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3 **Supply Agreement for**
4 **Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities**

5
6 **Between**

7
8 **Nova Scotia Power Incorporated**

9
10 **and**

11 **EfficiencyOne**

12
13 **Effective Date – January 1, 2023**

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8	Schedule "D":	Confidentiality Agreement
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10

1 **THIS AGREEMENT** made as of the 4th day of October, 2022 and effective as of the 1st day
2 of January, 2023 (the “**Effective Date**”).

3 BETWEEN:

4 **NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED**,
5 a body corporate, organized under the laws
6 of the Province of Nova Scotia
7
8 (hereinafter called “**NSPI**”)

9 - and -

10 **EFFICIENCYONE**,
11 a body corporate, organized under the laws of
12 Canada

13
14 (hereinafter called “**EfficiencyOne**”)

15 **WHEREAS:**

- 16 A. EfficiencyOne and NSPI are both public utilities pursuant to the Act; and
17 B. Pursuant to the Act, EfficiencyOne has the exclusive right to supply NSPI with reasonably
18 available, cost-effective Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities as the Franchise
19 Holder; and
20 C. Pursuant to the Act, NSPI is obligated to undertake cost-effective Electricity Efficiency and
21 Conservation Activities that are reasonably available in an effort to reduce costs for its
22 customers; and
23 D. Pursuant to the Act, NSPI shall meet its obligations by entering into an agreement with
24 the Franchise Holder for the supply of cost-effective Electricity Efficiency and
25 Conservation Activities.

26 **NOW THEREFORE** witnesses that in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants
27 and obligations herein and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency and receipt of
28 which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

29 **1. INTERPRETATION**

30 1.1 The following terms shall be interpreted as follows in this Agreement:

- 31 (a) “**Act**” shall mean the *Public Utilities Act*, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.380, as amended from
32 time to time.
33 (b) “**Agreement**” means this agreement between NSPI and EfficiencyOne including
34 all Schedules attached hereto.
35 (c) “**Business Day**” means Monday to Friday, except federal, provincial, and civic
36 holidays within the Province of Nova Scotia.

- (d) **“Consequential Losses”** means consequential, special, incidental, multiple, exemplary or punitive damages including lost profits, whether such claim of lost profits is categorized as indirect, direct or consequential damages or under any alternative theory of recovery.
- (e) **“Contract Documents”** means without limitation, the following documents, including any amendments thereto agreed in writing by the parties:
- (i) this Agreement; and
 - (ii) all Schedules to the Agreement.
- (f) **“Contract Price”** has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 4.1.
- (g) **“EECA Plan”** means the plan prepared by EfficiencyOne and approved by the UARB and attached hereto as Schedule “E”.
- (h) **“Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities”** or **“EECA”** means the electricity efficiency and conservation activities as identified in Schedule “A” attached hereto.
- (i) **“Event of Default”** has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 20.4.
- (j) **“Environmental Laws”** means all applicable federal, provincial, regional, municipal or local laws with respect to environmental matters contained in the statutes, regulations, rules, standards, requirements, ordinances, policies, guidelines, orders, approvals, notices, permits or directives having the force of law, in effect as at the date hereof and as may be brought into effect at future date.
- (k) **“Force Majeure Event”** means any event or circumstance not reasonably within the control of the Party affected which wholly or partly prevents the performance by that Party of its obligations under this Agreement, provided that such Party is in good faith unable to perform such obligations by any commercially reasonable substitute. A Force Majeure Event includes acts of God, war, riot, fire, explosion, flood, hurricane, epidemics, acts of governmental authorities, acts of terrorism. Notwithstanding anything else contained herein, a Force Majeure Event excludes (a) any event or circumstance causing direct or indirect delay in, or failure to perform any of a Party’s obligations under this Agreement, attributable to a lack of reasonable diligence on the part of a Party or on the part of any vendor or subcontractor of a Party, including any event or circumstance which a Party or any vendor or subcontractor, acting diligently, could reasonably have been expected to foresee, avoid or overcome in the performance of its obligations; and (b) any event or circumstance caused by the breach of a Party’s obligations or the fault or negligence of a Party or the fault or negligence of any vendor or subcontractor, or by violation of applicable laws or regulations by a Party or any of a Party’s vendors or subcontractors. For certainty, adverse weather of any kind other than events specified above shall not be considered a Force Majeure Event.
- (l) **“Franchise”** has the meaning ascribed to it in the Act.
- (m) **“Franchise Holder”** has the meaning ascribed to it in the Act.

- (n) **"Governmental Authority"** means any federal, provincial, regional, municipal or local government or authority or other political subdivision thereof and entity or person exercising executive, legislative, judicial, regulatory or administrative functions of, or pertaining to, government.
- (o) **"Hazardous Substances"** means any substance or material that is prohibited, controlled or regulated by any Governmental Authority pursuant to Environmental Laws, including any contaminants, pollutants, petroleum or other hydrocarbons and their derivatives and by-products, dangerous substances or goods, including asbestos, liquid wastes, special wastes, toxic substances, hazardous or toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, hazardous materials or hazardous substances as defined in or pursuant to any Environmental Law, or any substance or material not inherently hazardous but which would, in sufficient quantities, be hazardous.
- (p) **"Indemnified Costs"** means all liabilities, claims, actions, causes of action, judgments, orders, damages, costs (including those incurred in connection with any investigation of site conditions or any clean-up, environmental remediation, removal or restoration work), expenses (including all reasonable consultant, expert and legal fees and expenses), fines, penalties, losses, or any resulting damages, harm or injuries to the person or property of any third parties or to any natural resources and for which the indemnified party is liable and has incurred losses. Without limiting the foregoing, Indemnified Costs shall include:
- (i) the costs of defending and/or counterclaiming or claiming over and against third parties in such manner as the indemnified party in its sole discretion may determine;
 - (ii) the costs relating to any governmental investigation, proceeding or claim; and
 - (iii) any costs, liabilities or damages arising out of a settlement of a claim by the indemnified party, with or without the consent of the indemnifying party.
- (q) **"Law"** means the common law, the law of equity and all federal or provincial statutes or municipal by-laws and all regulations, orders, directives, permits and licenses thereunder, which apply to or otherwise affect NSPI or EfficiencyOne with respect to the supply of the EECA, or the property of NSPI or EfficiencyOne, real or personal, or any part thereof, including the Act and all environmental, occupational, health and safety laws.
- (r) **"Liens Indemnities"** has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 18.1.
- (s) **"Liens and Claims"** has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 18.1.
- (t) **"Minister"** has the meaning ascribed to it in the Act.
- (u) **"Party"** means either EfficiencyOne or NSPI. **"Parties"** means EfficiencyOne and NSPI.
- (v) **"Personal Information"** shall mean the information provided by NSPI to EfficiencyOne pursuant to Section 79K of the Act.

- (w) **"Release"** or **"Released"** means a releasing, adding, spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, migrating, dispersing, dispensing, disposing or dumping.
- (x) **"Significant Changes"** means any proposed change to the EECA Plan for which the UARB orders or directs EfficiencyOne to obtain the approval of the UARB prior to the implementation of such proposed change.
- (y) **"Subcontractor"** means any contractor, supplier or consultant hired by EfficiencyOne in accordance with this Agreement to perform any portion of the EECA.
- (z) **"Term"** has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 2.1.
- (aa) **"UARB"** means the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.
- (bb) **"CASL"** means An Act to promote the efficiency and adaptability of the Canadian economy by regulating certain activities that discourage reliance on electronic means of carrying out commercial activities, and to amend the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Act, the Competition Act, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act and the Telecommunications Act, S.C. 2010, c. 23, as amended from time to time.
- 1.2 Unless otherwise specified in this Agreement or unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) words of any gender include each other gender;
- (b) using the singular or plural number also include the plural or singular number, respectively;
- (c) the insertion of headings in this Agreement is for convenience only and shall not be construed so as to affect the interpretation or construction of this Agreement;
- (d) the terms "hereof," "herein," "hereto," "hereunder" and words of similar or like import refer to this entire Agreement and not to any particular Section, Schedule or other subdivision of this Agreement;
- (e) references to a particular "Section" or "Schedule" are, unless otherwise noted, references to that Section of, or Schedule to this Agreement;
- (f) the words "include," "includes" and "including" shall be deemed to be followed by "without limitation" or "but not limited to";
- (g) references to any applicable law, legislation or regulation shall be construed as a reference to such law, legislation or regulation as each may be in effect from time to time;
- (h) references to any agreement or document (including this Agreement) shall (i) include all Schedules, appendices, and other attachments thereto, and (ii) be construed at the particular time as a reference to such agreement or document as amended, modified or supplemented and in effect from time to time and shall include a reference to any document which amends, modifies or supplements it, or is entered into, made or given pursuant to or in accordance with its terms;

- (i) references to (i) days shall refer to calendar days unless Business Day is specified, (ii) weeks and months shall refer to calendar weeks and months, respectively, and (iii) years shall refer to calendar years;
- (j) in computing any period of time prescribed or allowed under this Agreement, the day of the act, event or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall be included. If the last day of the period so computed is not a Business Day, then the period shall run until the close of business on the next Business Day;
- (k) the Contract Documents are complementary, and what is required by any one shall be as binding as if required by all;
- (l) words and abbreviations which have well known technical or trade meanings are used in the Contract Documents in accordance with such recognized meanings; and
- (m) as both Parties were actively involved in preparing the terms and conditions of this Agreement and as they both had access to and relied upon counsel in this process, there shall be no presumption that any one or the other Party prepared this Agreement and no provision of this Agreement shall be construed against either Party based upon the process of preparation of proposals and drafts of the Agreement.

1.3 If there is a conflict within the Agreement, the order of precedence of documents, from highest to lowest, shall be:

- (a) Sections 1 to 27;
- (b) Schedule “A” – Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities; and
- (c) all other Schedules.

2. TERM & RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

2.1 The term of this Agreement shall be three (3) years from the Effective Date and shall automatically terminate on December 31, 2025 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and the Act (the “Term”).

2.2 During the Term, NSPI shall purchase from EfficiencyOne and EfficiencyOne shall supply to NSPI, the EECA in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the Act.

2.3 Notwithstanding anything contained herein, and subject to any requirement for review or approval by the UARB, nothing contained in this Agreement shall in any way effect the rights of NSPI pursuant to Section 79I(3) of the Act.

3. ELECTRICITY EFFICIENCY and CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

3.1 For the Term of this Agreement, EfficiencyOne will,

- (a) provide the EECA in accordance with this Agreement;

- (b) provide sufficient resources to enable EfficiencyOne to perform its obligations on time and in accordance with this Agreement;
- (c) carry out the EECA in a professional, expeditious and economical manner, in accordance with the Act;
- (d) manage the EECA in an efficient manner; and
- (e) perform and supply the EECA in a safe and environmentally sound manner and in compliance with applicable Law.

3.2 The Parties acknowledge and agree that EfficiencyOne shall be solely responsible for the delivery of the EECA Plan. For greater certainty and notwithstanding the attachment of the EECA Plan as Schedule “E” – Approved EECA Plan, NSPI shall have no liability with respect to the EECA Plan saving and excepting any liability which may arise as a result of NSPI’s failure to comply with the Act.

4. PRICE & PAYMENT

4.1 NSPI agrees to pay EfficiencyOne for EECA as set out in Schedule “B” – Compensation (the “**Contract Price**”).

4.2 The Contract Price shall constitute full compensation for the EECA, and no additional compensation shall be payable to EfficiencyOne arising out or resulting from any productivity losses, overhead or indirect costs or other costs and expenses of any kind whatsoever.

4.3 NSPI shall make monthly payments on the first Business Day of each month in accordance with Schedule “B” to EfficiencyOne on account of the Contract Price when due, together with applicable HST. EfficiencyOne will submit an invoice to NSPI in advance of the payment date referenced in Schedule “B”.

4.4 Unless otherwise indicated all dollar amounts referred to in this Agreement are in lawful money of Canada.

4.5 If applicable, payments shall be subject to harmonized sales tax (as defined in the *Excise Tax Act* (Canada)) (“**HST**”). No additional taxes (foreign or domestic), customs, duties or brokerage fees shall apply.

4.6 If applicable, NSPI will withhold from payments to EfficiencyOne any amounts required to be withheld under applicable Laws and treaties in respect of services rendered in Canada by a non-resident and may remit them to the relevant authority. Where available, statutory withholding may be waived if EfficiencyOne delivers to NSPI a formal waiver of the withholding requirement issued and signed by Canada Revenue Agency. The Parties shall cooperate at all times to ensure that all proper withholdings are deducted from payments and if any withholdings are overlooked then such withholdings may be deducted from later payments.

5. NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

5.1 EfficiencyOne shall provide notice of Significant Changes to NSPI at the same time as EfficiencyOne makes application to the UARB for the approval of the Significant Changes. Subject to the terms of the Act and the general discretion of the UARB under the Act, NSPI

shall, have the right to make written submissions to the UARB on any such Significant Changes to the EECA Plan.

6. SAFETY

6.1 EfficiencyOne shall at all times be responsible for safety and loss management in the supply or performance of the EECA.

6.2 EfficiencyOne shall ensure that all employees, Subcontractors, agents and representatives of EfficiencyOne comply with all federal, provincial and municipal health, safety and environmental statutes, regulations, policies and guidelines and all health, safety and environmental rules as prescribed by EfficiencyOne.

7. PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

7.1 EfficiencyOne shall take all commercially reasonable steps to protect the property of NSPI's customers and other third parties from damage which may occur as the result of the performance of the EECA.

7.2 Should EfficiencyOne damage the property of NSPI's customers or property of other third parties while performing the EECA, EfficiencyOne shall make good such damage at EfficiencyOne's expense and shall indemnify NSPI from and against all liabilities, claims, damages, settlements, awards, costs, expenses and proceedings incurred by NSPI or its servants, employees and/or agents in respect of such damage, except to the extent such damage occurs as a result of the negligent acts of NSPI or those for which NSPI is responsible at Law.

8. ENVIRONMENT

8.1 EfficiencyOne and its Subcontractors shall at all times comply with all Environmental Laws that apply in any way to the supply or performance of the EECA. EfficiencyOne and its Subcontractors shall not cause, permit or suffer the Release of a Hazardous Substance in contravention of any Environmental Laws.

8.2 Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement (and in addition to any other right to indemnity held by NSPI under the terms of the Agreement) EfficiencyOne shall indemnify NSPI, NSPI's parent, their respective subsidiaries, affiliates and related companies, and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents and shareholders, and agrees to hold each of them harmless from and against any and all Indemnified Costs resulting from any Release of any Hazardous Substance which is caused or contributed to by EfficiencyOne or its Subcontractors or any breach of any Environmental Law by EfficiencyOne or its Subcontractors.

9. EFFICIENCYONE'S COVENANTS

9.1 EfficiencyOne warrants, covenants and agrees with NSPI that:

(a) it has all requisite capacity and authority to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under this Agreement;

(b) this Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by EfficiencyOne and constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of EfficiencyOne enforceable against EfficiencyOne in accordance with its terms;

- (c) to its knowledge, there is no matter, thing or event, including without limitation, any litigation, proceeding, breach, default or financial circumstance that would adversely affect EfficiencyOne's ability to perform its obligations under this Agreement;
- (d) it will furnish all labour, materials, products, tools, and other necessary components necessary to perform and provide the EECA, unless otherwise provided herein;
- (e) it shall diligently perform or cause to be performed the EECA in a proper and workmanlike manner;
- (f) it has the skills, expertise and resources to carry out the EECA and to comply, observe and perform the obligations to which it is subject in accordance with the terms of this Agreement;
- (g) prior to commencing any work hereunder, it shall obtain and maintain all permits, licenses and notices that a prudent supplier acting in accordance with industry standards would be required to obtain, maintain and provide in comparable circumstances and shall comply with all applicable Laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, codes and orders of any and all authorities having jurisdiction which are or become in force during the Term in respect of the EECA;
- (h) it will comply with applicable federal, provincial and municipal statutes, regulations and bylaws pertaining to the EECA performed by or on behalf of EfficiencyOne under this Agreement. EfficiencyOne shall be responsible for ensuring similar compliance by any suppliers and Subcontractors;
- (i) it is the Franchise Holder pursuant to the Act;
- (j) it is not a non-resident of Canada for the purposes of the *Income Tax Act*;
- (k) it will execute or cause to be made, done and executed all further acts, deeds, assurances, agreements, instruments or other documents as may be reasonably required to ensure fulfillment of the terms of this Agreement;
- (l) the EECA shall be delivered and performed by individuals duly licensed and authorized by Law, if applicable, to perform said undertakings;
- (m) the EECA shall be delivered and performed solely by EfficiencyOne or its Subcontractors and EfficiencyOne acknowledges that EfficiencyOne shall at all times remain responsible for the proper completion of this Agreement; and
- (n) upon becoming aware of a potential disruption having a material impact in the supply of the EECA, EfficiencyOne shall provide notification to the UARB and NSPI.

10. SUBCONTRACTORS

- 10.1 EfficiencyOne shall be permitted to subcontract the performance of any part of the EECA without the prior written approval of NSPI.

10.2 Where EfficiencyOne subcontracts any part of the EECA, EfficiencyOne shall preserve and protect the rights of the Parties under this Agreement with respect to the EECA to be supplied or performed under subcontract, and shall be as fully responsible to NSPI for the acts and omissions of Subcontractors and of persons directly or indirectly employed by them, as if they were acts and omissions of persons directly employed by EfficiencyOne.

10.3 Nothing contained in the Contract Documents shall create a contractual relationship between a Subcontractor and NSPI.

11. CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

11.1 The Parties have executed or agree to execute the confidentiality agreement attached hereto as Schedule “D” - Confidentiality (“**Confidentiality Agreement**”).

11.2 EfficiencyOne shall be responsible for all physical and electronic security required to ensure the security of the Personal Information which has been provided by NSPI to EfficiencyOne.

11.3 EfficiencyOne shall indemnify and hold harmless NSPI for any liabilities, claims, damages, settlements, awards, costs, expenses and proceedings incurred by NSPI or its servants, employees and/or agents in consequence of EfficiencyOne’s misuse of the Personal Information or any disclosure, whether intentional, inadvertent, negligent or otherwise of any of the Personal Information by EfficiencyOne contrary to the terms of this Agreement or the Act, or in consequence of EfficiencyOne’s contravention of CASL.

12. PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

12.1 EfficiencyOne’s performance under the terms of this Agreement shall be measured in accordance with the performance requirements established by the UARB pursuant to Section 79M of the Act as set out in Schedule “C” – Performance Requirements.

13. FORCE MAJEURE

13.1 Neither Party shall be in breach of its obligations under this Agreement where failure to perform or delay in performance of any obligation is due, wholly or in part, to a Force Majeure Event.

13.2 Each Party shall notify the other Party promptly of any Force Majeure Event and shall take reasonable steps to minimize the impact of the failure or the delay and to resolve the event or occurrence that has given rise to the Force Majeure Event in order to resume performance. The time for performing an obligation as a result of Force Majeure Event shall be extended for the period lost, subject to the condition that the Term of this Agreement shall not be extended as a result of any Force Majeure Event.

13.3 Each Party suffering a Force Majeure Event shall take, or cause to be taken, such action as may be necessary to void, or nullify, or otherwise to mitigate, in all material respects, the effects of such Force Majeure Event. The Parties shall take all reasonable steps to ensure normal performance under this Agreement, including the resumption of any disrupted obligations.

13.4 For certainty, in no case shall the failure or omission of EfficiencyOne to carry out or observe any of the terms, provisions, or conditions of this Agreement or any negligent act

or omission of EfficiencyOne, or others for whom EfficiencyOne is responsible constitute an event of Force Majeure or result in an extension of the time to perform the EECA.

14. INDEMNITY

14.1 EfficiencyOne shall assume all risk of loss, damage or injury, including death, to person or property, caused by its directors, officers, employees, Subcontractors, agents or representatives, and agrees not to make or bring any claim, action or demand against NSPI or its directors, officers, servants, agents, or employees in respect of such loss, damage or injury excepting such loss, damage or injury caused by the negligence or wilful misconduct of NSPI or NSPI's directors, officers, servants, agents or employees.

14.2 EfficiencyOne agrees to indemnify and save harmless NSPI, its directors, officers, servants, agents, or employees, and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, or any of them, from and against any liabilities, losses, expenses (including legal costs on a solicitor-client basis), claims, demands, actions, and causes of action, whatsoever suffered by NSPI by reason of, or in any way arising out of or in connection with a breach of this Agreement by EfficiencyOne excepting only to the extent caused by the negligence or wilful misconduct of NSPI or NSPI's directors, officers, servants, agents or employees.

14.3 NSPI agrees to indemnify and save harmless EfficiencyOne, its directors, officers, servants, agents, or employees, and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, or any of them, from and against any liabilities, losses, expenses (including legal costs on a solicitor-client basis), claims, demands, actions, and causes of action, whatsoever suffered by EfficiencyOne by reason of, or in any way arising out of or in connection with a breach of this Agreement by NSPI excepting only to the extent caused by the negligence or wilful misconduct of EfficiencyOne or EfficiencyOne's directors, officers, servants, agents or employees.

14.4 The provisions set forth in this Section shall apply and be effective with respect to any claim, cause of action, or legal theory whatsoever including without limitation, claims based upon breach of contract, failure to meet performance guarantees, tort (including negligence) and strict liability.

