



State of Maine
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 PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council

Agenda

March 9, 2026

2 – 3:30 PM (@ Public Utilities Commission with Teams option)

- Introduction
- Legislative update – LD 2203
- Discuss meeting schedule for 2026
- Working Group Reports
 - Focus Group Initiative
 - Winter Disconnect Initiative
- Discussion – Defining Electricity Affordability in Maine – see reverse side for background
 - How should affordability be defined?
 - How should this definition be applied to utility rates and regulation?
 - What metrics should be used to measure or track affordability?
- Public Comment
- Next Meeting – April 13 2-3pm (via Teams)
 - Upcoming meeting dates:

Date	Location Plan
4/13/26	Teams only
5/11/26	@MaineHousing with Teams option
6/8/26	Teams only

Sec. 4. Affordability metric development. The Public Utilities Commission shall develop an affordability metric to be used to assess the impact of electricity bills on the overall energy burden for residential customers of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility. By January 15, 2027, the commission shall submit an interim report on the commission's progress under this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The commission shall submit a final report by December 15, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding the development of an affordability metric under this section, along with any recommendations or proposed legislation, if necessary. The committee may report out a bill related to the final report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.'

Affordability Gap

An affordability gap emerges when spending exceeds the threshold:

Affordability gap = any spending in excess of the affordability threshold

In this report, we report average affordability gaps at the household level and in aggregate by county and statewide, for electricity, home heating fuels, and transportation. In Table 1, we present the affordability thresholds that we reference in the report and use in our analysis.

Table 1. Affordability thresholds by spending category.

Spending category	Description	Affordability Threshold	Source
Electricity	Household electricity costs	4%	LIAP ¹⁷
Home Energy	All home energy: electricity, wood, fossil fuels (natural gas, fuel oil, kerosene, propane)	6%	ACEEE ¹⁸
Transportation	Transportation fuel costs	4.2%	ACEEE ¹³
Combined energy burden	All home energy and transportation fuel costs	12%	ACEEE ¹³

Source: [Quantifying Maine's Household Energy Burden and Affordability Gap](#)