ❖ Purpose of survey - to identify topics of mutual interest and encourage joint submittals
  - ❖ [Click here to view survey results](#)
  - ❖ Please reach out to the contact listed in the spreadsheet if you are interested in jointly submitting one of the ideas listed

# Energy Efficiency Ideas (cont.)

## ▶ Additional Guidance on EE Idea Submittals

- ❖ Focus on ideas utilities should consider as they develop 2026-2029 EE Plans
- ❖ Proposed ideas may be challenging to evaluate without enough information - please submit fully developed ideas and make a good faith effort to fill out as much information as possible in the template
  - See Policy Manual Section 3.10, Proposal Support:
    - *SAG participants that propose to discuss a policy change, Program design, or other topic relevant for discussion at SAG shall demonstrate fact-based support of their recommendation prior to discussion at SAG. Support includes, but is not limited to, background, research, and data analysis.*
- ❖ Compromise and understanding will be needed to reach consensus - it is likely that not all EE Ideas can be incorporated into the utilities' 2026-2029 EE Plans

# Energy Efficiency Ideas (cont.)

- ▶ **How does the EE Ideas process interact with the annual IL Technical Reference Manual (TRM) update?**
  - ❖ If your EE Idea involves a new measure, or a change to an existing measure, please also submit a measure request to the IL-TRM Administrator (VEIC)
  - ❖ Information on how to submit IL-TRM measure requests will be shared with SAG soon
  - ❖ Contact [iltrmadministrator@veic.org](mailto:iltrmadministrator@veic.org) to be added to the IL-TRM distribution list

# Negotiations

- ▶ Negotiations on 2026-2029 EE Plans will take place at the end of the process - October 2024 to January 2025
  - ❖ Negotiations will be held between individual utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders, organized by the SAG Facilitator
    - The final SAG Conflict of Interest Policy will be presented at the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - ❖ A utility may require negotiating stakeholders to sign a Non-Disclosure / Confidentiality Agreement
  - ❖ Goal is to finalize a stipulated agreement with each utility, summarizing agreement on the utility's EE Plan
  - ❖ Compromise and understanding by all parties will be needed to reach consensus

# Contact Information

- ▶ **SAG Facilitator - Celia Johnson ([Celia Johnson Consulting](#))**
  - ❖ *Email:* [celia@celiajohnsonconsulting.com](mailto:celia@celiajohnsonconsulting.com)
  - ❖ *Phone:* (312) 659-6758
  - ❖ *SAG Website:* [www.ILSAG.info](http://www.ILSAG.info)
  
- ▶ **Reminder - EE Idea submittals due Friday, March 15**