14.5 EfficiencyOne shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless NSPI from any claim, suit, cause of action, judgment, cost or expense (including legal fees) based on a claim by a third party that any intellectual property which is part of the EECA or supply or performance of EfficiencyOne's obligations under this Agreement infringes any patent, copyright, trade secret or other intellectual property right, provided the EfficiencyOne is promptly notified of such claim and is given complete authority for defense of same. EfficiencyOne shall pay all damages, costs and expenses resulting from such a claim, including legal fees and settlement costs, but shall not be responsible for any cost, expense or compromise incurred by NSPI without EfficiencyOne's prior consent.

15. LIMIT OF LIABILITY

15.1 Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party for any Consequential Losses with respect to the performance or non-performance under this Agreement or for any actions undertaken in connection with or related to this Agreement.

15.2 EfficiencyOne's total liability to NSPI with respect to the performance or non-performance under this Agreement or for any actions undertaken in connection with or related to this

Agreement shall be limited to the greater of the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) or the proceeds of the applicable insurance policies taken out by EfficiencyOne under this Agreement ("**EfficiencyOne Limit of Liability**") provided that the EfficiencyOne Limit of Liability shall not apply to:

(a) indemnification of NSPI by EfficiencyOne under the terms of this Agreement for any third party claims (including but not limited to EfficiencyOne's obligations pursuant to Sections 7.2, 8.2, 11.3, 14.5 and 18.1);

(b) any wilful misconduct or fraud of EfficiencyOne or its employees, agents or representatives; and

(c) any obligation on the part of EfficiencyOne to refund in whole or in part the Contract Price pursuant to this Agreement or the Act.

15.3 NSPI's total liability to EfficiencyOne with respect to the performance or non-performance under this Agreement or for any actions undertaken in connection with or related to this Agreement shall be limited to the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) ("**NSPI Limit of Liability**") provided that the NSPI Limit of Liability shall not apply to:

(a) any wilful misconduct or fraud of NSPI or its employees, agents or representatives; and

(b) NSPI's liability for payment of the Contract Price pursuant to the Agreement or the Act.

16. INSURANCE

16.1 EfficiencyOne shall obtain, maintain and pay for, during the entire Term of this Agreement, the following minimum insurance coverage as follows, such insurance as it relates to this Agreement shall be in a form and from an insurer acceptable to NSPI:

(a) General liability insurance shall be in the name of EfficiencyOne and shall name NSPI as an additional insured and shall have limits of not less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) inclusive per occurrence for bodily injury, death, and damage to property including loss of use thereof. Such insurance shall be primary and non-contributing with, and not in excess of, any other insurance available to NSPI. This policy shall also contain cross liability and severability of interest and blanket contractual liability.

(b) Environmental impairment insurance with limits of not less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000);

(c) Automobile liability insurance in respect of licensed vehicles shall have limits of not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) inclusive per occurrence for bodily injury, death, and damage to property. For automobiles not owned or operated by or on behalf of EfficiencyOne the insurance shall be in the form of a standard non-owned automobile policy and shall include standard contractual liability endorsement. For automobiles owned or operated by or on behalf of EfficiencyOne the insurance shall be in the form of a standard owner's form automobile policy and shall provide third party liability and accident benefits insurance covering licensed vehicles owned or operated by or on behalf of EfficiencyOne.

(d) Property Insurance covering all loss of or damage to EfficiencyOne's property and equipment of EfficiencyOne or for which EfficiencyOne is legally liable or responsible used in performance of the EECA for the full replacement value, which insurance shall not allow subrogation claims by the insurer against NSPI.

(e) To the extent that the EECA includes the provision of professional services, professional liability errors and omissions insurance covering all claims arising out of errors and omissions of EfficiencyOne in the performance of professional services as part of the EECA with a limit of two million dollars (\$2,000,000). In the event other claims erode EfficiencyOne's professional errors and omissions insurance below two million dollars (\$2,000,000), in the annual aggregate, EfficiencyOne agrees to reinstate the limit.

(f) Workers' compensation to the full extent required in Nova Scotia and wherever EfficiencyOne's personnel contracts of employment are made or are expressed to be made.

16.2 If EfficiencyOne fails to effect or keep in force any of the foregoing insurances, NSPI may, without prejudice to any other right or remedy, effect such insurance and pay the premiums due and recover the same as a deduction from any other monies due to EfficiencyOne under this Agreement.

16.3 EfficiencyOne shall be responsible to pay deductible amounts and for determining the deductible amount in respect of each policy. EfficiencyOne shall not violate, nor knowingly permit to be violated, any conditions of the policies maintained according to the provisions of this Section, and it shall be EfficiencyOne's duty and responsibility to impose upon each Subcontractor the same responsibilities and obligations imposed upon EfficiencyOne under such provisions.

16.4 EfficiencyOne agrees to provide proof of insurance to NSPI on an annual basis. Such proof shall be in the form of a certificate of insurance signed by EfficiencyOne's insurance broker.

17. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

17.1 NSPI acknowledges that all branding, trade and business marks of EfficiencyOne used in the course of provision of EECA pursuant to this Agreement, (the "**EfficiencyOne Brands**") are, and shall remain, the sole and exclusive property of EfficiencyOne and shall not be used by NSPI without EfficiencyOne's express consent. Upon termination of this Agreement, NSPI shall immediately upon instruction from EfficiencyOne return or destroy, as instructed by EfficiencyOne, the EfficiencyOne Brands.

17.2 Any trademarks, brands, logos or other branding or trade or business marks used in NSPI's business ("**NSPI Brands**") shall remain the sole and exclusive property of NSPI and shall not be used by EfficiencyOne for any purpose except in connection and as necessary for the provision of the EECA. Upon termination of this Agreement, EfficiencyOne shall immediately upon instruction from NSPI return or destroy, as instructed by NSPI, the NSPI Brands.

18. LIENS AND CLAIMS

18.1 EfficiencyOne shall indemnify and hold harmless NSPI, NSPI's parent and their subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively the "**Lien Indemnitees**") or singularly "**Lien**

Indemnatee”) and defend each of them from and against any and all losses and costs arising out of any and all claims for payment, liens, attachment or any other process, filed against any property of the Lien Indemnitees by or in respect of a Subcontractor of any tier or any other party providing work, materials in respect of the EECA or any part thereof (referred to in this Section as “**Liens or Claims**”), including solicitor and client fees and expenses incurred by NSPI in discharging any such Liens or Claims or similar encumbrances.

18.2 EfficiencyOne shall discharge promptly any Liens or Claims. If EfficiencyOne does not promptly satisfactorily discharge such Liens or Claims, NSPI at its sole option may (i) require EfficiencyOne to pay, within five (5) Business Days after request by NSPI, or (ii) subject to any requirements of the *Builders’ Lien Act* of Nova Scotia, offset against any holdback or other amounts due or to become due to EfficiencyOne, all costs and expenses incurred by NSPI or other Lien Indemnatee in causing the release of, paying or settling such Liens or Claims. EfficiencyOne shall have the right to contest any such Liens or Claims, provided it first provides to NSPI a bond or other assurance of payment reasonably satisfactory to NSPI in the amount of such Liens or Claims and in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to NSPI. In no circumstance whatsoever shall NSPI be liable for a greater amount than the amount payable by NSPI to EfficiencyOne.

19. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

19.1 In the event of a dispute in connection with this Agreement, a senior representative of EfficiencyOne and a senior representative of NSPI shall promptly meet to discuss and resolve the dispute and the Parties shall have thirty (30) days to resolve the dispute (or ten (10) days if either Party notifies the other Party that the matter requires urgent resolution).

19.2 Unless the parties agree otherwise, in the event resolution cannot be achieved in accordance with Section 19.1 of this Agreement, then such dispute or difference shall be referred to the UARB in accordance with Section 79P of the Act.

19.3 Notwithstanding any dispute, EfficiencyOne shall diligently carry out the EECA, and shall not suspend, impair, interfere with, restrict or discourage the prompt completion of any portion of the EECA, unless specifically authorized to do so by the UARB. .

20. DEFAULT AND TERMINATION

20.1 This Agreement may be terminated immediately by either Party, in whole or in part, upon the happening of one or more of the following events:

(a) EfficiencyOne’s Franchise is terminated and the Agreement has not been assigned by the Minister; or

(b) The UARB approves the termination of the Agreement.

In the event of a termination pursuant to this Section 20.1, neither Party shall be entitled to any compensation or damages for any Consequential Losses as a result of such termination. Immediately upon receipt of such termination notice, EfficiencyOne will discontinue all EECA under this Agreement and will only finish such portions of the EECA as may be necessary to preserve and protect the EECA already in progress. Such termination does not relieve either Party from any of their respective obligations under this

- 1 Agreement for EECA provided up to the date of termination. Any claim for payment by
2 EfficiencyOne must be asserted within thirty (30) days from the date of such termination.
- 3 20.2 Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, in the event this Agreement is
4 terminated in accordance with Section 20.1(a), EfficiencyOne shall:
- 5 (a) Immediately return all monies paid on account of the Contract Price which amounts
6 have not been legitimately incurred or subject to contractual commitments for
7 expenditure which cannot otherwise be mitigated to NSPI; and
- 8 (b) Provide to NSPI all reasonable required termination assistance to allow the EECA
9 provided under this Agreement to continue and to facilitate the orderly transition of
10 the EECA to NSPI or any third party as directed by NSPI, provided that
11 EfficiencyOne shall be entitled to commercially reasonable payment for such
12 transition services on a time and material basis.
- 13 20.3 The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement is subject to the general supervision of the
14 UARB.
- 15 20.4 A Party shall be determined to be in default of its obligations under this Agreement if (each
16 a “**Event of Default**”):
- 17 (a) it is in breach of any material term or condition of this Agreement, which breach is
18 not cured by the Party within thirty (30) days after written notice from the other
19 Party;
- 20 (b) it assigns this Agreement other than as permitted by the Act and/or the UARB;
- 21 (c) any representation or warranty made by either Party shall prove to be untrue when
22 made in any material respect;
- 23 (d) there is a sale, transfer or relinquishment, voluntary or involuntary, by operation of
24 law or otherwise, of legal control of the business of either Party except for a transfer
25 to a related corporation or a transfer resulting from a merger, acquisition,
26 amalgamation or reorganization, or, in the case of EfficiencyOne, a change in the
27 Membership of the corporation;
- 28 (e) Either Party sells, transfers or assigns all or substantially all of its assets;
- 29 (f) a petition in bankruptcy is filed with respect to either Party; or
- 30 (g) any proceeding is commenced under any bankruptcy or insolvency legislation or
31 under any other federal, state or provincial law relating to insolvency or bankruptcy,
32 the adjudication of either Party as a bankrupt, the appointment by any competent
33 court having jurisdiction of a temporary or permanent receiver, trustee or other
34 officer having similar powers over either Party its business or assets, or the making
35 of any assignment by either Party for the benefit of its creditors.
- 36 20.5 If a breach notified pursuant to Sections 20.4(a) cannot be corrected within the period
37 required therein, the defaulting Party shall not be in breach or violation if it:
- 38 (a) commences and diligently and continuously carries out the correction of the breach
39 or violation within the specified time;

(b) provides to the non-defaulting Party, and the UARB an acceptable plan for such correction; and

(c) corrects the breach or violation in accordance with such plan.

20.6 Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, the non-defaulting Party may apply to the UARB to terminate this Agreement in whole or in part.

21. NOTIFICATIONS

21.1 All notices to be given to either Party under this Agreement shall be written and addressed to the NSPI and to EfficiencyOne as follows:

To NSPI:

Nova Scotia Power Incorporated
1223 Lower Water Street
PO Box 910
Halifax, NS B3J 3S8
Attention: Corporate Secretary
Facsimile: (902) 428-6171

To EfficiencyOne:

EfficiencyOne
230 Brownlow Avenue
Suite 300
Dartmouth, NS B3B 0G5
Attention: CEO
Facsimile: (902) 470-3599

21.2 All notices may be sent by facsimile, a nationally recognized overnight courier service, first class mail or hand delivered. Notice shall be given when received by the addressee on a Business Day. In the absence of proof of the actual receipt date, the following presumptions will apply:

(a) Notices sent by facsimile shall be presumed to have been received upon the sending Party's receipt of its facsimile machine's confirmation of successful transmission. If the day on which such facsimile is received is not a Business Day or is after five p.m. (local time for the recipient) on a Business Day, then such facsimile shall be deemed to have been received on the next following Business Day.

(b) Notice by overnight courier shall be presumed to have been received on the next Business Day after it was sent.

(c) Notice by first class mail shall be presumed delivered five (5) Business Days after mailing.

21.3 Either Party may modify its address for notices by advance written notice to the other Party.

22. AUDIT AND INSPECTION

22.1 EfficiencyOne shall, during the Term and for a period of thirty-six (36) months thereafter, keep accurate records of all EECA supplied to NSPI, as necessary to determine that the EECA was provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

22.2 NSPI shall have the right to apply to the UARB to request access to any of the records referred to in 22.1.

22.3 NSPI shall have the right to apply to the UARB to inspect or observe the EECA at all times, whether using its own forces or those of a designated third party. EfficiencyOne shall facilitate such inspections and provide sufficient, safe and proper facilities at all times for inspection of the EECA.

23. ASSIGNMENT

23.1 Neither Party shall assign all or any portion of this Agreement without the prior written approval of the UARB and/or the Minister as the situation requires.

24. SHARING OF DATA AND INFORMATION

24.1 EfficiencyOne shall work co-operatively with NSPI to provide NSPI with information and data from time to time in order to assist NSPI with planning and load forecasting as may be reasonably required by NSPI. For greater certainty, such information and data shall be consistent with the past practices of the Parties.

24.2 In the event of a dispute regarding any request for information by NSPI, NSPI shall have the right to apply to the UARB to request access to the information and data referred to in 24.1.

25. COORDINATION MEETINGS AND REPORTS

25.1 During the Term of this Agreement, EfficiencyOne shall prepare and deliver to the UARB and NSPI a quarterly report (the “**Quarterly Report**”) in a form acceptable to the UARB.

25.2 EfficiencyOne shall prepare and deliver to the UARB and NSPI an annual report (the “**Report**”) in a form acceptable to the UARB. For greater certainty, the Report shall summarize and provide details as to the EECA and milestones achieved in the prior year, contain a discussion and analysis of major discrepancies relative to the EECA Plan’s intent and forecasts, EfficiencyOne’s financial statement for the previous year with respect to the EECA, evaluation reports and a summary of planned versus actual savings and costs for each metric.

25.3 The Parties agree that ongoing coordination and regular communication between NSPI and EfficiencyOne is important in order to ensure effective planning. To that end, the Parties shall meet quarterly or as otherwise agreed upon to discuss the provision of the EECA.

26. GENERAL

26.1 This Agreement shall only be renewed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

26.2 This Agreement shall extend to, be binding upon and enure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties hereto.

26.3 EfficiencyOne will be an independent contractor. EfficiencyOne shall not act as an agent for NSPI, bind NSPI to any obligation with a third party, nor hold itself out as having authority to bind or obligate NSPI. None of the persons engaged by EfficiencyOne or any of its Subcontractors in the performance of the EECA will be considered employees of NSPI.

26.4 This Agreement shall be deemed to have been made in and shall be governed by, construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Nova Scotia and the laws of Canada, as applicable therein. Where the provisions of this Agreement or the Act permit or require a matter to be referred to or proceeded with before a court, or in any other case where the Parties bring a matter in respect of this Agreement before a court, the Parties irrevocably attorn to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

26.5 No consent or waiver, express or implied, by any Party to this Agreement of any breach or default by any other Party in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement or of any of the terms, covenants or conditions of this Agreement shall be deemed or construed to be a consent or waiver of any subsequent or continuing breach or default in such Party's performance.

26.6 Time shall be of the essence for purposes of this Agreement.

26.7 This Agreement, upon approval by the UARB, shall represent the entire Agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereto and shall not be modified, varied or amended except by an instrument in writing signed by the Parties and approved by the UARB or as ordered or directed, by the UARB at any time.

26.8 Should any provision of the Agreement be declared by a judicial or other competent authority to be unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

26.9 The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement and all related documents shall be in English.

26.10 This Agreement may be executed by the Parties in counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be deemed to be an original and when taken together shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument. The electronic delivery, including, without limitation, by email or facsimile transmission, of any signed original of this Agreement shall be the same as the delivery of an original.

27. SURVIVAL

27.1 Subject to the provisions of the Act, all provisions of this Agreement which by their express terms or nature are continuing shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement, including, without limitation, this provision, and the provisions relating to the EECA Plan (s. 3.2), EfficiencyOne's covenants (s.9), confidentiality (s. 11), indemnity (s.14), intellectual property (s. 17), notification (s. 21) and general provisions (s. 26) as

1 well as any provisions which are required to determine, or which exclude or limit, any
2 liability or which are otherwise required to give effect to or interpret any such provisions
3 which are continuing.

4 ***[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]***

5

1 **IN WITNESS THEREOF**, the Parties have duly executed this Agreement, in duplicate, as of the
2 date set forth above.

 Naomi Williams

Witness

 Naomi Williams

Witness

Witness

Witness

NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED

Per: 

Name:

Peter Gregg

Title:

President & CEO

Per:  Judith Ferguson

Name:

Judith Ferguson

Title:

EVP Regulatory, Legal and Government
Relations

EFFICIENCYONE

Per: _____

Name:

Title:

Per: _____

Name:

Title:

3

4

1 **IN WITNESS THEREOF**, the Parties have duly executed this Agreement, in duplicate, as of the
2 date set forth above.

Witness

Witness



Witness

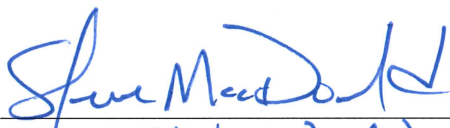
Witness

NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED

Per: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

Per: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

EFFICIENCYONE

Per: 
Name: STEPHEN MACDONALD
Title: PRESIDENT & CEO

Per: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

3

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SCHEDULE A**ELECTRICITY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES****Schedule A****Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities**

The figure below identifies the scope of savings (3 year Cumulative Annual Energy Savings, Cumulative Annual Peak Demand Savings, Cumulative Annual Energy Savings from Low Income (includes Affordable Single-family Homes, Affordable Multi-family Housing and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project programs), and available demand response capacity over the three-year plan associated with carrying out EECA's over the Term.

	Cumulative Annual Net Energy Savings at Generator over the Term (GWh)	Cumulative Annual Net Peak Demand Savings at Generator over the Term (MW)	Cumulative Annual Energy Savings – Low Income (GWh)	Available Demand Response Capacity (MW)
Performance Targets*	412.7	78.8	15.8	17.9

The Performance Targets will be achieved in accordance with the EECA Plan as set out in Schedule E.

* For certainty, in accordance with the performance requirements set out in Schedule "C" attached hereto, EfficiencyOne shall be deemed to be in substantial compliance with the approved Performance Targets if the stipulated 90 percent level of achievement is reached on each Performance Targets. If less than the stipulated 90 percent level any of the Performance Targets is achieved, a regulatory process will be triggered.

**

SCHEDULE B
COMPENSATION

Schedule B (Page 1 of 2)

Compensation

I. Net Contract Price

The figure below identifies the Contract Price to be paid by NSPI allocated for each year of the Term.

	2023	2024	2025	Total
UARB Approved Investment Amount	53,000,000	57,500,000	62,500,000	173,000,000
Refund	(273,174)	TBD		(273,174)
Net Contract Amount to be Paid by NSPI	52,726,826	57,500,000	62,500,000	172,726,826

The Parties acknowledge that any surplus realized by EfficiencyOne in delivering the Performance Targets at the end of the Term shall be reported to the UARB and refunded to NSPI¹ unless EfficiencyOne is directed to do otherwise by the UARB. The 2019 surplus² of \$273,174 will be refunded in 2023. The 2024 Net Contract Amount to be paid by NSPI will be adjusted to reflect any surplus applicable to the 2020-2022 DSM Plan.

¹ Together with all accumulated interest earned by EfficiencyOne on such surplus.

² Surplus includes any underspend and interest earned.

Schedule B (Page 2 of 2)**Compensation****II. Payments**

In accordance with Section 4.3 of the Agreement, the monthly payments to be made by NSPI to EfficiencyOne over the Term shall be as set out below. The monthly payment amounts referred to following are exclusive of required HST. HST shall be remitted to EfficiencyOne in addition to these monthly amounts.

On the First Business Day of:	2023	2024	2025
January	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
February	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
March	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
April	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
May	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
June	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
July	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
August	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
September	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
October	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
November	4,393,902	4,791,666	5,208,333
December	4,393,904	4,791,674	5,208,337
Total	52,726,826	57,500,000	62,500,000

The 2024 Payment Schedule will be revised to credit NSPI for any amounts owing to NSPI related to underspend from the 2020-2022 DSM Plan.

