



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources

Energy Efficiency Workforce Advisory Committee

Winter Meeting – February 3, 2026

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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Recap Fall 2025 Meeting
- Review and Refine Advisory Committee Goals
- Break
- DOER Updates
- Opportunity for Public Input
- Meeting Wrap Up, Meeting Schedule, Adjournment



Introductions

- Maine Department of Energy Resources Staff
- Advisory Committee Facilitator
- Energy Efficiency Workforce Advisory Committee Members

Please share your name, organization, and role





Fall 2025 Meeting Recap

- Reviewed the results of a survey and interviews with Advisory Committee members that were conducted over the summer
- Facilitated discussion on initial feedback on the results
- Divided into breakout groups to discuss the current energy efficiency workforce landscape and brainstorm goals
- Reconvened larger group to discuss breakout group focus areas and desired outcomes for future meetings



Fall 2025 Meeting Themes

- Rising costs for equipment, inputs, and materials
- Student needs, with a focus on more opportunities for hands-on learning
- Barriers faced by individuals seeking access to workforce training
- Industry standards for heat pump installation, particularly in the residential sector



Review and Refine Advisory Committee Goals



Proposed Goals & Discussion

- **There were four broad goals identified during the last meeting as potential next steps:**
 - Support energy efficiency literacy to drive sales for the whole sector
 - Focus on exposure to trade careers during early education
 - Explore support models that improve access to external workforce programs
 - Continue to elevate industry standards for heat pump installers

Discussion

- Which of these would you prioritize?
- Which of these can be addressed by the Committee in the next year?



Potential Focus Areas



Develop industry standards "Roadmap"

- Establish target outcomes including technology focus
- Identify key stakeholders and target audiences
- Define pathways to get to target outcomes



Strengthen existing and new workforce programs

- Increase awareness of and access to existing programs
- Co-design new training programs and events



Improve energy efficiency literacy

- Communication of costs and benefits
- Consistent messaging across key stakeholders and channels



Next Steps

Next steps for the Advisory Committee?

Next steps for Maine DOER?



Break

**We will resume in
approximately 5 minutes**



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DOER Updates



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Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC)

- Total award is \$1.3M over two years with \$650k available in the first year
- DOER released a Request for Applications (RFA) in July 2025 for programs that advance workforce development and training in the residential energy efficiency sector
- Proposals were due in September 2025
- Announcement made in January 2026



TREC Awardees

- **Association of Energy Services Professionals (AESP)**

- Provide training and industry certifications for new and incumbent workers through a combination of a virtual statewide Learning Management System, eight statewide webinars, and six in-person hands-on training sessions.

- **Maine Community College System (MCCS)**

- Expand the pipeline of HVAC technicians through career exploration, pre-apprenticeship, and short-term workforce training. MCCS will also offer heat pump installation training for existing HVAC professionals. Programming will be offered at four community colleges across the state (EMCC, CMCC, WCCC, and NMCC).

- **Maine Labor Climate Council (MLCC)**

- MLCC and affiliated unions and registered apprenticeship programs will collaborate with the United Technologies Center-Region 4, Union Construction Academy of Maine pre-apprenticeship, and the Penobscot Nation to train new HVAC technicians. The unions will also provide upskilling for incumbent workers including HVAC technicians, HVAC contractors, home performance contractors, electricians, and plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, and other building trades professionals.





LD 1967 Overview

Resolve, to Design a Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Pilot Program

- DOER and GOPIF, in consultation with MOCA, EMT, and MSHA, to design a pilot energy coaching program.
 - Note: Resolve does not **fund** an energy coaching program
- Energy coaches provide community-based personalized information to residential consumers; advise on accessing available grants and rebates; and help review and analyze contractor recommendations.
 - Builds on existing programs in York, SMPDC, Midcoast, Blue Hill Peninsula, etc.
- Submitted report on 2/1/2026 which includes three design options, with differing levels of required funding.
 - Energy coach pilot
 - Climate corps pilot
 - Resource hub



Opportunity for Public Input



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Meeting Wrap Up, Meeting Schedule, Adjournment



Meeting Wrap Up

- 2026 Advisory Committee meeting schedule
- Continuing Advisory Committee participation
- Final questions or discussion?





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Thank You

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