

SAG Portfolio Planning Process Update

March 5, 2024 Large Group SAG Meeting

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator

Agenda

- ▶ 2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Reminder
- ▶ Opportunity to Submit Energy Efficiency Ideas
- ▶ Final Conflict of Interest Policy
- ▶ Upcoming Deadlines
- ▶ Contact Information

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/>
- ❖ **2024 Schedule:** [2024 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Schedule Flowchart \(Final – updated 2/20/2024\)](#)

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 [Feb. 13](#), [Feb. 14](#), and [Feb. 21](#) SAG meeting materials 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](#)
 - ❖ 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

- ❖ 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)
 - ❖ Submit 2024 TRM update ideas on the TRM SharePoint site: [Illinois Statewide TRM - TRM Request Tracker - Version 12.0 Open \(veic.org\)](#)
 - Submit TRM tracker ideas **no later than Wednesday, March 20**
 - Contact iltrmadministrator@veic.org to be added to the IL-TRM distribution list, or if you need access to SharePoint

Energy Efficiency Ideas (cont.)

▶ After the March 15th deadline:

- ❖ Week of March 18th: I will meet with EE Idea submitters to prepare for April SAG presentations
- ❖ April 1st: SAG Steering Committee will meet to review ideas - purpose is to identify questions or initial feedback
- ❖ April: Ideas will be presented to SAG
 - Tues. April 9 and Wed. April 10
 - Tues. April 16 and Wed. April 17
 - April SAG agendas will be organized by idea category, if possible
- ❖ May: Utilities will respond to EE Idea submittals at SAG
 - Tues. May 14 and Wed. May 15

SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy

- ▶ Majority of SAG meetings are open to all interested parties, to encourage discussion by stakeholders representing a variety of interests
 - ❖ There are limited situations where SAG participation needs to be closed to utilities and non-financially interested parties only - when a topic or process presents a financial conflict of interest
 - ❖ In those situations, participation by a financially interested party could have adverse consequences, such as:
 1. Hindering complete and frank discussions, and / or
 2. A participant may gain an undue advantage or benefit by participating
 - ❖ Non-financially interested party = a company or organization that does not receive funding from an Illinois utility (for EE or other work)
 - ❖ Financially interested party = a company or organization that receives funding from an Illinois utility

SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy (cont.)

- ▶ Examples of conflict situations:
 - ❖ Discussing confidential or proprietary information
 - ❖ Reviewing and discussing a draft Request for Proposals
 - ❖ Discussing a vendor performance issue
 - ❖ Negotiating a final EE policy
 - ❖ EE Plan negotiations with individual utilities
- ▶ SAG “Financial Conflict of Interest Policy” is in the SAG Process Guidance Document, and referenced in annual SAG Plans
 - ❖ SAG Facilitator identifies conflict situations before a meeting or process
 - ❖ Participants who have a financial interest are asked to recuse themselves from participating

SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy (cont.)

- ▶ At the January 17th Large Group SAG meeting, feedback was requested on an updated conflicts policy that would allow community-based organizations who receive smaller amounts of funding to participate in “non-financially interested party” meetings
- ▶ I received feedback from several stakeholders that changing the policy would be inconsistent with past Commission rulings on conflicts of interest
- ▶ The SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy will not be changed - when a SAG meeting or process involves a conflict, **only utilities and non-financially interested parties are eligible to participate**
 - [SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy - 2024 Update \(redline final\)](#)
 - [SAG Financial Conflict of Interest Policy - 2024 Update \(clean final\)](#)

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
 - ❖ A utility may require negotiating stakeholders to sign a Non-Disclosure / Confidentiality Agreement
 - ❖ Significant time commitment to participate in negotiations
 - ❖ 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
- ▶ **Friday, April 5 Deadline:** Eligible stakeholders who want to participate in EE Plan negotiations will notify SAG Facilitator

Upcoming Deadlines

- ▶ **Friday, March 15:** Energy Efficiency Idea Submittals Due
- ▶ **Friday, April 5:** Eligible stakeholders who want to participate in EE Plan negotiations will notify SAG Facilitator

Contact Information

- ▶ **SAG Facilitator - Celia Johnson ([Celia Johnson Consulting](#))**
 - ❖ *Email:* celia@celiajohnsonconsulting.com
 - ❖ *Phone:* (312) 659-6758
 - ❖ *SAG Website:* www.ILSAG.info
- ▶ Please reach out with any questions, or to schedule a meeting to discuss the SAG Planning Process