SCHEDULE C**Performance Requirements****I. UARB-APPROVED PERFORMANCE TARGETS, THRESHOLDS, AND INDICATORS****a) Performance Targets and Thresholds:**

- i. Performance Targets are set over the three year contract period, rather than annually.
- ii. EfficiencyOne is deemed to be in substantial compliance with the UARB-approved Plan Performance Targets if ninety percent (90%) or greater achievement is reached on the Performance Targets listed at b) i, ii, iii, and iv below. If less than ninety percent (90%) of the Performance Targets at b) i, ii, iii, and iv below is achieved, a regulatory process will be triggered.

b) Performance Targets consist of:

- i. Cumulative annual net energy savings at generator;
- ii. Cumulative annual net peak demand savings at generator;
- iii. Cumulative annual energy savings applicable to the Affordable Single-family Homes, Affordable Multi-family Housing and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project programs; and
- iv. Available demand response capacity during the winter peak period over the three-year plan.

c) Performance Indicators (for UARB reporting) consist of:

- i. Annual incremental energy savings (reported by program and rate class);
- ii. Cumulative annual energy savings (reported by program and rate class);
- iii. Annual lifetime energy savings (reported by program and rate class);
- iv. Cumulative lifetime energy savings (reported by program and rate class);
- v. Annual incremental system-peak demand savings (reported by program and rate class);
- v. Cumulative annual system-peak demand savings (reported by program and rate class);
- vi. Total ratepayer benefits;
- vii. Total spending (reported by program and rate class);
- viii. Customer satisfaction;

- 98 ix. Incidental cumulative annual energy savings applicable to low-income and
99 underserved communities from nontargeted programs; and
100 x. Reporting on low-income program participation, expenditures, and savings
101 through a variety of methods, including estimation based on geographic
102 census information.
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SCHEDULE D**CONFIDENTIALITY AND NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

THIS CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT made effective this 1st day of January, 2023

Between:

EfficiencyOne, hereinafter “EfficiencyOne”

Party of the First Part

And

Nova Scotia Power Incorporated, hereinafter “NSPI”

Party of the Second Part

Whereas the Parties have entered into a Supply Agreement for Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Activities made effective as of January 1, 2023 (“Supply Agreement”) whereby Efficiency One is to provide EECA (as that term is defined in the Supply Agreement) to NSPI;

And whereas in accordance with the Supply Agreement, and the Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Act (Nova Scotia) and the Public Utilities Act (Nova Scotia) (together hereinafter referred to as the “Legislation”), and as may be directed by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, and as may be further agreed between the Parties, the Parties will be receiving, reviewing, and analyzing Confidential Information from each other;

And whereas the Parties wish to clarify the manner in which any Confidential Information disclosed by one Party (“Disclosing Party”) to the other is to be treated by the recipient of the Confidential Information (“Recipient”);

In consideration of the agreements of the Parties set forth below, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

Confidential Information

1. The Parties agree that for the purpose of this Agreement "Confidential Information" means all information, regardless of the form in which it is communicated or maintained and prepared by the Disclosing Party, and is disclosed directly or indirectly to the Recipient, pursuant to the Supply Agreement, the Legislation, as directed by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board or as otherwise agreed between the Parties. Confidential Information includes, but is not limited to the following: all reports analyses, notes, memoranda, correspondence, spreadsheets, drawings, survey plans, maps, contracts, commercial arrangements, intellectual property, trade secrets, corporate strategies, business plans or other information that is based on, contain or reflect any Confidential Information, material, whether printed or electronic, which has been designated by the Disclosing Party as confidential information, including proprietary information and other commercially sensitive information. This includes but is not limited to information which has been or may be filed with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board ("the Board") in confidence in answer to Information Requests and any further material that may be filed with the Board in confidence whether in response to future Information Requests or otherwise, and whether printed or electronic. Confidential Information shall also include any explanation or other information provided by either Party to the Recipient concerning the foregoing and which has been identified by the Party providing the information as confidential at the time it is initially provided, whether printed or electronic. Confidential Information may also include any password or other information necessary to access electronic copies of Confidential Information.

Permitted Scope of Use

2. The Recipient may use the Confidential Information solely for the purposes of providing or receiving EECA, as the case may be, in accordance with the Legislation and the Supply Agreement and for no other reason or purpose.

No Obligation to Disclose

3. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to disclose any Confidential Information to the other.

Protection of Confidential Information

4. The Recipient shall hold the Confidential Information in strict confidence and shall strictly protect the Confidential Information from all harm, loss, theft, reproduction and unauthorized access, employing at least the same degree of care that the Recipient employs to protect its own confidential information of a similar nature, but in any event, not less than reasonable care. The Recipient shall ensure that such Confidential Information is not disclosed, published, released, transferred or otherwise made available in any form to, for the use or benefit of, any person except as provided in this Agreement.

Acknowledgements

5. The Recipient acknowledges that the Confidential Information is confidential and a trade secret and is owned by the Disclosing Party and is highly valuable and material to the interests, business and affairs of the Disclosing Party and that any unauthorized disclosure thereof by the Recipient would be detrimental to the Disclosing Party.

Permitted Disclosures

6. The Recipient shall be permitted to disclose relevant aspects of the Confidential Information to its employees and professional advisors to the extent that such disclosure is reasonably necessary for the performance of its duties and obligations; provided, however, that prior to such disclosure the Recipient shall inform such persons and parties of the confidential nature of the Confidential Information and each such person or party signs the undertaking attached to this Confidentiality Agreement. The Recipient shall inform the Disclosing Party of the name of each person to whom it has disclosed the Confidential Information in accordance with this provision and shall provide to the Disclosing Party the signed undertaking. The Recipient shall be fully responsible for ensuring that any such persons to whom it discloses the Confidential Information complies with the confidentiality obligations contained in this Agreement and shall be liable for any breach of this Agreement by such persons.

7. The non-disclosure obligations in this Agreement shall not restrict any disclosure by the Recipient pursuant to any applicable law or an order of any court of competent jurisdiction or regulatory body with regulatory responsibilities over the Recipient, provided that the Recipient shall provide the Disclosing Party with prompt prior written notice of its obligation to disclose so that the Disclosing Party may seek a protective order or other appropriate remedy concerning the disclosure of its Confidential Information and/or waive compliance with the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement. In addition, the Recipient shall take reasonable steps, to the extent permitted by law, to remove from the Confidential Information that is required to be disclosed, any information that is commercially sensitive to the Disclosing Party. In the event of an order for disclosure by a court of competent jurisdiction or regulatory body with regulatory responsibilities over the Recipient, the Recipient shall first notify the Disclosing Party of such order and allow the Disclosing Party not less than ten (10) days to remove any such information that is commercially sensitive.

Term

8. The term of this Agreement shall commence on the effective date of the Supply Agreement unless superceded by another form of writing, and notwithstanding the return of any Confidential Information or any other event, shall continue in full force and effect for a period of FIVE (5) years from the effective date of this Agreement.

Equitable Remedy

9. The Recipient acknowledges that any unauthorized use of the Confidential Information or any breach of its obligations under this Agreement will result in

irreparable harm to the Disclosing Party which cannot be adequately compensated for by damages. Neither the Recipient, nor any term in this Agreement, shall interfere with, delay, or prevent the Disclosing Party from seeking an interim and interlocutory equitable remedy to enforce any provision of this Agreement. The Recipient agrees not to oppose an application for equitable relief by the Disclosing Party in such circumstances. Any such relief or remedy shall not be exclusive, but shall be in addition to all other available legal or equitable remedies. The Recipient agrees that the provisions of this Section are fair and reasonable in the commercial circumstances of this Agreement. This Article shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

Return of Information

10. On the earlier of either thirty (30) days following the termination of the Supply Agreement or at the written request of the Disclosing Party (and unless superceded by another form of writing), the Recipient shall return or destroy (at the Disclosing Party's direction) and delete from all electronic devices all Confidential Information provided to it, including all copies (and all notes and documents prepared by the Recipient that may incorporate same) and still in the Recipient's possession (and otherwise under its control or in the possession of other persons to whom it has been provided as permitted hereunder) and, if requested by the Disclosing Party, shall provide written confirmation to the Disclosing Party to that effect. Notwithstanding the forgoing, the Recipient shall be entitled to retain the Confidential Information in one legal file copy that may be retained solely for the determination of its legal obligations under this Agreement.

Residual Information

11. The Recipient or its designate or any other person having access to the Confidential Information pursuant to this Agreement shall not, during and after the termination of this Agreement, use in its business any Residual Information. "Residual Information" means the ideas, know-how and techniques that would be retained in the unaided memory of an ordinary person skilled in the art, not intent on appropriating the proprietary information of the disclosing party, as a result of such person's access to, use, review, evaluation, or testing of the Confidential Information of the disclosing party for the purposes described herein. An employee's memory is unaided if the employee has not intentionally memorized the Confidential Information for the purpose of retaining and subsequently using or disclosing it.

Limited Rights

12. The Recipient agrees that no rights are granted to Recipient other than the limited rights to use the Confidential Information on the terms of this Agreement. For certainty, no license is granted under this Agreement (directly or indirectly) under any patent, discovery, copyright, or other intellectual or industrial property right now or in the future.

Indemnity

13. The Recipient shall indemnify and hold the Disclosing Party harmless from any and all loss, liability, cost or expense (including, without limitation, solicitor's costs on a solicitor and client basis and all other costs of defence) caused in whole or in part by the Recipient's breach of any provision of this Agreement. This Article shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

Governing Law

14. This Agreement is governed and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Nova Scotia.

General Provisions

15. This Agreement is binding on the Parties, their administrators, successors, executors and assigns.

Executed and delivered this 4th day of October 2022.

EfficiencyOne

Nova Scotia Power Incorporated

By: _____

By:  _____

Name:

Name:

Peter Gregg

Title:

Title: President & CEO

Nova Scotia Power
Incorporated

By:  _____

Name: Judith Ferguson

Title: EVP Regulatory, Legal and Government
Relations

EFFICIENCYONE 2023-2025 DSM PLAN COMPLIANCE FILING

Appendix C – Supply Agreement

Indemnity

13. The Recipient shall indemnify and hold the Disclosing Party harmless from any and all loss, liability, cost or expense (including, without limitation, solicitor's costs on a solicitor and client basis and all other costs of defence) caused in whole or in part by the Recipient's breach of any provision of this Agreement. This Article shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

Governing Law

14. This Agreement is governed and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Nova Scotia.

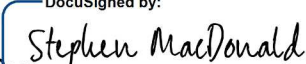
General Provisions

15. This Agreement is binding on the Parties, their administrators, successors, executors and assigns.

Executed and delivered this 4th day of October 2022.

EfficiencyOne

Nova Scotia Power Incorporated

DocuSigned by:

 By: 5826B8AAD710425...

By: _____

Name: Stephen MacDonald

Name:

Title: CEO

Title:

SCHEDULE "A" to CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

UNDERTAKING

I JUDITH FERGUSON, HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE AND AM
BOUND BY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET OUT IN THE
CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT DATED THE 4TH DAY OF OCTOBER
BETWEEN EFFICIENCYONE AND NOVA SCOTIA POWER
INCORPORATED.

Dated the 4 day of October, 2022.

 Naomi Williams

Witness

 Judith Ferguson

Name: JUDITH FERGUSON

Recipient Designate

SCHEDULE "A" to CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

UNDERTAKING

I Stephen MacDonald, HAVE READ AND
AGREE TO ABIDE AND AM BOUND BY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET
OUT IN THE CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT DATED THE 4th DAY OF
October, 2022 BETWEEN EFFICIENCYONE AND NOVA SCOTIA
POWER INCORPORATED.

Dated the 4th day of October 2022.

DocuSigned by:

Stephen MacDonald

5826B8AAD710425...

Witness

Name: Stephen MacDonald

Recipient Designate

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SCHEDULE E

EECA PLAN

[Subject to approval by the UARB]

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Schedule E
2023-2025 DSM Resource Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

EfficiencyOne's (E1) 2023-2025 Demand Side Management (DSM) Resource Plan (Settlement Plan) represents a meaningful and ambitious level of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions at a time when the climate emergency and transformational environmental policies are requiring greater investments in clean energy resources. The development of the Settlement Plan coincides with a pronounced focus by both the federal and provincial governments to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and to accomplish this monumental transition in an equitable manner. Energy efficiency is widely recognized as a key pathway to accomplish these goals. Specifically, electric demand side management resources are a key strategy to support the further transformation of the electricity system to achieve higher levels of renewables, phase out coal generation, and manage impacts from electrification efforts in a manner that is affordable to customers.

E1 has developed the Settlement Plan to deliver cost-effective energy efficiency, system coincidence peak demand reduction, and demand response capacity resources through new initiatives and enhanced service offerings that provide both short- and long-term benefits to ratepayers.

The Settlement Plan has been developed based on E1's twelve-year experience and history in delivering successful DSM programs and services to Nova Scotians. This success is a result of strong partnerships, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and Nova Scotians' demand for assistance to make energy efficiency choices. Today, residents and businesses are collectively saving over \$130 million in annual electricity costs (accounting for DSM cost recovery)¹ and over 775 kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually through a variety of programs and services.

E1's Settlement Plan is an investment of \$173 million for both energy efficiency (EE) and demand response (DR) programming – an investment that saves customers money now and, in the future, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases DR capacity, and supports a robust local industry in Nova Scotia, dominated by small businesses.

¹ M10321, EfficiencyOne 2021 Rate and Bill Impact Analysis and Model (1 November 2021), Electronically filed model version, (Microsoft Excel file).

Over the past decade, demand side management in Nova Scotia has provided benefits (avoided cost to ratepayers) that far exceed the total utility investment by a magnitude of more than 4 to 1, on average. The \$173 million Settlement Plan investment will deliver lifetime benefits of \$545 million to Nova Scotians. While DSM is known for delivering long term savings to customers, its benefits begin immediately on day one of delivery. By the end of 2027, the DSM investment will have been recovered from avoided costs – less than a 5-year payback.

The Settlement Plan addresses the continued maturation of Nova Scotia's electricity efficiency market. Since 2010, the energy landscape has evolved for both E1 and Nova Scotians. Success in DSM program delivery has driven accelerated market penetration for some energy efficiency products, particularly in the residential lighting, heat pump, and new construction markets. As high lighting market penetration continues to diminish some of the lowest-cost opportunities, E1 must evolve its DSM portfolio to increase focus on more complex markets and projects – as a result, the historically low first year unit costs of DSM cannot be maintained. Despite the resulting increasing unit costs, the Settlement Plan remains cost effective and demand side management continues to be a smart investment that helps customers lower their energy bills, with an EE² Total Resource Cost (TRC) ratio of 2.0, an EE Program Administrator Cost (PAC) ratio of 3.3, and a DR TRC ratio of 1.1.

Consistent with previous DSM Resource Plans, E1 has taken a balanced approach in the design of its program portfolio. The Settlement Plan focuses on program enhancements that improve the customer experience, increase accessibility of programs for diverse and underserved communities, remove barriers to participation, support Federal and Provincial decarbonization goals, and achieve deeper³ savings from non-lighting measures.

The Settlement Plan outlines E1's proposed programs and strategies for achieving the energy and system-peak demand saving targets for 2023-2025. The purpose of the Settlement Plan is to:

- outline DSM targets, objectives, performance metrics, strategies, and investment levels for 2023-2025;

² Includes Enabling Strategies investment.

³ Deeper energy savings is defined as providing E1 support to enable customers to complete a wide range of energy efficiency upgrades/efforts, in order to help them maximize cost-effective energy savings per building/facility. In many cases, these efforts will take place over several years.

- provide a detailed description to stakeholders, customers, partners, and industries in the marketplace of the direction that E1 is taking demand side management programs for the next three years; and
- form the basis of a DSM Supply Agreement made pursuant to S79 of the *Public Utilities Act*⁴.

1.1 TODAY'S PLANNING LANDSCAPE

The planning landscape for electricity demand side resources is changing quickly in Nova Scotia, driven by factors such as progressing market transformation, emerging technologies, evolving customer expectations and climate change goals. To frame the planning landscape for consideration in the Settlement Plan, E1 identified the following influences, each of which is discussed in the sections that follow.

- 2020 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) results;
- climate change goals;
- the global COVID-19 pandemic; and
- the transformation of the Nova Scotia market.

1.1.1 2020 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN RESULTS

Since E1's 2020-2022 DSM Plan was developed and approved, NS Power conducted a new IRP which was used to inform the development of the Settlement Plan. NS Power's 2020 IRP reflected themes of decarbonization, as well as regional integration, and electrification. Demand side resource options were explored in the 2020 IRP through the incorporation of E1's four 2019 Potential Study DSM scenarios as a load modifier and E1's four 2019 Potential Study DR scenarios as a supply side resource option.

The IRP Reference Plan selected through the 2020 IRP process was Scenario 2.0C (Base DSM and Base DR), which results in the lowest net present value revenue requirement for ratepayers. This was the first time DR had been included in the IRP. The IRP Reference Plan calls for 2,896 GWh of first year energy savings and 81 MW of capacity from DR by 2045. Avoided costs of energy, capacity, and carbon were calculated using the 2020 IRP Reference Plan (2.0C) and a no-DSM (2.0C) comparator scenario for use in the development of the Settlement Plan. Avoided costs for transmission and distribution were not provided as part of the IRP process but were developed collaboratively with the Demand Side Management Advisory Group (DSMAG), including NS Power.

⁴ *Public Utilities Act*, RSNS 1989, c 380, s.79.

The 2020 IRP Action Plan proposed the initiation of an Electrification Strategy to develop options for encouraging beneficial electrification, inclusive of proposed pilots and programs subject to Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) oversight. The IRP Action Plan also includes the creation of a Demand Response Strategy targeting 75 MW of deployable capacity by 2025. E1 looks forward to actively participating in these initiatives and has modelled a DR program in its Settlement Plan. However, given that the Electrification Strategy has not been developed, there is uncertainty around what future ratepayer funding may look like, and specific implications for demand side management activities. Although uncertainty remains, E1 anticipates that there will be a role for the organization in the support of the development and implementation of future beneficial electrification programs and as such has incorporated support for these initiatives as part of its Enabling Strategies component of the Settlement Plan.

1.1.2 LEGISLATED CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS

Climate change policy and goals are evolving quickly and have shifted even throughout the development of the Settlement Plan. In October and November 2021, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) signaled that nations the world over, are committed to limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees⁵ to avoid the most serious climate change impacts. In line with this commitment, our Federal and Provincial Governments have introduced recent environmental goals to achieve emissions reduction targets of net zero by 2050. Specifically, the Federal Government has announced the following environmental commitments⁶:

- cease all coal-fired electricity generation by 2030;
- increase the federal price of carbon by \$15/tonne beginning in 2023 and reaching a level of \$170/tonne by 2030; and
- achieve a net zero emissions electricity sector by 2035.

⁵ United Nations Climate Press Release, November 13, 2021. <https://unfccc.int/news/cop26-reaches-consensus-on-key-actions-to-address-climate-change>

⁶ Environment and Climate Change Canada, A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/11/canada-and-the-world-move-closer-to-powering-past-coal-with-more-climate-ambition-at-cop26.html>

Provincially, the Nova Scotia government recently enacted Bill 57, the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act*. The Act sets out climate change goals and greenhouse gas emission targets⁷ including:

- by 2030, GHG emissions be at least 53% below the levels that were emitted in 2005;
- by 2050, GHG emissions be net zero, by balancing GHG emissions with GHG removals and other offsetting measures;
- have 80% of electricity in the province supplied by renewable energy by 2030;
- phase out coal-fired electricity generation in the province by the year 2030;
- support, strengthen, and set targets for energy efficiency programming while prioritizing equitable access and benefits for low income and marginalized Nova Scotians;
- require any new build or major retrofit in government buildings, including schools and hospitals, that enters the planning stage after 2022, to have net zero energy performance and be climate resilient;
- decrease GHG emissions across government-owned buildings by 75% by the year 2035; and
- develop and implement a zero-emission vehicle mandate that ensures, at a minimum, that 30% of new vehicle sales of all light duty and personal vehicles in the province will be zero-emission vehicles by 2030.

E1's Settlement Plan positions DSM to be an effective contributor to the clean energy transformation that is underway in helping Nova Scotia reach their climate change goals and doing so affordably. While the IRP Reference Plan's level of energy efficiency and avoided costs of DSM do not necessarily reflect the recent environmental goals of Bill 57, the IRP Evergreen Process that is currently being carried out, should incorporate the implications of these recent policy changes.

1.1.3 THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges and opportunities for delivering DSM activities in Nova Scotia. The pandemic impacted elements of E1's business operations throughout 2020 and 2021. It also offered an opportunity to reimagine aspects of service delivery and pilot modifications to existing programs. At the onset, the pandemic resulted in a high degree of uncertainty for future markets

⁷ Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, SNS 2021, c.20

including the duration of the pandemic, longevity of short-run economic impacts on homes and businesses, supply chain delays, participation, and customer attitudes.

During 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed E1's progress toward achieving energy efficiency targets primarily as a result of lockdowns that limited certain activities such as in-home and in-business site visits, labour shortages, and supply chain issues creating project delays. At the same time, E1's need for innovative solutions resulted in exploration of different program delivery models such as virtual audits and assessments, targeting unoccupied buildings, and virtual education and outreach approaches. E1 also saw increased opportunities in addressing customer concerns with building air quality and ventilation issues as a result of the pandemic, which provides an opportunity to increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions while, at the same time, addressing health and comfort concerns.

Despite E1's swift response to the impacts caused by COVID-19, E1 fell short of its 2020 and 2021 DSM Plan targets, as filed. E1 has drawn upon the insights gathered from customers through the 2020 and 2021 COVID-19 impact period to inform E1's portfolio and key assumptions in the Settlement Plan. In the development of the Settlement Plan, E1 has assumed no further periods of isolation or shutdown, and that current labour shortages and supply chain issues will be largely resolved by the end of 2023.

As the province of Nova Scotia continues to respond to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on Nova Scotia's economy, E1 can help support the recovery through energy efficiency. Not only does energy efficiency lower energy costs for customers but investing in DSM programs also means investing in the local economy, creating jobs in a variety of areas including energy management and modelling, building design, and the professional trades. Through E1's Efficiency Preferred Partner (EPP) network, there are over 260 local businesses enrolled to help Nova Scotians with their energy efficient improvements. These businesses are located across the province and can provide a boost to local economies in both rural and urban settings.

1.1.4 TRANSFORMATION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA MARKET

Within the changing energy industry, E1 faces an increasingly complex DSM planning environment as the Nova Scotia market matures and transforms, particularly in the residential sector. The residential lighting, heat pump, and new construction markets have achieved increasing energy efficiency transformation. Having delivered energy efficiency and conservation services in Nova Scotia for over a decade, E1, like other

DSM administrators, is encountering more complex and dynamic demand side resource opportunities to deliver value to customers. To address current levels of market transformation and continue to encourage further transformation in the energy efficiency marketplace, E1's 2023-2025 DSM portfolio reflects evolving opportunities through the re-introduction of a residential behaviour and whole home low-income programs, further diversification beyond lighting measures through expansion of more complex retrofit projects, and the development of a residential new construction market transformation program through Enabling Strategies.

1.2 DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA

1.2.1 OVERVIEW

The Settlement Plan delivers demand side resources to Nova Scotia ratepayers in support of achieving NS Power's long-term electricity strategy as provided in the IRP. The Settlement Plan offers a portfolio of DSM services that will be delivered to Nova Scotians over the three-year plan period and the investment required to do so. The portfolio of services is designed with a focus on cost-effectiveness, accessibility and equity, and affordability. To ensure programs are accessible for all ratepayers, E1 incorporates several marketing approaches, delivery methods, and program types to effectively remove barriers to participation. The Settlement Plan is also developed with both short- and long-term affordability in mind. E1 must also demonstrate how the investment in DSM balances the short-term and long-term benefits to ratepayers. The level of DSM, and the avoided costs resulting from NS Power's IRP, E1's Rate and Bill Impact Analysis (RBIA), and the program-level cost effectiveness testing (CET) results provide a framework to consider the affordability of the DSM Plan.

Historically, E1 has successfully delivered energy efficiency focused demand side management. For the first time, in its 2020-2022 DSM Resource Plan, E1 developed and subsequently implemented, peak demand reduction focused initiatives and measures, such as electric thermal storage units and building optimization incentives, for peak period demand reductions. In the 2023-2025 DSM Plan period, E1 will further expand the scope of demand side management resources available to Nova Scotians – incorporating capacity-focused initiatives (demand response).

Energy efficiency and demand response efforts engage customers and help to lower their energy costs, build industry capacity, support the local economy, and foster relationships with stakeholders, partners, and customers. Demand side management also improves conditions for local businesses, both large and

small, by enabling opportunities to lower the cost of operations, upfront costs of upgrading to efficient products and equipment, and helps to create and maintain local jobs. Capacity-focused initiatives such as demand response provide additional value to ratepayers through better understanding and control over their peak demand costs and usage, as well as increasing the capacity of flexible resources on the electricity grid to better respond to and plan for system peaks and smooth the integration of renewables.

1.2.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE 2023-2025 DSM RESOURCE PLAN

There are three main objectives of the Settlement Plan:

1. deliver cost-effective demand side resources that support the successful implementation of a long-term electricity strategy that is in the best interest of Nova Scotia ratepayers, supports Federal and Provincial climate change goals, and maintains affordability for Nova Scotians;
2. deliver a portfolio of demand side management services that are accessible on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis, are responsive to the current market, and proactively consider potential future market developments; and
3. conduct a transparent and collaborative demand side resource planning process that reflects best practice, demonstrates consideration of stakeholder insight, and encourages agreement among DSMAG members.

1.3 THE NEXT DECADE OF DSM

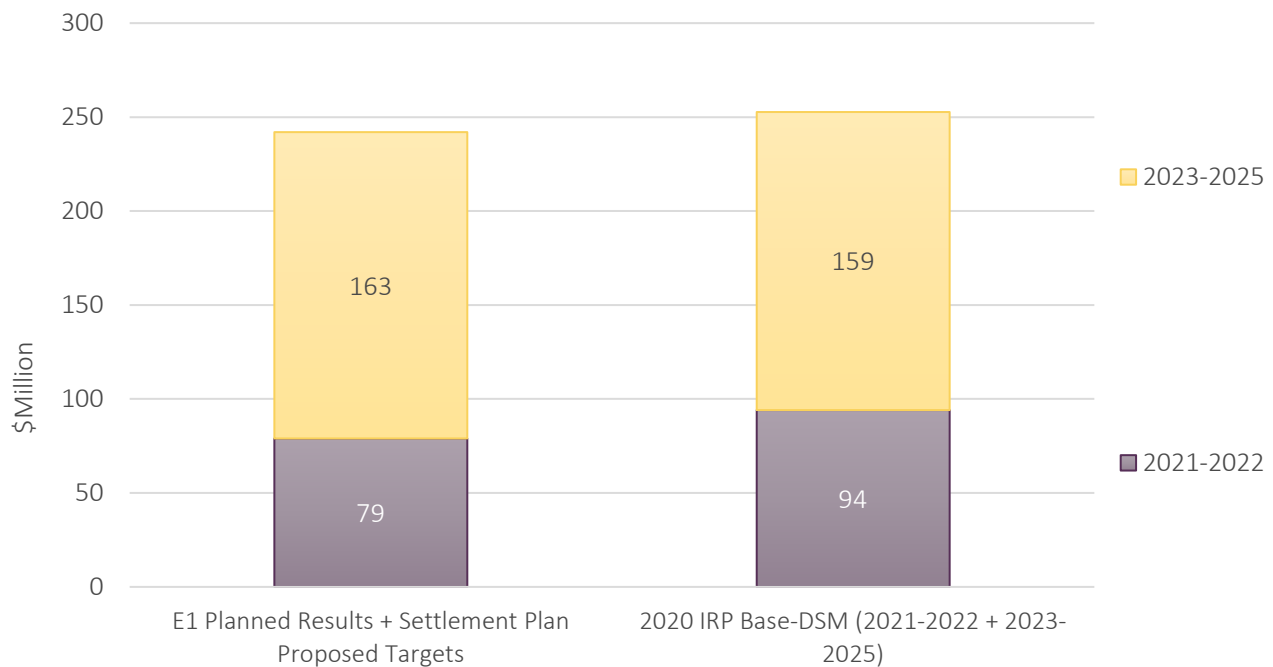
Nova Scotians have been achieving considerable energy, cost, and emissions savings through energy efficiency over the past ten years. But the current climate outlook requires further transition to clean energy resources, and this requires considerably more action in the next ten years.

E1 is facing an increasingly complex DSM planning landscape as the Nova Scotia market matures and continues to experience increasing transformation, particularly in the residential sector. Emerging topics like demand response, distributed energy resources, and advanced metering infrastructure offer an expanded range of demand side options to explore and consider in future DSM Plan portfolios. Our customers are changing too. More customers are working from home, have flexible work schedules, and want to engage with energy experts in convenient and virtual ways.

At a minimum, the 2020 IRP calls for over 2,800 GWh of efficiency to be delivered to the electricity grid by 2045 and we are already lagging because of COVID-19 impacts in 2020 and 2021. The Settlement Plan aims

at making up this lost ground to ensure that ratepayers do not lose out on realizing the benefits. Figure 1, below, compares energy efficiency results at the end of 2025 under the Settlement Plan to the 2020 IRP Reference Plan requirements.

Figure 1: 2021-2025 Energy Efficiency Investment (Settlement Plan) compared to 2020 IRP Reference Plan



2021 tracked results and 2022 planned targets and spending were used for E1 Planned Results.

The Settlement Plan continues to build on E1's historic foundation of success in DSM program delivery over the last decade and is transitioning to the level of DSM that is required in the future. The focus is on supporting industry capacity, helping Nova Scotia residents and businesses recover from the pandemic, and advance energy efficiency and climate change goals.

1.3.1 KEY ENHANCEMENTS & NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN 2023-2025

In the development of the Settlement Plan, E1 consulted external subject matter experts and leveraged internal expertise from having delivered energy efficiency programs since 2010 to assist with determining innovative solutions to challenges resulting from market saturation, overcoming barriers to participation in existing services, and to capitalize on opportunities for new initiatives or measures. Over the spring and summer of 2021, DSM Planning Teams comprised of internal cross-functional technical and program delivery expertise worked through the design of initiatives to address emerging areas of opportunity, challenges, and gaps in existing portfolio components. The Settlement Plan includes several new initiatives

and enhancements to existing programs and services, as described in Table 1, below, and further described in the referenced sections.

Table 1: New Initiatives and Key Enhancements in the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan

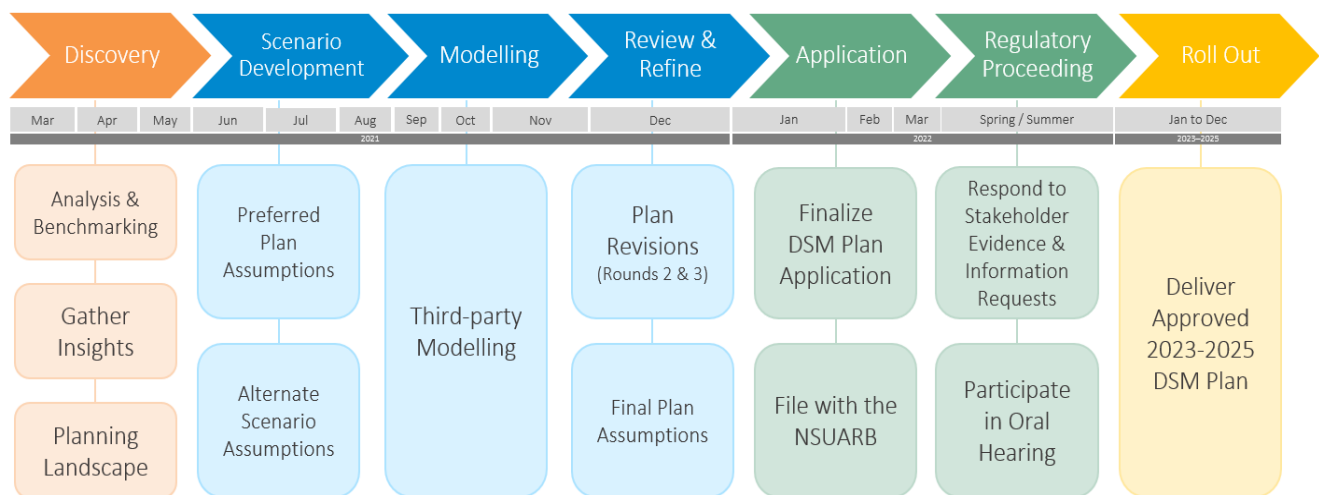
Title	Type of Initiative	Section Reference
Residential		
Affordable Single-family Homes	New program component in the residential sector	Section 4.2.2.6
Point-of-Sale Rebates for ENERGY STAR® Measures	Enhancement to existing Instant Savings program component	Section 4.1.2.2
Residential Behaviour	New program component in the residential sector	Section 4.2.2.7
Prescriptive Rebate Stream in Affordable Multi-family Housing	Enhancement to existing Affordable Multi-family Housing program component	Section 4.2.2.1
Electrician-Installed Measures	Enhancement to existing Efficient Product Installation program component	Section 4.2.2.2
Business, Non-Profit & Institutional (BNI)		
Midstream Commercial Kitchen	Enhancement to the BNI Efficient Product Rebates program	Section 5.1.2.1
Pay-for-Performance	Enhancement to existing Custom program component	Section 5.2.2.1
Commercial Direct Installation (SBES)	Enhancement to existing Direct Installation program	Section 5.3.2.1
Cross-Sector Initiatives (Residential & BNI)		
Demand Response Program	New program with two program components	Section 6
Market Transformation	New initiatives under Enabling Strategies	Section 7.2.3.5 & 7.3.3.5
Beneficial Electrification	New initiatives under Enabling Strategies	Section 7.3.3.3
Diverse & Underserved Communities	New initiatives under Enabling Strategies	Section 7.2.3.2
Innovation & Emerging Technologies	New initiatives under Enabling Strategies	Section 7.3.3.1

Each of these new initiatives and key enhancements are described in detail within the Enhancements sections of the Residential and BNI Programs & Services, Demand Response Programs & Services, and the Enabling Strategies sections of this document. Please refer to the Section Reference column in Table 1, above, for specific references to the report sections containing enhancement details.

2. DEVELOPMENT APPROACH & DETAILS

The Settlement Plan was developed for the purpose of delivering cost-effective energy and system-peak demand savings to Nova Scotia electricity ratepayers for the three-year plan period. E1 used a multi-phase development process to establish the appropriate level of energy and demand savings, the level of investment required to deliver on the savings targets, and how to best design a cost-effective portfolio of programs. Emphasis was placed on determining performance targets that met the electricity system needs, ensuring those targets were reasonable and achievable, and the portfolio design to deliver these savings was aligned with the NSUARB-approved balanced plan approach. The development of the Settlement Plan, as illustrated in Figure 2, was supported by E1's consultant Guidehouse, partnering with Energy Futures Group.

Figure 2: Development Process for the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan



The five phases in the development of E1's Settlement Plan, included:

- Discovery Phase – E1 defined the current planning landscape, identifying and detailing the key influences, draft guiding principles, and draft strategic themes guiding the plan development. Feedback on this was solicited from the DSMAG.
- Scenario Development Phase – this phase defined the draft DSM portfolios that were to be explored through modelling for the purposes of informing E1's Preferred Plan and Alternate Scenario. E1 proposed that up to five (5) scenarios would be modelled and provided three (3) initial scenarios to the DSMAG for consideration. DSMAG members were also provided an opportunity to provide feedback on not only the number of scenarios proposed but also suggestions for any

additional scenarios. NS Power also had the opportunity to request scenarios E1 could model on their behalf. For each DSM scenario, E1 included assumptions for DSM components, programs & services, target markets and performance impacts, which were circulated to the DSMAG. The comments and feedback received from the DSMAG helped inform the scenario parameters used in the next phase of the process, Modelling.

- Modelling Phase – during this phase, E1 identified the high-level assumptions for each scenario that would be modelled initially. For subsequent model runs, new scenarios were either added or existing ones were amended or eliminated.
- Review & Refine Phase – during this phase, E1 worked to incorporate feedback received from all stakeholders, refine the modelling input assumptions, and conduct re-modelling leading to final model outputs that would inform the Preferred Plan and Alternate Scenario. During this phase E1, NS Power, and the rate class advocates continued to have productive discussions and E1 was able to reach alignment with NS Power on a final DSM Plan for the 2023-2025 DSM Plan Application, referred to as the Settlement Plan.
- Application Phase – final selection of E1’s Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario completed.

Some of the Phases of DSM Plan development overlapped, for example Scenario Development and Modelling, coincided with the three rounds of energy efficiency and demand response modelling.

2.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

In developing the Settlement Plan, E1 leveraged lessons learned from the 2020-2022 DSM Plan to enhance the development process and demonstrate responsiveness to stakeholder feedback. What E1 heard from its regulatory stakeholders coming out of the 2020-2022 DSM Plan process is that they wanted to be engaged in the development process earlier, specifically in relation to the DSM scenarios that would be examined through modelling. E1 has made a concerted effort to increase meaningful stakeholder engagement with the members of the DSMAG throughout the development process of the Settlement Plan through enhanced advance materials including early modelling results and supporting data, technical DSMAG sessions, one-on-one stakeholder meetings, and opportunities for written stakeholder feedback as highlighted in the sections that follow.

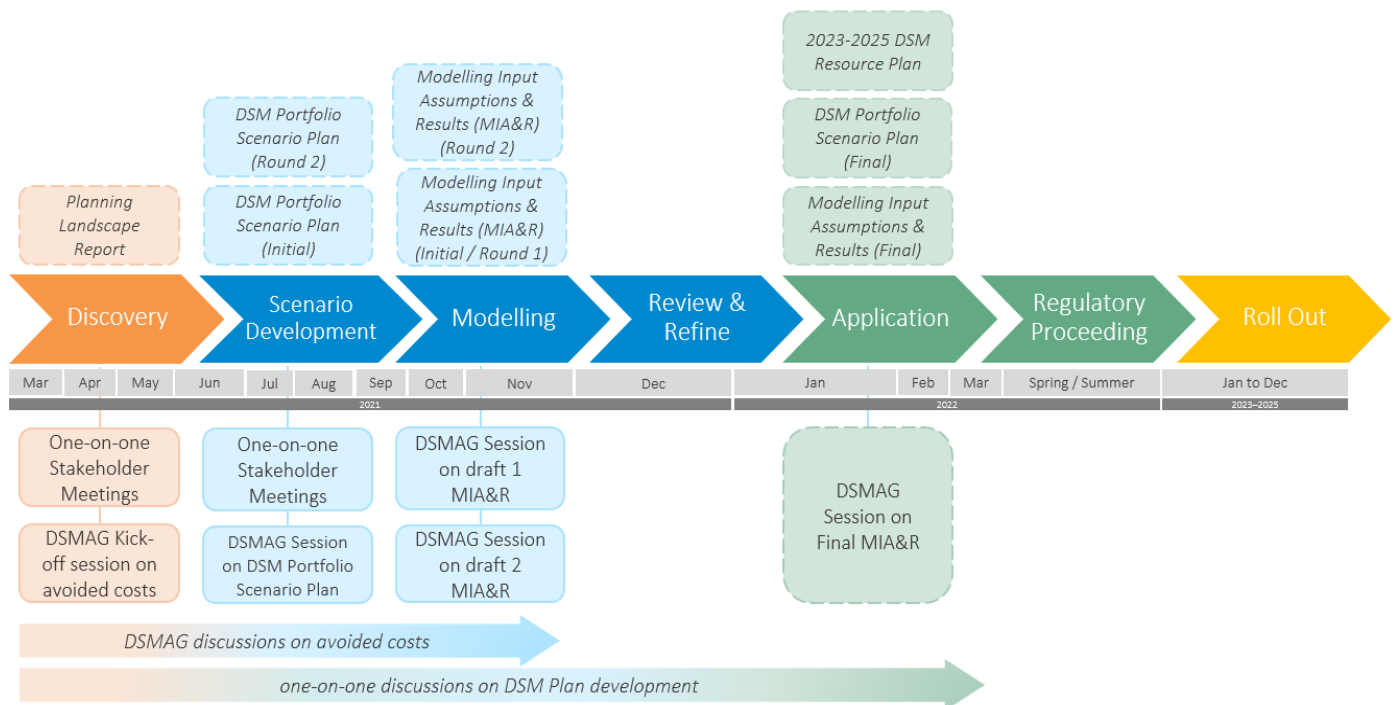
To ensure E1 fulfilled its commitment to stakeholder feedback from the previous DSM development process, E1 implemented a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan which included meeting with key

external stakeholders, engaging internal subject matter experts as well as stakeholder engagement surveys with contractors, installers, retailers, service providers, and the public. This comprehensive approach allowed E1 to be proactive in engaging with stakeholders earlier in the process that allowed E1 to leverage stakeholders' areas of expertise into the development of the DSM Plan. E1 fostered transparency with stakeholders throughout the DSM Plan process through open dialogue with various stakeholders, collecting feedback, and responding to stakeholder inquiries to ensure there were no surprises in E1's final filing.

2.1.1 DSM ADVISORY GROUP STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

E1's engagement process sought to provide an accessible, equitable and affordable plan that was responsive to the current planning landscape. As illustrated in Figure 3, below, E1 implemented an extensive engagement process for the DSMAG using a series of phases, ultimately resulting in alignment with NS Power on the Settlement Plan. The DSMAG members include the Consumer Advocate (CA), Small Business Advocate (SBA), Synapse Energy Economics (consultant to the NSUARB), NS Power, Industrial Group (IG), Province of Nova Scotia, Assembly of Mi'kmaw Chiefs, Affordable Energy Coalition (AEC), Ecology Action Centre (EAC), the Municipal Electric Utilities (MEU), and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM).

Figure 3: DSM Advisory Group Engagement



1 The timelines in E1's DSMAG stakeholder engagement process is outlined in Table 2, below.

2

3 Table 2: DSMAG Stakeholder Engagement Timelines in the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Development

First Quarter of 2021	
Kick-off meetings with stakeholders, including: • NS Power • Consumer Advocate	March 24 to April 16
• Small Business Advocate • Industrial Group • Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources & Renewable (DNRR)	March 24 to April 16
Second Quarter of 2021	
Stakeholder Engagement Plan circulated to the DSMAG	June 11
Planning Landscape Report circulated to the DSMAG for comment	June 17
Third Quarter of 2021	
Planning Landscape Report comment period closed; written comments submitted by: • CA (Green Energy Economics Group) • SBA • NS Power	July 2
Draft DSM Portfolio Scenarios Plan circulated to the DSMAG for comment	August 13
DSMAG Session: Draft DSM Portfolio Scenarios Plan	August 19
Draft DSM Portfolio Scenarios Plan comment period closed; written comments submitted by: • Synapse Energy Economics (Synapse) • NS Power • CA • Affordable Energy Coalition	September 2
One-on-one meetings with stakeholders, including: • NS Power • CA • SBA • Synapse	September 23 & 24
Updated DSM Portfolio Scenarios & Initial Model Results Package circulated to the DSMAG for comment; package comprised of: • Updated DSM Portfolio Scenarios Plan • Initial Model Input Assumptions & Results • Attachment A: Stakeholder Feedback Matrix	September 29

Fourth Quarter of 2021	
DSMAG Session: Updated DSM Portfolio Scenarios & Initial Model Results	October 5
Updated DSM Portfolio Scenarios & Initial Model Results Package comment period closed; written comments submitted by: • Synapse • CA • IG, informally (i.e. via email)	October 18
One-on-one meetings with stakeholders, including: • NS Power • CA • SBA	November 23
Updated DSM Portfolio Scenarios & Round 2 Model Results Package circulated to the DSMAG for comment; package comprised of: • Updated DSM Portfolio Scenarios Plan • Round 2 Model Input Assumptions & Results • Attachment A: Stakeholder Feedback Matrix • Attachment B: Avoided Costs Brief • Attachment C: Estimation of DSM Low-Income Impacts for the 2023-2025 DSM Resource Plan • Attachment D: Keeping the Lights On: Navigating the Changing Landscape of Retail Lighting • Attachment E: Scenario 1B (Mid-DSM) Round 2 Technical Tables • Attachment F: Scenario 1.5B (Base-Plus DSM) Round 2 Technical Tables • Attachment G: Scenario 2B (Base-DSM) Round 2 Technical Tables • Attachment H: Scenario 4B (Low-DSM) Round 2 Technical Tables • Attachment I: Demand Response (DR-B) Round 2 Model Inputs • Attachment J: Demand Response (DR-B) Round 2 Model Results • Attachment K: Rate and Bill Impact Analysis (RBIA) Scenario Summary	November 25
DSMAG Session: Updated DSM Portfolio Scenarios & Round 2 Model Results	November 29
Updated DSM Portfolio Scenarios & Initial Model Results Package comment period closed; written comments submitted by: • NS Power • CA (Green Energy Economics Group) • Synapse • Municipal Electric Utilities via AI Dominie • AEC	December 31
First Quarter of 2022	
One-on-one meetings with stakeholders, including: • NS Power • CA	January 17 to February 4

First Quarter of 2022	
• SBA • Synapse • AEC • Ecology Action Centre	January 17 to February 4
DSM Portfolio Scenarios & Round 3 Model Results Package circulated to the DSMAG; package comprised of: • DSM Portfolio Scenarios Plan • Round 3 (Preferred Plan & Alternate Scenario) Model Input Assumptions & Results • Attachment A: Stakeholder Feedback Matrix • Attachment B: Preferred Plan Technical Tables • Attachment C: Alternate Scenario Technical Tables	February 14
DSMAG Session: Presentation of E1's Preferred Plan and Alternate Scenario	February 17
Discussions with NS Power to consider alignment on the Settlement Plan. Engaged rate class advocates as part of the discussions.	February 17 to March 4

2.1.2 OTHER EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

E1 conducted stakeholder engagement on the 2023-2025 DSM Plan with a variety of other external stakeholder groups, illustrated in Figure 4, below.

Figure 4: Other Stakeholder Groups that E1 engaged in the DSM Plan Development

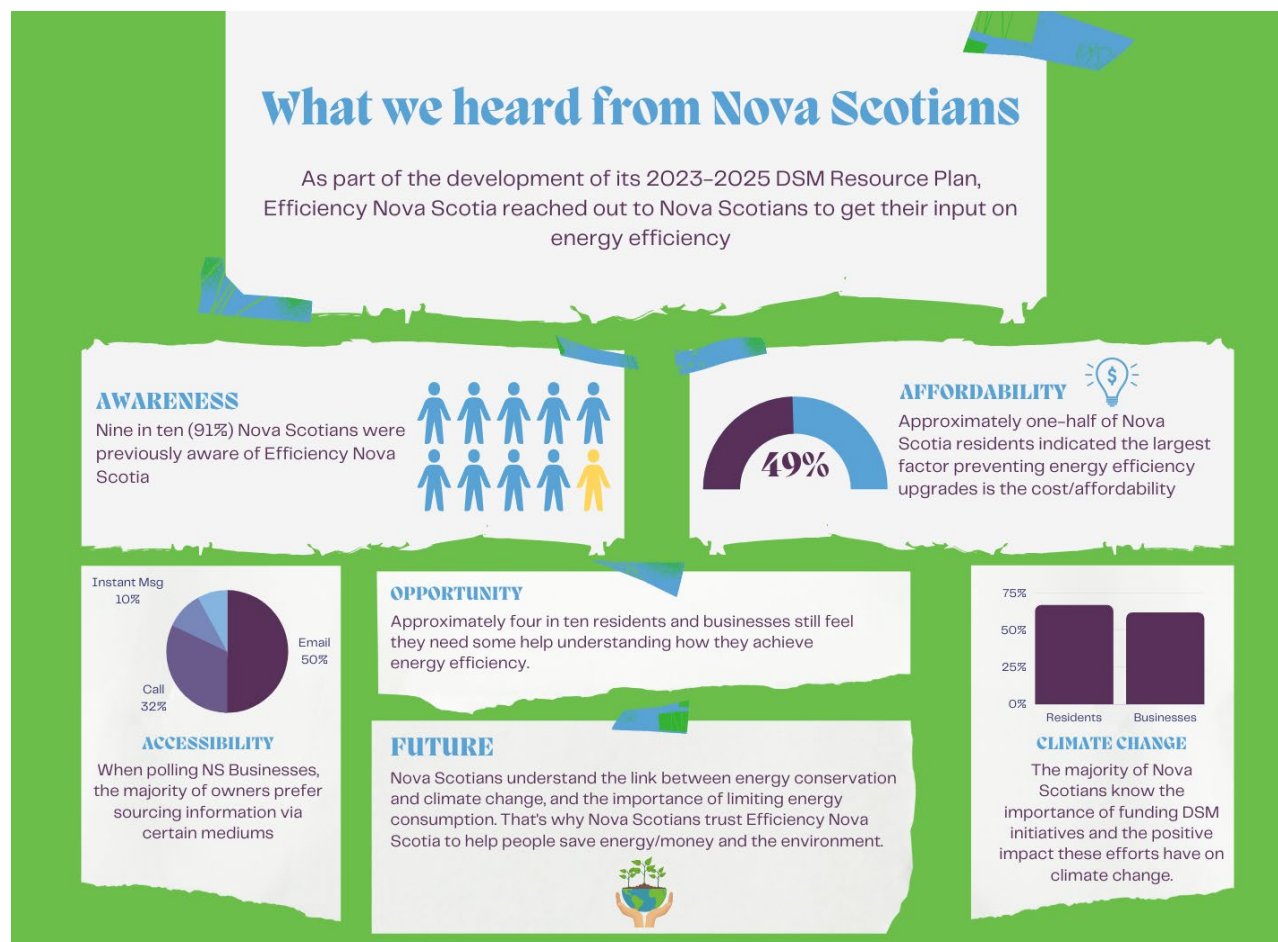


2.1.3 CUSTOMER INSIGHTS

As part of the development of its Settlement Plan, E1 commissioned Narrative Research to undertake a quantitative research study to assess perceptions on a variety of topics related to energy efficiency and

conservation among both residents and business organizations in the province. This research was conducted through an initial email invitation containing a unique survey link to a random sample of NS Power ratepayers in all rate classes, in addition to two email reminders, forwarded to sampled ratepayers. This sampling method yielded 1,535 usable residential, and 373 usable commercial survey responses. In addition, E1 posted a generic online survey link on its social media accounts, website, and through advertisements, to ensure all Nova Scotians had the opportunity to participate in this important research. The generic survey link yielded an additional 1,896 useable survey responses. An analysis of the survey responses provided significant insights for consideration in the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan development. Figure 5 highlights some of the key findings from the 2021 DSM Report.

Figure 5: Infographic – What We Heard from Nova Scotians



Through this research, it was found that the vast majority of Nova Scotians were previously aware of the Efficiency Nova Scotia brand and its commitment to helping residents and businesses reduce their energy use through services and programs. However, there is room to enhance awareness and uptake of E1's

Energy Solutions Advisor services as only one-third (35%) of residents and four in ten (43%) organizations have contacted an Energy Solutions Advisor in the past⁸. When surveyed, most participants preferred to contact E1 via email over phone conversations, instant messaging, and word of mouth. This indicated that Nova Scotians desire virtual access to efficiency experts and having accessibility to these experts. While awareness is a key component to E1 and its offerings, there is still opportunity to educate Nova Scotians on how they can achieve energy efficiency in their homes and businesses. This finding highlights the importance of education and outreach, which E1 supports through its Enabling Strategies, described in Section 7.

One of the largest barriers to participation that Nova Scotians indicated was the cost of upgrades. E1's Settlement Plan portfolio aims to help customers overcome these financial barriers.

A resounding theme that came out of the survey found that the majority of Nova Scotians know the importance of funding DSM initiatives and the positive impact that it can have not only on climate change but on encouraging behaviour change that reduces energy consumption. This indicates that Nova Scotians understand the link between energy conservation and climate action.

2.1.4 INTERNAL SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

E1's internal subject matter experts (SMEs) have frequent communication with customers, partners and other market actors and provide significant knowledge into current market conditions and trends. The engagement with internal subject matter experts was conducted throughout all phases of the DSM Plan development process, similar to E1's approach with external stakeholders.

This process allowed E1's SMEs to provide insight on current program assumptions, changes, trends and future influences during early planning when model characterizations were being developed. SMEs insights on each phase of model results supported the refinement of model inputs to shape the final portfolio and help ensure the Settlement Plan is deliverable and achievable.

⁸ Narrative Research 2021 DSM Report, Prepared for EfficiencyOne, January 2022, page 12, page 35.

2.2 KEY CONSIDERATIONS

2.2.1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES & STRATEGIC GOALS

E1 developed guiding principles and strategic themes to support the development of the Settlement Plan. The guiding principles, as shown in Figure 6, are related to vision and values. They reflect the “how and why” of the Settlement Plan, more than the “what.” Guiding principles are foundational and less subject to change based on emerging issues or market circumstances.

Figure 6: Guiding Principles in the Development of the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Transparency – E1 will provide stakeholders and customers with information and insight into the analyses supporting plan development and results and demonstrate how received comments were considered.

Accessibility & Equity – E1 services are accessible on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis and, where necessary, E1 targets hard to reach or potentially underserved market segments.

Affordability – E1’s portfolio aims to maximize value to electricity ratepayers, using the Integrated Resource Plan, the Rate and Bill Impact Analysis, and cost effectiveness testing as a framework to consider both short- and long-term affordability.

The strategic themes, as provided in Figure 7, identify elements which will inform the portfolio design and initiatives for the next plan cycle. They are the “what” of the Settlement Plan. These themes are variable, and change based on emerging topics and/or market circumstances.

Figure 7: Strategic Themes in the Development of the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan

STRATEGIC THEMES

The 2020 IRP Reference Plan – demand side resources are planned in support of the successful implementation of a long-term electricity strategy for delivery of safe, reliable, affordable, and clean electricity that is in the best interest of ratepayers.

Mitigate Climate Change – E1’s DSM portfolio is an important component of provincial strategies for decarbonizing Nova Scotia’s economy.

Effective Portfolio Design – the DSM portfolio of services is responsive to the market evolution that has occurred in Nova Scotia and reflects the current planning landscape.

The evidence used to inform the development of the Guiding Principles and Strategic Themes relied on several sources including but not limited to:

- results of NS Power’s 2020 IRP process;

- past NSUARB decisions;
- historical results and approved DSM Resource Plans;
- previous evaluation and verification results and their recommendations;
- expert consultation for strategic and modelling support;
- the Standardized Filing Framework's DSM Standards;
- stakeholder engagement and feedback;
- market conditions, industry research, and jurisdictional trends; and
- operational data and insights from internal subject matter expertise.

The Settlement Plan seeks to increase the overall utility avoided costs for the benefit of customers. NS Power's 2020 IRP identified the candidate resource plan (the Reference Plan) that results in the lowest revenue requirement from customers. The level of DSM investment and savings in the 2020 IRP Reference Plan is the base-level of DSM (for both energy efficiency and demand response) from Navigant's DSM Potential Study⁹. This level of energy and capacity savings informed the development of the Settlement Plan.

E1's Settlement Plan aligns, rather than continues to move away from, the achievement of savings in the IRP's Reference Plan. These annual savings represent the greatest long-term benefits to Nova Scotians and the Settlement Plan is helping provide customers a reasonable opportunity of realizing these benefits in the future by taking a responsible step in the right direction.

Determining a reasonable level of DSM for E1's Settlement Plan considers several factors including historical levels of energy savings E1 has achieved, whether there is sufficient industry capacity to support this level, and affordability. E1's Settlement Plan represents a ramp up from 2022 that has incorporated these factors.

Appropriate portfolio design is critical to effectively, responsibly, and equitably deliver cost-effective electricity savings levels established in E1's Settlement Plan. DSM portfolios must be responsive to evolving

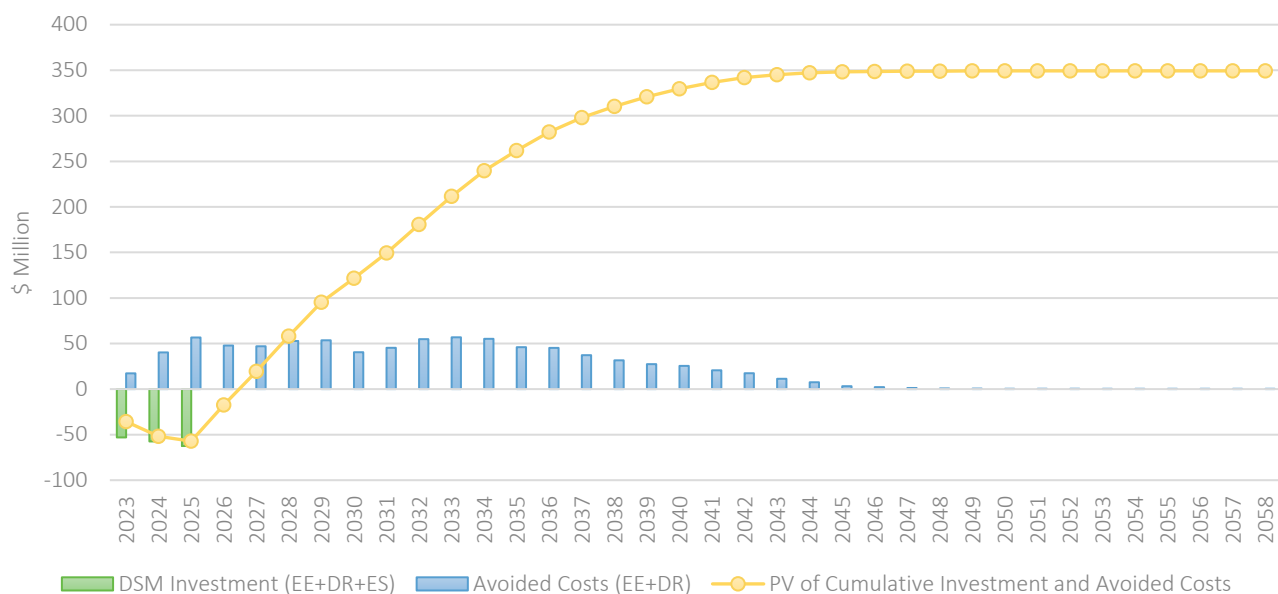
⁹ M08929, Exhibit N-1, EfficiencyOne, Nova Scotia Energy Efficiency and Demand Response Potential Study for 2021-2045, Prepared by Navigant for EfficiencyOne, August 14, 2019.

customer needs, technologies, market conditions, and regulatory requirements. E1 has considered the following areas of focus in the development of the Settlement Plan:

- increasing the diversity of energy and demand savings, to further help customers achieve cost-effective energy solutions;
- providing accessibility for a wider variety of market sectors and customer segments; and
- increasing the level of system-peak demand reduction benefits.

E1 considers affordability in the development of the Settlement Plan, both short- and long-term. E1's Settlement Plan has a payback of under five years – as illustrated in Figure 8. This means that by the end of 2027, the DSM investment will be fully recovered while ratepayers will continue to accrue benefits into the future.

Figure 8: Settlement Plan – Payback



DSM investment includes EE, DR, and Enabling Strategies. For DR, investment includes only the E1 portion of costs and benefits. Green bars are nominal investment. Blue bars are nominal avoided cost. Yellow line is a 2023 present value (PV) calculated using NS Power's Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC).

Payback graphs, by rate class, are provided in Attachment 1.

An analysis of the Settlement Plan's rate and bill impacts, which compares a "no-DSM" scenario (\$0 investment in 2023-2025 DSM) to the Settlement Plan's level of DSM, shows minor average rate impacts

(between -0.1 to +1.0 percent) by customer rate class over the study period (2023-2039). Average participants in each class will reduce their annual bills by between 1.2 and 7.9 percent.

Energy efficiency delivery under the Settlement Plan will offset just over 4,600 GWh of energy production over the lifetime of installed measures and reduce annual system-peak demand by 97 MW, providing lifetime benefits of \$542 million. For the first time, the Settlement Plan will also deliver flexible capacity to the electricity grid, with 18 MW of available DR capacity by the end of 2025, resulting in an additional \$3 million in lifetime benefits¹⁰.

2.2.2 PORTFOLIO-WIDE ASSUMPTIONS & DESIGN OBJECTIVES

E1's key global assumptions and design objectives for all modelled scenarios align with both the Plan's Guiding Principles and the Standardized Filing Framework (SFF). Specifically, the DSM Standards included in the SFF articulate that DSM Plans must balance the following aspects of DSM for the benefit of customers:

- Short- and long-term energy and capacity avoidance;
- Program delivery costs;
- Avoided energy and capacity investments;
- Non-electric and non-energy benefits;
- Diversity of program delivery;
- Business relationships and maintenance of market presence;
- Access to programs by all market sectors and rate classes by addressing barriers to participation; and
- Rate impacts.

The Balanced Portfolio section, below, further describes how E1 is considering the Balanced Plan aspects in the development and design of the 2023-2025 DSM Plan scenarios being explored. E1's Plan Guiding Principle, specifically related to Accessibility & Equity, ensures that programs offered are accessible on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis and reach potentially underserved markets.

¹⁰ DR lifetime benefits are calculated assuming DR programs do not continue beyond 2025

2.2.2.1 BALANCED PORTFOLIO – THE FRAMEWORK

On 22 July 2016, E1 filed a Consensus Agreement with the NSUARB¹¹. The Consensus Agreement was executed by E1, NS Power, the CA, the SBA, the IG, the MEU, the AEC, and the EAC. The Consensus Agreement included Demand Side Management Standards (“DSM Standards”), which articulate that DSM Plans must balance multiple aspects of DSM for the benefit of customers¹². The objectives of the DSM Standards are as follows:

- to ensure consistency in the overall DSM planning and evaluation process in Nova Scotia;
- to consolidate important decisions made by the NSUARB as they pertain to DSM regulation; and
- to ensure that DSM Resource Plans balance the multiple objectives of DSM.

Table 3, below, further describes the balanced plan considerations and how E1 has addressed these in the Settlement Plan.

Table 3: Balanced Plan Aspects Addressed in the Settlement Plan

Balanced Plan Aspects	2023-2025 Settlement Plan
Short- and long-term energy and capacity avoidance	• resource acquisition (measures with a diversity of short- and long-term savings) • market transformation (research and development)
Program Delivery Costs	• cost management strategies • incentive setting methodology
Avoided energy and capacity investments	• avoided cost of energy and carbon applied to EE measures • avoided costs of capacity, transmission, and distribution applied to EE and DR measures
Non-electric and non-energy benefits	• measure mix informed by historical participation, which inherently values customer perception of total project benefits

¹¹ M07543, 2016-2018 DSM Deferred Matters, Exhibit 3, Executed Revised Consensus Agreement, Appendix 1: Standardized Filing Framework, Section 4.3.1 Balanced Plan Approach, July 22, 2016, page 10.

¹² M07543, 2016-2018 DSM Deferred Matters, Exhibit 3, Executed Revised Consensus Agreement, Appendix 1: Standardized Filing Framework, Section 4.3.1 Balanced Plan Approach, July 22, 2016, page 9.

Balanced Plan Aspects	2023-2025 Settlement Plan
Diversity of program delivery	356 measures, with measure lives ranging from 1 to 36 years 14 EE program components; 2 DR program components - diverse markets (homeowners, renters, building owners, builders & developers, small business, industry, commercial, institution) - diverse delivery types (energy assessments and feasibility studies, point-of-sale and post-purchase rebates, direct installation and self-serve participation channels, behaviour)
Business relationships and maintenance of market presence	- Enabling Strategies key theme is partnership development - maintains Efficiency Preferred Partner network - maintains current portfolio of program components, with the exception of New Home Construction which is transitioning to a market transformation approach, while adding Residential Behaviour and Affordable Single-family Homes
Access to programs by all market sectors and rate classes by addressing barriers to participation	- low-income investment – 22% of EE Portfolio (including Enabling Strategies) and 21% of total portfolio (including DR, EE, and Enabling Strategies) - energy savings split of 46% Residential and 54% BNI - EE program funding split of 55% Residential and 45% BNI - total program (i.e. EE + DR) funding split of 55% Residential and 45% BNI Suite of residential and BNI program components targeting road range of end uses and customer segments, including the following new portfolio additions: - new Residential Behaviour program component - new electrician-installed measures and smart thermostat offering within the Efficient Products Installation program component - new residential Affordable Single-family Homes program component - new direct install service for small businesses through Small Business Energy Solutions - prioritizes underserved markets and communities through education & outreach - prioritizes market transformation research and development targeted at the residential new construction market as a whole
Rate impacts	- RBIA performed on DSM model results, as part of Plan development - cumulative value of avoided costs will exceed the initial investment by the end of 2027

1

2 With the Balanced Plan Approach and Balanced Portfolio framework in mind, the following design
3 objectives were applied to the Settlement Plan:

- 4 • investment in low-income (LI): 17% to 22% of total energy efficiency portfolio investment;
5 • investment split: 50% Residential (Res) and 50% BNI programs; and

- energy savings split: 40% Res and 60% BNI programs.

Table 4, below, further describes key global assumptions applied to the Settlement Plan. The column “Model” denotes the applicability of described model inputs and assumptions to the model type – i.e. EE, DR and, in some cases, both.

Table 4: Key Global Assumptions in the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Development

Key Global Assumptions		Model	
ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF MODEL INPUTS & ASSUMPTIONS	EE	DR
Avoided Costs	- Avoided costs of both energy and capacity were based on NS Power’s 2020 IRP Scenario 2.0C (Avoided Cost Run). Attachment 2 – Avoided Costs Brief, provided to the DSMAG in November 2021, provides details on E1’s methodology. - DR is assumed to have no energy impacts, and therefore, avoided cost of energy is negated (i.e. zero); avoided cost of capacity uses the same methodology as EE.	X	X
	Transmission and distribution avoided costs were as developed by NS Power and the DSMAG in 2020, with remaining issues addressed in 2021. E1 is using the system wide costs from NS Power’s May 2021 release, adjusted for inflation (2% annually).	X	X
	Avoided cost of carbon was developed using the Federal Policy Position¹³ Document, inclusive of the federal backstop trajectory (\$170 per tonne by 2030, and held constant, in real terms, beyond 2030). This price was applied to the difference in CO₂ emissions between IRP case 2.0C, and a reference case containing no energy efficiency activities. The factors are then combined to produce a price per kWh of energy saved for the avoided costs of carbon.	X	
Line Loss Factors	- Energy: residential (9.5%) and BNI (6.4%) were updated using the latest figures established in E1’s 2020 DSM Program Evaluation Report. This impacts the conversion from savings at meter to savings at the generator. - Demand: residential (14.7%) and BNI (6.1%) were updated using the latest figures established in E1’s 2020 DSM Program Evaluation Report. This impacts the conversion from savings at meter to savings at the generator.	X	X
Incentive Development	EE incentive development: unless otherwise noted in individual scenario descriptions, incentives were set to current levels with the exception of new initiatives and instances where incentives were adjusted to account for future expectations or program activity goals (e.g. greater online activity within residential Instant Savings or increased incentive planned to increase participation in Custom). A financial simulation was applied to all incentives as part of DSM Plan development, which analyzed incentive levels against	X	

¹³ Environment and Climate Change Canada. A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy, 2020.

Key Global Assumptions		Model	
ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF MODEL INPUTS & ASSUMPTIONS	EE	DR
Incentive Development	thresholds contained in the Incentive Setting Methodology, as accepted by the NSUARB in 2017.		
	DR incentives development: updated from the 2019 DSM Potential Study based on updated information from Guidehouse as well as preliminary incentive insights from DR pilots and projects within Nova Scotia.		X
Incremental Costs	Incremental costs are intended to represent the difference in cost between baseline and efficient energy efficiency measures and have been adapted from previous E1 work products (e.g. the 2020-2022 DSM Resource Plan). As part of DSM Resource Plan development, Guidehouse has reviewed these costs and provided updates for certain measures. Incremental costs are inflated in each of the plan years beyond 2023 at a rate of 2%.	X	
Administrative Costs	- A new fixed/variable methodology was used to develop the administrative costs for the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan. The change in approach from previous DSM Plans was in response to the KPMG study. - Administrative costs have been divided and allocated into variable and fixed cost categories. The variable cost category allocates program costs such as evaluation, marketing, and program management costs as a percentage of incentive costs. - The fixed cost category includes costs such as rent, insurance, office and salary expenses and have been set by reviewing contractual commitments, historical and current spending levels. Fixed costs have been allocated to program components based on number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff.	X	
	DR administrative costs are based on an estimate of required multiplied by E1's assumed FTE cost including overhead. The FTE estimates have been updated from the 2019 DSM Potential Study based on information from Guidehouse, preliminary insights from DR Pilots within Nova Scotia, and E1 experience with similar EE program delivery.		X
Codes & Standards	Forward-looking assumptions have been made with respect to codes & standards changes in two key areas: lighting and heat pumps. - Lighting: current evaluation assumptions provide little credit past 2023 in terms of first-year savings for screw-in compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) lighting in the residential sector. Dual baseline approach for screw-in lighting assumes limited residential savings from these measures in 2024 and beyond. - Heat pump savings in Green Heat are derated within the ProCESS™ model to account for expected decreases in evaluated net energy savings across the Plan period.	X	
Participation Estimation & Development Approach	Estimation of EE participation: initial development using internal forecasting, which was adjusted for future expectations through subject-matter expert reviews, to form the current state assumptions, subsequently further updated through subject-matter expert review in draft versions of the DSM Plan – details provided as Attachment 3 – Guidehouse Participation Memorandum.	X	

Key Global Assumptions		Model	
ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF MODEL INPUTS & ASSUMPTIONS	EE	DR
Participation Estimation & Development Approach	Development of DR participation: updated Potential Study assumptions; DR uses a top-down approach to estimate an eligible pool of participants and estimates of how many eligible customers would be willing to participate in a DR program option. A participation ramp was also applied to ensure DR programs scale-up in a feasible way (based on Guidehouse's expertise and E1's experience with similar program delivery models).		X
Low-Income Investment Levels	Incidental EE low-income impact weightings from 2020 (i.e. energy savings, demand savings, investment) were applied to calculate low-income impacts in the 2023 to 2025 period.	X	
Market Rates	- Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC): NS Power's 2021 pre-tax WACC of 6.33% is used to calculate the present values of avoided utility costs. - Inflation Rate: using an annual inflation rate of 2%.	X	X

2.3 MODELLING

2.3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE MODELLING PROCESS

The modelling process, and its associated software tools, were used to support the quantitative development of the Settlement Plan for both EE and DR. Modelling and software tools support the development, communication, and regulatory processes by providing:

- detailed cost effectiveness impacts associated with DSM Plan scenarios;
- detailed energy and demand impacts, as applicable, to support the development of performance indicators and performance targets;
- detailed views and estimations of DSM Plan participation; and
- detailed views and estimations of DSM Plan investment.

The critical objectives of the DSM plan modelling process are to provide accuracy and detail in development, as well as allowing for the measurement of success for the Settlement Plan, as approved by the NSUARB.

2.3.2 DSM MODELLING TOOLS & SOFTWARE

2.3.2.1 ENERGY EFFICIENCY MODEL

The "Model" is a DSM portfolio design tool used to inform E1's DSM Resource Plans. E1 engaged Guidehouse, formerly Navigant Consulting, to provide its ProCESS™ short-term DSM planning tool for the purpose of modelling the energy efficiency portfolio for E1's Settlement Plan.

Guidehouse's ProCESS™ model is developed on the Analytica® software platform and was used for the first time for the development of E1's 2020-2022 DSM Plan. The ProCESS™ model is specifically designed for short-term planning exercises (e.g. DSM Plans). The ProCESS™ model does not predict measure uptake by modelling customer behaviour, a feature that has limited usefulness in short-term planning exercises.

At the outset of the modelling process, E1 and Guidehouse developed a set of input data to serve as the basis for all subsequent modelling steps associated with the Settlement Plan. Input data included line loss factors, customer rate information, avoided costs, discount rates, and all measure technical information (e.g. measure life, annual energy and system-peak demand savings, incremental costs, incentives). Measure data were initially developed from current E1 data, and subsequently modified to reflect differences in characterization expected across the 2023-2025 period.

Following the development and inputting of data into the model, Guidehouse prepared the model to reach an operational state and initial test runs were performed. The steps in the development of E1's model input assumptions and results are described in Attachment 3 – Guidehouse Participation Memorandum.

2.3.2.2 DEMAND RESPONSE MODEL

Guidehouse completed DR modelling using its DRSim™ model, which was also used in E1's 2019 Potential Study. The steps to running the model are outlined in Table 5. These steps were updated for the 2023-2025 DR model. Guidehouse and E1 utilize a potential study framework for modelling DR because it is the best available information for estimating participation. This differs from EE modelling where actual historical results can be used to model participation.

Table 5: DR Modelling Steps¹⁴

Step 1: Market Characterization	Characterize market for DR potential estimation: number of customers and coincident peak load estimates by customer class and building type.
Step 2: Develop Baseline Projections	Define peak and develop baseline peak demand projects over the study period.
Step 3: Define DR Options	Define and characterize DR options (i.e. technologies) and map applicable options to relevant customer classes

¹⁴ Adapted from Nova Scotia Energy Efficiency and Demand Response Potential Study for 2021-2045. Navigant Consulting. 2019. Figure 10-1, page 86. See M08929, Exhibit N-1, EfficiencyOne, August 14, 2019.

Step 4: Develop Key Assumptions for DR Capacity and Costs	• Develop assumptions for participation, unit load reduction, and itemized cost for each DR option.
Step 5: Estimate DR Capacity and Costs, and Assess Cost-Effectiveness	• Present DR capacity estimates, annual costs, levelized costs, and cost-effectiveness results by DR option and customer segments.
Step 6: Scenario Analysis	• Present results by scenario, which consider variations in available technologies/delivery pathways, and participation.

The DR model steps occur independently of the EE modelling process, which is described below. While DR and EE are modelled using different tools and software, they are not developed in isolation. Certain input assumptions are present in both models (e.g. inflation). Some steps and phases overlap and interact, as described in the section below. The DR model leverages EE model outputs in Phase 4 of the EE modelling process, and EE leverages DR model outputs in the final phases of modelling the DSM portfolio.

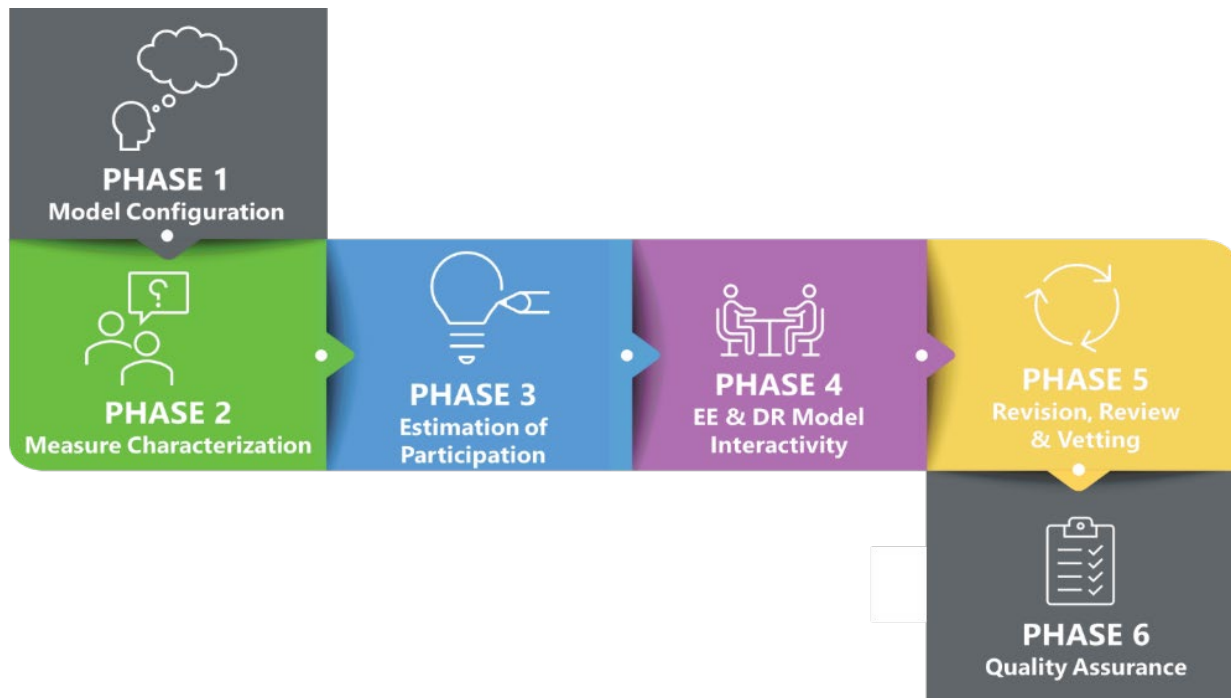
2.3.3 THE MODELLING PROCESS

The 2023-2025 Settlement Plan modelling process includes the following six phases:

1. Model Configuration
2. Measure Characterization
3. Estimation of Participation
4. Model Interactivity of EE and DR
5. Review, Revision, and Vetting
6. Quality Assurance

The six components of the modelling process are illustrated in Figure 9, below, and described in the sections that follow.

1 Figure 9: Phases in the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Modelling Process



2 2.3.3.1 PHASE 1 – MODEL CONFIGURATION

3 The model configuration process involves the initial configuration of the modelling tools associated with
4 the Settlement Plan development:

- 5 1. the DRSim™ model, which models DR activities within the Settlement Plan; and
- 6 2. the ProCESS™ model, which supports energy efficiency activity development.

7
8 Specific configuration activities include the adjustment of general model parameters including cost
9 effectiveness testing methodology, administrative cost build-out methodologies, and other key
10 methodological areas within the models. This phase also includes providing the model with initial global
11 assumptions, such as avoided cost information and electricity retail rates.

13 2.3.3.2 PHASE 2 – MEASURE CHARACTERIZATION

14 This modelling phase includes the detailed characterization of E1's measures, and the mix of measures it
15 incorporates in both programs and program components. Key variables associated with each measure
16 characterization include annual energy and/or demand savings (as applicable), incremental cost
17 information, and incentives.

Energy efficiency measure characterizations are based on final 2020 DSM evaluation results, with certain adjustments for measures with markedly different expectations for energy or demand savings across the 2023-2025 period (e.g. heat pumps, which were modelled with declining net energy savings). The measure characterization process for energy efficiency initially took place as part of E1's current state analysis, with updates and certain additions (e.g. for new initiative development) occurring throughout the various phases of initial development and stakeholder and internal review.

2.3.3.3 PHASE 3 – ESTIMATION OF PARTICIPATION

Participation estimates for energy efficiency were initially informed by near-term forecasts of 2021 participation expectations, as part of E1's current state analysis, which provided an initial view of status-quo operation of programs over the 2023-2025 period. New initiative development was also required in service of E1's design objectives for the Settlement Plan (e.g. a low-income investment percentage of 17-22%). For these new initiatives, participation was estimated by E1's internal SMEs based on factors such as historical insights and experience, and market response in other jurisdictions.

Participation estimates for energy efficiency were then iteratively refined over the course of the stakeholder and internal review processes, with E1's internal SMEs providing direct feedback on multiple occasions as described in Phase 5, below.

2.3.3.4 PHASE 4 – EE & DR MODEL INTERACTIVITY

The Settlement Plan makes use of separate models for EE and DR. These separate models interact with one another in three primary ways:

1. EE savings levels change the baseline projection energy sales; the DR baseline projection must be calibrated to a specific EE savings level;
2. some measures (i.e. smart thermostats) are contained within the EE ProCESS™ model and the DRSim™ model. For these measures, the participation estimates contained within the ProCESS™ model inform the available participation associated in the DRSim™ model; and
3. for measures contained in both the EE and DR models, measure costs are allocated based on the percent of total avoided costs for EE and DR. In the EE and DR model integration, these costs are synced up to ensure they are allocated properly.

2.3.3.5 PHASE 5 – REVISION, REVIEW & VETTING

Following the production of draft model outputs, E1 performs model revisions, leveraging the feedback of internal subject matter experts, Guidehouse, and DSMAG members to confirm and adjust model parameters. These changes are driven by adjustments to the DSM Plan itself, or by adjustments to key assumptions to improve the accuracy of the modelling process.

This phase is crucial, as it allows for the alignment of E1's qualitative and quantitative design efforts in service of E1's design objectives. This process is repeated several times as part of DSM Plan development. The vetting process involves analysis of the model outputs. This analysis was informed by external expert support and internal teams (data analytics, service delivery, marketing, technical teams) to assess the validity of achieving results. The review includes an examination of energy savings at the program component and measure level to consider the reasonableness of the model output. Refinements to the model were performed in response to this analysis and updated model runs were completed. This is part of an iterative process, which results in revised participation estimates, model interaction, and new model outputs.

2.3.3.6 PHASE 6 – QUALITY ASSURANCE

All assumptions used in final DSM Plan models undergo further quality assurance to ensure accuracy in all assumptions and variables used in the DSM Plan modelling process.

2.4 COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Cost effectiveness testing is used to quantitatively assess and evaluate demand side resources through a comparison of benefits and costs expressed as both the dollar value of the net benefit (or cost) and as a ratio of benefits to costs. DSM cost effectiveness can be assessed at various levels (e.g. measure, program, portfolio) using a variety of tests. Each test systematically assesses cost effectiveness from a different perspective, depending on the key question it seeks to answer. Tests can be used for different purposes and jurisdictions will emphasize specific tests depending on the policy environment and objectives of that particular jurisdiction.

To assess the cost-effectiveness of the Settlement Plan, E1 used two industry standard screening tests: the Total Resource Cost (TRC) test, used as the screening test for DSM in Nova Scotia at the NSUARB program

level, and the Program Administrator Cost (PAC) test for informational purposes. For the first time, E1 has included avoided costs of carbon in both the TRC and PAC tests as per the 2019 directive from the NSUARB (M08604)¹⁵. Both tests make use of NS Power's utility Weighted-Average Cost of Capital (WACC) as the discount rate. E1 has provided TRC and PAC results without avoided costs of carbon for informational purposes. Cost effectiveness testing was performed on both the EE and DR portfolios, the results of which are further presented in Section 3.3.

2.4.1 TOTAL RESOURCE COST TEST

Best practice¹⁶ recommends the use of one consistent cost-effectiveness test to screen both EE and DR. The TRC was used as the primary test of E1's DSM investments, per the NSUARB decision¹⁷ that the TRC test should be applied at the program level for DSM Plan investments. However, some benefit and cost components of the TRC calculation vary between EE and DR. This is further described in Table 6, below.

Table 6: Benefit and Cost Components in the Total Resource Cost Test Calculations for EE and DR

Component	Description	Benefit or Cost
Avoided Cost of Transmission & Distribution	EE & DR – the avoided cost of transmission and distribution represents the costs avoided, due to DSM, on transmission and distribution infrastructure within the NS Power system.	Benefit
Avoided Cost of Capacity	EE & DR – the avoided cost of capacity represents the costs avoided, due to DSM, associated with reductions in generation capacity on the NS Power system.	Benefit
Avoided Cost of Energy	EE – the avoided cost of energy represents the energy-associated (e.g. fuel) costs avoided associated with DSM.	Benefit
	DR – assumed to have no energy impacts, and therefore, the avoided cost of energy is negated (i.e. zero) in the TRC calculation.	n/a
Avoided Cost of Carbon	EE – the avoided cost of carbon represents the market-based price of carbon expected to be realized through investments in DSM.	Benefit
	DR – assumed to have no energy impacts, and therefore, the avoided cost of carbon is negated (i.e. zero) in the TRC calculation.	n/a

¹⁵ M08604, NSUARB Order, In the Matter of the *Public Utilities Act* and In the Matter of an Application by EfficiencyOne for Approval of its Electricity Demand Side Management Plan for 2019 (23 July, 2018) at item 9.

¹⁶ National Energy Screening Project. (2020) National Standard Practice Manual for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Distributed Energy Resources.

¹⁷ M03669, NSUARB Order, In the Matter of the Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation Act and In the Matter of an Application by Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation for Approval of its Electricity Demand Side Management Plan for 2012 (30 June, 2011) and M03669, NSUARB Decision, In the Matter of the Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation Act and In the Matter of an Application by Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation for Approval of its Electricity Demand Side Management Plan for 2012, (30 June, 2011), at para 82.

Component	Description	Benefit or Cost
Program Administration Costs	EE – includes: - administrative costs of delivering EE programs, e.g. overhead, facilities, and FTEs. - Enabling Strategies investment, included as program administration cost, and applied to at the EE portfolio-level.	Cost
	DR – includes: - administrative costs of delivering DR programs, e.g. overhead, FTEs. - For NS Power’s portion information technology costs such as software licensing. - costs to develop and deliver DR programs, e.g. third-party delivery costs, marketing and recruitment, etc.	Cost
Incremental Costs	EE – includes: - incremental costs for incentive measures. - direct install costs for direct installation programs, e.g. Efficient Product Installation.	Cost

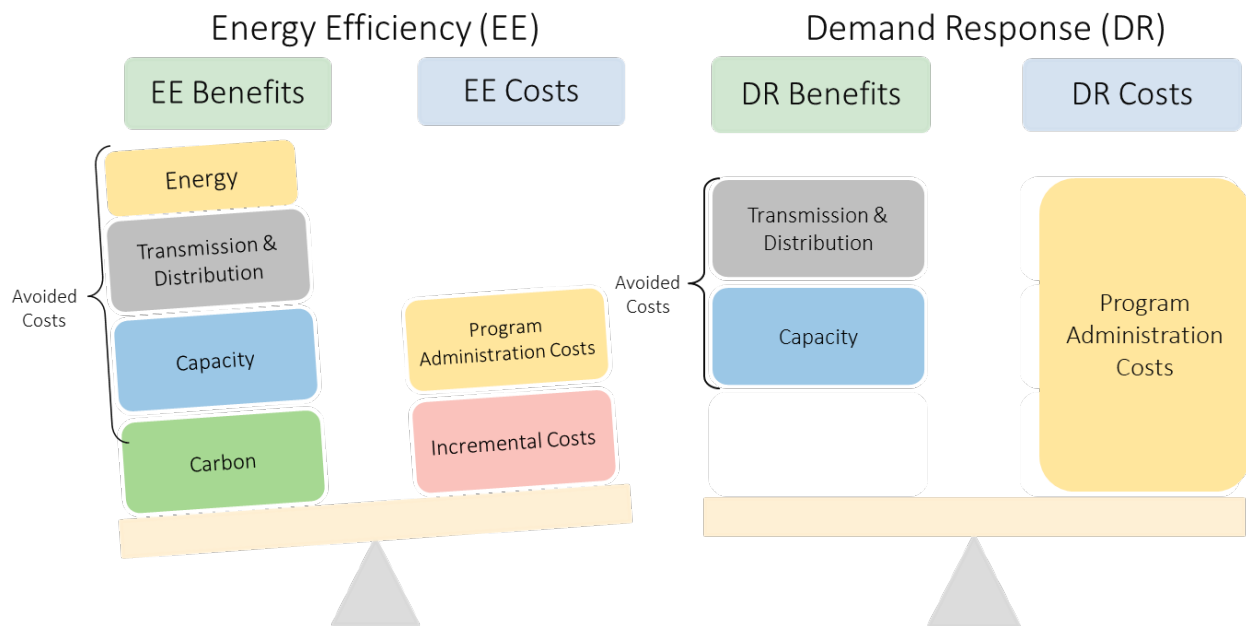
1

2 As described in Table 6, above, benefits such as avoided cost of energy and avoided cost of carbon are not
3 applicable for the TRC calculation of DR.

4

5 In both instances (i.e. EE and DR), the benefit-cost ratios are conducted on a present value basis for the full
6 lifetime of impacts. However, the TRC calculation for EE considers only the cost and benefit impacts over
7 the three-year DSM Plan period. For DR, the cost and benefit impacts are levelized over a ten-year
8 timeframe, with the assumption that DR programming runs for 10 years. The balance of these cost and
9 benefit components are further illustrated in Figure 10, below. The benefits and costs, on a net present
10 value basis are then summed (respectively) and expressed as a ratio of benefits divided by costs.

1 Figure 10: TRC Benefit and Cost Components for Energy Efficiency and for Demand Response



2

3 For energy efficiency, administrative costs are included within the total resource cost test at different levels

4 within the ProCESS™ model – an example are fixed administrative costs, which are modelled occurring at

5 the program level. These costs are then cascaded down to the program component and measure levels on

6 the basis of TRC net benefits, such that all costs are reflected within measure level cost effectiveness

7 testing. The PAC test is described in the next section.

8 2.4.2 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR COST TEST

9

10 The PAC test provides an assessment of the cost effectiveness of DSM programs from the perspective of

11 the utility and ratepayer. This is contrasted with the TRC test, which provides a view of cost effectiveness

12 from the combined perspective of the utility/ratepayer, as well as the program participant. Table 7, below,

13 shows the costs and benefits included in the PAC.

14

15 Table 7: Program Administrator Cost Test Components

Component	Description	Benefit or Cost
Avoided Cost of Transmission & Distribution	EE & DR – the avoided cost of transmission and distribution represents the costs avoided, due to DSM, on transmission and distribution infrastructure within the NS Power system.	Benefit

Component	Description	Benefit or Cost
Avoided Cost of Capacity	EE & DR – the avoided cost of capacity represents the costs avoided, due to DSM, associated with reductions in generation capacity on the NS Power system.	Benefit
Avoided Cost of Energy	EE – the avoided cost of energy represents the energy-associated (e.g. fuel) costs avoided associated with DSM.	Benefit
	DR – assumed to have no energy impacts, and therefore, the avoided cost of energy is negated (i.e. zero) in the PAC calculation.	n/a
Avoided Cost of Carbon	EE – the avoided cost of carbon represents the market-based price of carbon expected to be realized through investments in DSM.	Benefit
	DR – assumed to have no energy impacts, and therefore, the avoided cost of carbon is negated (i.e. zero) in the PAC calculation.	n/a
Program Administration Costs	EE – includes: • administrative costs of delivering EE programs, e.g. overhead, facilities, and FTEs. • Enabling Strategies investment, included as program administration cost, and applied to at the EE portfolio-level.	Cost
	DR – includes: • administrative costs of delivering DR programs, e.g. overhead, FTEs. • For NS Power’s portion information technology costs such as software licensing. • costs to develop and deliver DR programs, e.g. third-party delivery costs, marketing and recruitment, etc.	
Incentives	EE & DR – incentives are costs for the utility and ratepayers, from the perspective of the PAC.	Cost

In the TRC, incentives are a benefit for participants and a cost for the utility, therefore, they are considered a 'transfer' in the TRC test and are not included as a cost or benefit. In contrast, the PAC includes incentives on the cost-side of the test. In the PAC, as with the TRC, benefits such as avoided cost of energy and avoided cost of carbon are not applicable for the calculation of DR. The PAC benefit-cost ratios are also conducted on a present value basis for the full lifetime of impacts, as with the TRC. The benefits and costs, on a net present value basis, are then summed (respectively) and expressed as a ratio of benefits divided by costs.

E1 has presented PAC test results on an information-only basis. The PAC test provides information relating to the ratepayer and utility costs and benefits associated with the Settlement Plan, and notably excludes voluntary participant contributions which are included in the TRC. Cost effectiveness results for the Settlement Plan, by sector and program, are provided in Section 3.3.

3. 2023-2025 SETTLEMENT PLAN

The 2023-2025 Settlement Plan represents a comprehensive suite of programs and service offerings for Nova Scotia electricity customers. The main goal of each energy efficiency program is to eliminate energy waste, in turn reducing demand for energy imports, reducing household and business energy costs resulting in bill savings, as well as helping with environmental compliance by lowering GHG emissions. The main goal of the DR program is to make flexible capacity available to the utility that can be called upon during peak times. In the long-term this can offset the need for new generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. Figure 11, below, provides highlights of the Settlement Plan.

Figure 11: 2023-2025 Settlement Plan – Portfolio-level Insights

Carbon Emissions Avoided	
First-Year CO ₂ e Savings (kt)	326
Lifetime CO ₂ e Savings (kt)	1,742
Portfolio Summary (2023-2025)	
First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	412.7
Peak Demand Savings (MW)	96.7
Investment (\$ million)	173.0
% of Plan Investment in Low-Income	20.9%
Energy & Demand Savings	
Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	4,681
Weighted Average Measure Life (yrs)	11.3
Energy Savings as % of NS Power Load	1.2%
DR as % of NS Power Peak Load ^a	1.0%
Energy Savings (EE) Split (RES/BNI)	46/54
Demand Savings (EE) Split (RES/BNI)	45/55
Demand Savings (DR) Split (RES/BNI)	40/60
% of Non-Lighting Energy Savings	69.2%
Energy Efficiency (EE) Investment	
EE Investment Split (RES/BNI) ^b	55/45
First-Year Unit Cost (\$/kWh)	0.39
Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh)	0.035
Lifetime Benefits (\$ million) ^d	542
Net Benefits (\$ million) ^d	379
Demand Response (DR) Investment	
10 Year Levelized Cost (\$/kW-yr) ^c	229.59
Lifetime Benefits (\$ million) ^d	3
Net Benefits (\$ million) ^d	-8
DR Investment Split (RES/BNI) ^b	54/46

^a Percentage of NS Power peak load by 2025

^b Excluding Enabling Strategies investment

^c Calculated by taking the net present value of costs and MWs for each DR pathway over the 2022-2031 timeframe; includes all E1 and NS Power costs

^d EE and DR net benefits are calculated based on the Program Administrator Cost (PAC). For EE, the lifetime benefits are counted and, for DR, the first three years (2023-2025). In DR, the Critical Peak Pricing (CPP) only includes smart thermostat related costs/benefits.

3.1 SETTLEMENT PLAN – SAVINGS & INVESTMENT

In 2023-2025, E1 will invest \$173.0 million (in nominal dollars) to achieve 412.7 GWh of incremental cumulative net energy savings, 96.7 MW of cumulative system-peak demand savings (inclusive of both demand reductions – 78.8 MW, and DR capacity additions – 17.9 MW), and 4,681 GWh of cumulative net lifetime energy savings at the generator. Table 8 presents program investment budgets and targets for the planned 2023-2025 portfolio.

Table 8: 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Investment and Savings

Year	Investment ^a (\$ million)	Lifetime Benefits ^b (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Weighted Average Measure Life (years)	Peak EE Demand Savings (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^c		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^d	
								incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon
2023	53.1	172.6	120.7	1,502	12.4	26.9	3.0	2.0	1.4	2.9	2.0
2024	57.5	179.7	142.6	1,540	10.8	25.6	10.0	2.0	1.4	2.9	2.0
2025	62.5	192.6	149.5	1,639	11.0	26.3	17.9	2.0	1.4	2.9	2.1
Total	173.0	544.8	412.7	4,681	11.3	78.8	17.9	2.0	1.4	2.9	2.0

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021. Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a Investment for DR includes only E1's required investment for the Settlement Plan. It is recognized that in order for DR benefits to be realized, NS Power collaboration and investment will also be required. This may include investment for staff resource, event calling by the system operator, and Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) integration.

^b Lifetime benefits for EE are expressed as the net present value of the avoided costs, including energy, capacity, transmission, distribution, and carbon over the life of the program measures, using utility WACC. For DR, lifetime benefits are expressed as the avoided costs, including capacity, transmission, and distribution, resulting from operating DR in 2023-2025 (three years of benefits).

^c TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. TRC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.

^d PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. PAC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.

1 Table 9: 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Investment and Savings, by Program Component

2023-2025	Investment ^a (\$ million)	Lifetime Benefits ^b (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak EE Demand Savings (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^c		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^d	
							incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon
Residential (Res) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs										
Efficient Product Rebates	14.1	30.8	32.3	279.0	3.5	-	1.1	0.7	2.2	1.4
Appliance Retirement	3.1	2.0	3.7	15	0.5		0.9	0.6	0.6	0.4
Instant Savings	11.0	28.8	28.6	264	2.9		1.1	0.7	2.6	1.7
Existing Residential	67.0	164.5	156.7	1,292	30.7	-	1.5	1.1	2.5	1.8
Efficient Product Installation	10.6	24.3	36.2	220	4.9		2.3	1.5	2.3	1.5
Affordable Multi-family Housing	4.0	11.6	5.6	102	1.7		1.2	0.9	2.9	2.1
Home Energy Assessment	11.7	66.9	25.7	515	13.0		2.0	1.6	5.7	4.4
Green Heat	6.7	31.1	10.7	193	8.2		1.6	1.3	4.7	3.7
Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project	3.7	3.3	1.6	30	0.5		0.9	0.6	0.9	0.6
Affordable Single-Family Homes	24.7	18.0	8.6	164	2.5		0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5
Residential Behaviour	5.5	9.3	68.2	68	0.0		1.7	0.9	1.7	0.9
New Residential	0.8	3.9	0.4	13	1.3	-	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.4
Low-Income Participation ^e	35.2	42.8	36.5	384	6.5		1.0	0.7	1.2	0.8
Res EE Programs Total	81.9	199.2	189.4	1,584	35.4	-	1.5	1.1	2.4	1.8
Business, Non-Profit & Institutional (BNI) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs										
Efficient Product Rebates	23.2	174.9	109.1	1,623	20.6	-	3.8	2.6	7.5	5.1
Custom Incentives	25.2	109.1	77.5	940	15.2	-	2.5	1.7	4.3	2.9
Custom	22.4	107.0	69.5	925	14.3		2.6	1.8	4.8	3.2
Strategic Energy Management & Energy Management Information Systems	2.8	2.1	8.0	15	0.9		0.9	0.5	0.8	0.4
Direct Installation	19.8	58.8	36.7	533	7.6	-	2.2	1.5	3.0	2.0
Low-Income Participation ^e	0.6	4.7	2.9	43	0.8		2.8	1.9	7.6	5.2
BNI EE Programs Subtotal	68.2	342.7	223.3	3,097	43.4	-	2.9	2.0	5.0	3.4
Total EE Programs	150.2	541.9	412.7	4,681	78.8	-				
Enabling Strategies (ES)										
Education & Outreach	4.4									
Development & Research	4.5									
Other Enabling Strategies	4.1									
Total ES	12.9									
EE Portfolio Total (EE + ES)	163.0	541.9	412.7	4,681	78.8	-	2.0	1.4	3.3	2.3
Demand Response (DR) Program										
Residential Demand Response	5.5					7.1		0.8		0.6
BNI Demand Response	4.6					10.7		2.7		0.8
DR Program Total	10.0	2.9	-	-	-	17.9		1.1		0.7
DSM Portfolio Total (EE + ES + DR)	173.0	544.8	412.7	4,681	78.8	17.9	2.0	1.4	2.9	2.0

2 Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may
3 not add correctly, due to rounding.

4 Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP
5 using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.
6 Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

7 ^a Investment for DR includes only E1's required investment for the Settlement Plan. It is recognized that in order for DR benefits
8 to be realized, NS Power collaboration and investment will also be required. This may include investment for staff resource, event
9 calling by the system operator, and Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) integration.

10 ^b Lifetime benefits for EE are expressed as the net present value of the avoided costs, including energy, capacity, transmission,
11 distribution, and carbon over the life of the program measures, using utility WACC. For DR, lifetime benefits are expressed as the
12 avoided costs, including capacity, transmission, and distribution, resulting from operating DR in 2023-2025 (three years of
13 benefits).

14 ^c TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs
15 and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. TRC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes
16 only.

17 ^d PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to
18 include the expected full program life. PAC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.
19

E1 estimates that the 2023-2025 Settlement Plan will produce incremental CO₂e reductions of 326 kt over the three-year Plan period and cumulative net lifetime CO₂e reductions of 1,742 kt¹⁸.

Table 10, Table 11, and Table 12 provide the program investment budgets and targets for 2023, 2024 and 2025, respectively.

Table 10: 2023 Settlement Plan Investment and Savings, by Program Component

2023	Investment ^a (\$ million)	Lifetime Benefits ^b (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak EE Demand Savings (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^c		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^d	
							incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon
Residential (Res) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs										
Efficient Product Rebates	4.0	9.1	10.9	83	1.2	-	1.1	0.7	2.3	1.4
Appliance Retirement	1.0	0.7	1.2	5	0.2		0.9	0.5	0.6	0.4
Instant Savings	2.9	8.4	9.7	78	1.0		1.2	0.7	2.9	1.8
Existing Residential	20.9	50.3	37.3	403	10.3	-	1.5	1.1	2.4	1.8
Efficient Product Installation	3.1	6.6	11.2	59	1.7		2.2	1.4	2.2	1.4
Affordable Multi-family Housing	1.3	3.8	1.9	34	0.6		1.2	0.9	2.9	2.0
Home Energy Assessment	3.9	21.7	8.6	172	4.3		2.0	1.5	5.6	4.2
Green Heat	2.2	10.0	3.6	64	2.7		1.6	1.2	4.5	3.6
Mikmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project	1.2	1.1	0.5	10	0.2		0.9	0.6	0.9	0.6
Affordable Single-Family Homes	8.1	5.9	2.9	55	0.8		0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5
Residential Behaviour	1.1	1.1	8.7	9	0.0		0.9	0.5	0.9	0.5
New Residential	0.8	3.9	0.4	13	1.3	-	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.4
Low-Income Participation ^e	11.3	13.3	10.3	121	2.2		1.0	0.7	1.2	0.8
Res EE Programs Subtotal	25.7	63.3	48.6	499	12.8	-	1.5	1.1	2.5	1.8
Business, Non-Profit & Institutional (BNI) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs										
Efficient Product Rebates	7.4	55.7	35.3	525	6.7	-	3.8	2.5	7.5	5.0
Custom Incentives	8.2	34.8	24.9	305	5.0	-	2.5	1.7	4.2	2.8
Custom	7.3	34.1	22.3	300	4.7		2.6	1.8	4.7	3.1
Strategic Energy Management & Energy Management Information Systems	0.9	0.7	2.7	5	0.3		0.9	0.5	0.7	0.4
Direct Installation	6.4	18.7	11.9	172	2.5	-	2.2	1.5	2.9	2.0
Low-Income Participation ^e	0.2	1.5	0.9	14	0.3		2.8	1.9	7.5	5.1
BNI EE Programs Subtotal	22.0	109.1	72.1	1,003	14.2	-	2.9	2.0	4.9	3.3
Total EE Programs	47.8	172.4	120.7	1,502	26.9	-				
Enabling Strategies (ES)										
Education & Outreach	1.4									
Development & Research	1.5									
Other Enabling Strategies	0.9									
Total ES	3.8									
EE Portfolio Total (EE + ES)	51.5	172.4	120.7	1,502	26.9	-	2.1	1.4	3.3	2.3
Demand Response (DR) Program										
Residential Demand Response	0.4					0.2		0.8		0.6
BNI Demand Response	1.1					2.8		2.7		0.8
DR Program Total	1.5	0.2	-	-	-	3.0		1.1		0.7
DSM Portfolio Total (EE + ES + DR)	53.1	172.6	120.7	1,502	26.9	3.0	2.0	1.4	2.9	2.0

Currency is expressed in 2023 dollars. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a Investment for DR includes only E1's required investment for the Settlement Plan. It is recognized that in order for DR benefits to be realized, NS Power collaboration and investment will also be required. This may include investment for staff resource, event calling by the system operator, and Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) integration.

^b Lifetime benefits for EE are expressed as the net present value of the avoided costs, including energy, capacity, transmission, distribution, and carbon over the life of the program measures, using utility WACC. For DR, lifetime benefits are expressed as the

¹⁸ Estimates are based on current electricity emissions intensity and reductions in emissions intensity in accordance with Nova Scotia Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulations emissions caps, §4 (1)

avoided costs, including capacity, transmission, and distribution, resulting from operating DR in 2023-2025 (three years of benefits).

^c TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. TRC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.

^d PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. PAC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.

^e Reflects E1's planned participation by low-income customers. Numbers are a subset of Residential Efficient Product Rebates, Existing Residential, Efficient Product Rebates (BNI), and Direct Installation.

Table 11: 2024 Settlement Plan Investment and Savings, by Program Component

2024	Investment ^a (\$ million)	Lifetime Benefits ^b (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak EE Demand Savings (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^c		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^d	
							incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon
Residential (Res) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs										
Efficient Product Rebates	4.6	10.1	10.4	91	1.1	-	1.1	0.7	2.2	1.4
Appliance Retirement	1.0	0.7	1.2	5	0.2		0.9	0.6	0.6	0.4
Instant Savings	3.5	9.4	9.2	86	1.0		1.1	0.7	2.7	1.7
Existing Residential	22.5	55.7	58.8	433	10.2	-	1.6	1.1	2.5	1.8
Efficient Product Installation	3.3	7.7	11.6	69	1.6		2.3	1.5	2.3	1.5
Affordable Multi-family Housing	1.3	3.9	1.9	34	0.6		1.2	0.9	2.9	2.1
Home Energy Assessment	3.9	22.4	8.6	172	4.3		2.0	1.6	5.7	4.4
Green Heat	2.2	10.4	3.6	64	2.7		1.6	1.3	4.7	3.7
Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project	1.2	1.1	0.5	10	0.2		0.9	0.6	0.9	0.6
Affordable Single-Family Homes	8.2	6.0	2.9	55	0.8		0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5
Residential Behaviour	2.2	4.3	29.8	30	0.0		1.9	1.0	1.9	1.0
New Residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Low-Income Participation ^e	11.7	14.3	12.8	127	2.2		1.0	0.7	1.2	0.8
Res EE Programs Subtotal	27.1	65.8	69.3	524	11.4	-	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.7
Business, Non-Profit & Institutional (BNI) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs										
Efficient Product Rebates	7.4	56.8	35.3	526	6.7	-	3.8	2.6	7.6	5.2
Custom Incentives	8.4	36.5	25.7	313	5.1	-	2.5	1.7	4.4	2.9
Custom	7.5	35.8	23.1	308	4.8		2.6	1.8	4.8	3.2
Strategic Energy Management & Energy Management Information Systems	0.9	0.7	2.7	5	0.3		0.9	0.5	0.8	0.4
Direct Installation	6.6	19.7	12.2	178	2.5	-	2.2	1.5	3.0	2.0
Low-Income Participation ^e	0.2	1.5	1.0	14	0.3		2.8	1.9	7.7	5.2
BNI EE Programs Subtotal	22.4	113.0	73.3	1,016	14.3	-	2.9	2.0	5.0	3.4
Total EE Programs	49.5	178.8	142.6	1,540	25.6	-				
Enabling Strategies (ES)										
Education & Outreach	1.5									
Development & Research	1.5									
Other Enabling Strategies	1.6									
Total ES	4.5									
EE Portfolio Total (EE + ES)	54.0	178.8	142.6	1,540	25.6	-	2.0	1.4	3.3	2.3
Demand Response (DR) Program										
Residential Demand Response	2.2					2.9		0.8		0.6
BNI Demand Response	1.3					7.1		2.7		0.8
DR Program Total	3.5	0.9	-	-	-	10.0		1.1		0.7
DSM Portfolio Total (EE + ES + DR)	57.5	179.7	142.6	1,540	25.6	10.0	2.0	1.4	2.9	2.0

Currency is expressed in 2024 dollars. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2024 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a Investment for DR includes only E1's required investment for the Settlement Plan. It is recognized that in order for DR benefits to be realized, NS Power collaboration and investment will also be required. This may include investment for staff resource, event calling by the system operator, and Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) integration.

^b Lifetime benefits for EE are expressed as the net present value of the avoided costs, including energy, capacity, transmission, distribution, and carbon over the life of the program measures, using utility WACC. For DR, lifetime benefits are expressed as the avoided costs, including capacity, transmission, and distribution, resulting from operating DR in 2023-2025 (three years of benefits).

^cTRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. TRC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.

^dPAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. PAC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.

^e Reflects E1's planned participation by low-income customers. Numbers are a subset of Residential Efficient Product Rebates, Existing Residential, Efficient Product Rebates (BNI), and Direct Installation.

Table 12: 2025 Settlement Plan Investment and Savings, by Program Component

2025	Investment ^a (\$ million)	Lifetime Benefits ^b (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak EE Demand Savings (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^c		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^d	
							incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon
Residential (Res) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs										
Efficient Product Rebates	5.6	11.6	10.9	105	1.1	-	1.1	0.7	2.1	1.4
Appliance Retirement	1.1	0.7	1.2	5	0.2		0.9	0.6	0.6	0.4
Instant Savings	4.5	11.0	9.7	100	1.0		1.1	0.7	2.4	1.6
Existing Residential	23.6	58.5	60.6	456	10.2	-	1.6	1.2	2.5	1.8
Efficient Product Installation	4.2	10.0	13.4	92	1.6		2.4	1.5	2.4	1.5
Affordable Multi-family Housing	1.4	3.9	1.9	34	0.6		1.2	0.9	2.9	2.1
Home Energy Assessment	3.9	22.8	8.6	172	4.3		2.0	1.6	5.8	4.5
Green Heat	2.2	10.7	3.6	64	2.7		1.6	1.3	4.8	3.9
Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project	1.3	1.1	0.5	10	0.2		0.9	0.6	0.9	0.6
Affordable Single-Family Homes	8.4	6.1	2.9	55	0.8		0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5
Residential Behaviour	2.2	3.9	29.8	30	0.0		1.8	1.0	1.8	1.0
New Residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Low-Income Participation ^e	12.1	15.2	13.4	135	2.1		1.0	0.7	1.3	0.9
Res EE Programs Total	29.1	70.1	71.6	561	11.3	-	1.5	1.1	2.4	1.7
Business, Non-Profit & Institutional (BNI) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs										
Efficient Product Rebates	8.4	62.4	38.5	572	7.2	-	3.8	2.6	7.4	5.2
Custom Incentives	8.6	37.8	26.8	322	5.1	-	2.5	1.7	4.4	3.0
Custom	7.7	37.1	24.2	317	4.8		2.6	1.8	4.8	3.3
Strategic Energy Management & Energy Management Information Systems	0.9	0.7	2.7	5	0.3		0.9	0.5	0.7	0.5
Direct Installation	6.8	20.5	12.6	183	2.6	-	2.2	1.6	3.0	2.1
Low-Income Participation ^e	0.2	1.6	1.0	15	0.3		2.8	2.0	7.7	5.3
BNI EE Programs Subtotal	23.8	120.6	77.9	1,077	15.0	-	2.9	2.0	5.1	3.5
Total EE Programs	52.9	190.8	149.5	1,639	26.3	-				
Enabling Strategies (ES)										
Education & Outreach	1.5									
Development & Research	1.5									
Other Enabling Strategies	1.6									
Total ES	4.6									
EE Portfolio Total (EE + ES)	57.5	190.8	149.5	1,639	26.3	-	2.0	1.4	3.3	2.3
Demand Response (DR) Program										
Residential Demand Response	2.8					7.1		0.8		0.6
BNI Demand Response	2.1					10.7		2.7		0.8
DR Program Total	5.0	1.8	-	-	-	17.9		1.1		0.7
DSM Portfolio Total (EE + ES + DR)	62.5	192.6	149.5	1,639	26.3	17.9	2.0	1.4	2.9	2.1

Currency is expressed in 2025 dollars. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2025 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a Investment for DR includes only E1's required investment for the Settlement Plan. It is recognized that in order for DR benefits to be realized, NS Power collaboration and investment will also be required. This may include investment for staff resource, event calling by the system operator, and Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) integration.

^b Lifetime benefits for EE are expressed as the net present value of the avoided costs, including energy, capacity, transmission, distribution, and carbon over the life of the program measures, using utility WACC. For DR, lifetime benefits are expressed as the avoided costs, including capacity, transmission, and distribution, resulting from operating DR in 2023-2025 (three years of benefits).

^cTRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. TRC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.

^d PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life. PAC excluding carbon is provided for informational purposes only.

^e Reflects E1's planned participation by low-income customers. Numbers are a subset of Residential Efficient Product Rebates, Existing Residential, Efficient Product Rebates (BNI), and Direct Installation.

As with prior DSM Plans, this Settlement Plan has been developed for planning and cost-effectiveness testing purposes and is not an implementation plan. E1 is committed to adapting the activities and services outlined in the Settlement Plan, as needed, to respond to changing technological and market conditions, and to ensure Performance Targets are met cost-effectively and within the approved investment amount. For DR programs, a level of collaboration with NS Power is a requirement. Any costs related to NS Power supporting these programs are not included in E1's investment.

3.2 SETTLEMENT PLAN – RATE CLASS ALLOCATIONS

Planned rate class expenditures for the Settlement Plan are provided in Table 13, below, by year and by Plan period.

Table 13: Rate Class Expenditures by Year

Rate Class	Settlement Plan Expenditures (\$ million) by Rate Class			
	2023	2024	2025	2023-2025
Residential/Charitable (2,3,4)	28.2	31.7	34.5	94.3
Small General (10)	2.7	2.8	3.0	8.5
General Demand (11)	13.8	14.3	15.4	43.4
Large General (12)	2.4	2.4	3.1	7.9
Small Industrial (21)	1.8	1.8	1.9	5.6
Medium Industrial (22)	1.0	1.1	1.1	3.2
Large Industrial (23,25)	2.2	2.3	2.4	6.9
Municipal (24)	1.0	1.0	1.1	3.1
Unmetered (999)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.09
Total	53.1	57.5	62.5	173.0

Includes EE, DR (E1 costs only), and Enabling Strategies investments

3.3 SETTLEMENT PLAN – COST-EFFECTIVENESS

The cost effectiveness results for the Settlement Plan are shown below as part of Table 14, which provides cost effectiveness results associated with the Settlement Plan, for both the TRC and PAC tests.

The TRC test forms the decision-making screen for cost effectiveness testing methodology employed in Nova Scotia, which takes place at the NSUARB program level. This means that each program is required to pass a cost-effectiveness screening test at the program component level. In the Settlement Plan, the following are NSUARB programs:

- Efficient Product Rebates (Residential);
- Existing Residential;
- New Residential;
- Efficient Product Rebates (BNI);
- Custom Incentives;
- Direct Installation; and
- Demand Response.

E1 believes the PAC test provides another valuable perspective on cost-effectiveness because it represents only the utility costs and benefits. Cost effectiveness results for each sector by program are provided in Table 14.

Table 14: 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Cost Effectiveness Results by Program

2023-2025 Settlement Plan	Total Resource Cost (TRC) Test ^a	Program Administrator Cost (PAC) Test ^b
Residential Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs		
Efficient Product Rebates	1.1	2.2
Existing Residential	1.5	2.5
New Residential	2.6	4.8
<i>Residential Low-Income</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.2</i>
Residential Sector Total	1.5	2.4
Business, Non-Profit & Institutional (BNI) Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs		
Efficient Product Rebates	3.8	7.5
Custom Incentives	2.5	4.3
Direct Installation	2.2	3.0
<i>BNI Low-Income</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>7.6</i>
BNI Sector Total	2.9	5.0

2023-2025 Settlement Plan	Total Resource Cost (TRC) Test ^a	Program Administrator Cost (PAC) Test ^b
EE Portfolio Total (includes Enabling Strategies and EE Programs)	2.0	3.3
Demand Response (DR) Program		
DR Program Total	1.1	0.7
Settlement Plan Total (EE + DR + ES)	2.0	2.9

Portfolio total cost effectiveness tests are calculated using the sum of each year's present value of benefits and costs.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life.

Key observations associated with the Settlement Plan cost-effectiveness are:

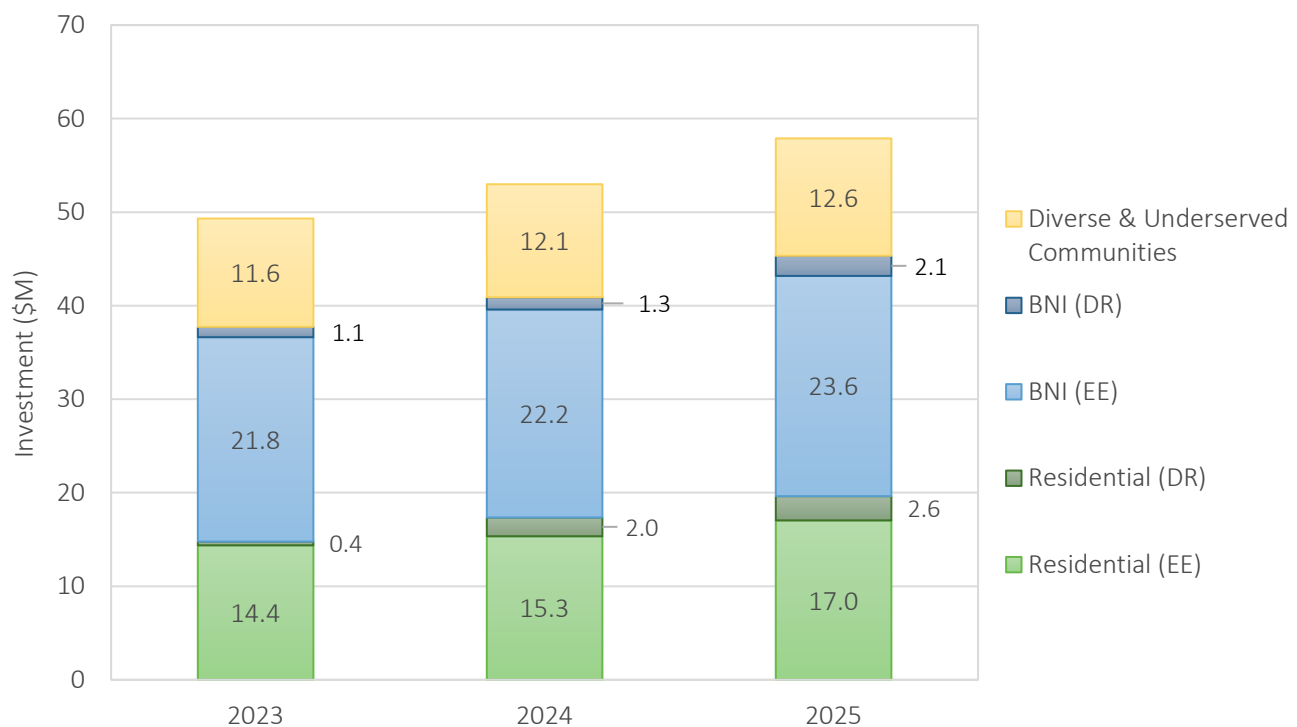
- Affordable Single-family Homes and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project program components do not pass TRC. These are dedicated low-income, and diverse or underserved communities, program components, which are expected to lower TRC values, when compared to market-rate DSM programs.
- E1's BNI sector has a moderately higher TRC value when compared to the Residential sector – this is largely attributable to savings opportunities in the BNI sector generally producing more benefits per dollar invested.
- Efficient Product Rebates (BNI) program component possesses the highest TRC and PAC test results at a program component level within the portfolio.
- The New Residential program possesses a high TRC value, owing to both the long measure lives of the program measures as well as the fact that the modelled treatment only reflects completions with existing 2022 customers.
- For energy efficiency programming, PAC test results are typically higher when compared to TRC test results, owing to the inclusion of incremental costs (total cost difference between the standard and efficient option) in the TRC test results, while the PAC only contains the incentive portion of incremental costs. This situation is reversed for certain Direct Installation measures.

The Settlement Plan programs are cost-effective for both the Residential and BNI sectors with passing benefit/cost ratios across all programs. The DR Program is also shown above, with a cost effectiveness ratio of 1.1. This information is presented above in Table 14.

3.4 SETTLEMENT PLAN – CUSTOMER GROUPS & SEGMENTS

To ensure the Settlement Plan represents all Nova Scotians and is accessible for all to enjoy the benefits of energy efficiency, the Settlement Plan was designed with customers top of mind during the design phase, as described in Section 2.2.2. Customer segments were developed to ensure each grouping's unique needs were captured in the design to allow E1 to tailor programs and services around these segments. Settlement Plan investments in each of three major groups: Residential, BNI, and Diverse & Underserved Communities (i.e. low-income and Mi'kmaw), for 2023, 2024, and 2025, is illustrated in Figure 12 below.

Figure 12: 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Investment Summary, by Year



Diverse & underserved communities includes EE & DR Residential sector low-income, EE Business, Non-Profit & Institutional sector low-income, and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project investments.

E1 focused its portfolio design objectives to provide access to all market segments, and particularly within four major categories: residential, small business, commercial & industrial, and diverse & underserved communities. Investments in these categories demonstrate to participants the potential energy and demand savings opportunities they have in common with other participants. These four major categories of customer segments are further described in Table 15, below, along with the dedicated program components and other supports available for this segment in the Settlement Plan.

1 Table 15: Major Categories of Customer Segments, Dedicated Program Components & Other Support

Category	Description of Target Segment	Dedicated Program Components	Other Support & Resources
Residential	Homeowners/tenants of new and existing single-family homes including: • multi-unit • detached homes • semi-detached • row houses • individual condo units • mobile homes	• Appliance Retirement • Instant Savings • Efficient Product Installation • Green Heat • Home Energy Assessment • Residential Behaviour • Residential Demand Response	• Energy Solutions Advisors • EPP network • online resources (efficiency tools, tips, and guides) • home shows & trade shows • Switch newsletter • market transformation efforts for new residential homes through builder education and training
Small Business	E1 defines eligible small businesses as a business that the total energy consumption of the facility is less than 350,000 kWh annually, or approximately \$3,800 or less per year on electricity costs.	• Small Business Energy Solutions (SBES) • Business Energy Rebates • BNI Demand Response	• dedicated Business Development Manager (BDM) for the small business sector • Energy Solutions Advisors • EPP network • online resources (efficiency tools, tips, and guides) • Switch newsletter • training • trade shows
Commercial & Industrial	Commercial includes a variety of commercial buildings, such as: • retail • office buildings • municipal, provincial, and federal buildings • hospitals • multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs) • school boards • hospitality • transportation • universities and colleges • other commercial sectors	• Custom – Retrofit, Building Optimization, and New Construction • Business Energy Rebates • BNI Demand Response	• Onsite Energy Managers (OEMs) • BDM dedicated to specific commercial buildings • EPP network • pay-for-performance • commercial kitchen rebates • commercial benchmarking pilot • trade shows
	Industrial includes businesses that produce goods within Nova Scotia, such as: • aquaculture • agriculture	• Strategic Energy Management & Energy Management Information Systems	• Industrial Energy Managers (IEMs) – large industrial performance-based incentives • OEMs • EPP network

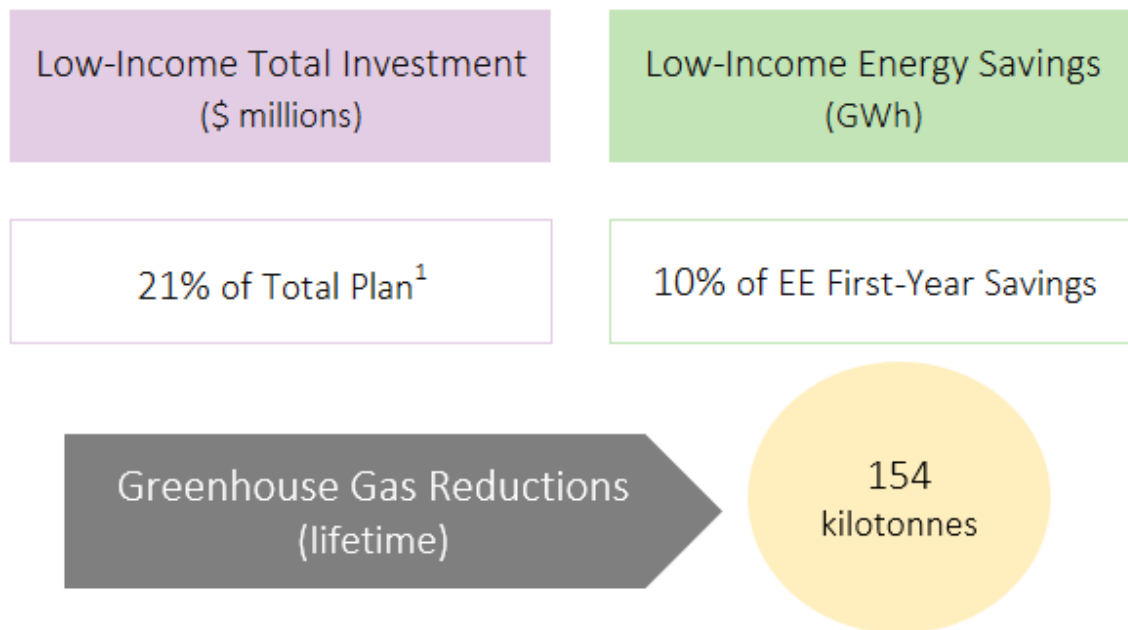
Category	Description of Target Segment	Dedicated Program Components	Other Support & Resources
Commercial & Industrial	• paper • lumber • mining • fabrications • food/beverage processing • other manufacturing sectors	• Custom – Retrofit, Building Optimization and New Construction • Business Energy Rebates • BNI Demand Response	• BDM dedicated to industrial sectors • compressed air audit • trade shows
Diverse & Underserved Communities	Nova Scotians on incomes below the provincial median are faced with challenges when it comes to energy efficient upgrades. Many low-income households are not likely to have the funds to implement energy efficiency measures without assistance and therefore tend to spend more of their income on energy. This segment can experience limited access to information that could help with understanding the benefits of participating in energy efficiency programs.	• Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project • Affordable Single-family Homes • Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations	• Appliance Replacement/Retirement • Efficient Product Installation • Residential Behaviour • Small Business Energy Solutions • Business Energy Rebates • Energy Solutions Advisors • EPP network • Diverse & Underserved Communities initiative • roving OEM for Mi'kmaw communities • Mi'kmaw Engagement Officer • BDM dedicated to Mi'kmaw and diverse communities

A priority in the design of E1's Settlement Plan was accessible and available program opportunities that ensure the energy efficiency improvement of homes and businesses in low-income, underserved, and diverse communities. The section below further describes details of specific enhancements in support of greater equity and accessibility.

3.4.1 DIVERSE & UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

E1 focused on strengthening the support provided to diverse and underserved communities in the Settlement Plan. Expanding investments in DSM for these customer groups is an important way to ensure their participation in energy efficiency programs to realize the resulting energy bill savings. The Settlement Plan further increases equity and accessibility to low-income Nova Scotian's by increasing investment for this customer group to 21% of total Plan investment, outlined in Figure 13.

1 Figure 13: 2023-2025 Low-Income Investment, First-Year Energy Savings & Greenhouse Gas Reductions



2 ¹ Total Plan investment includes EE and DR program investments and Enabling Strategies investment

3
4 The pursuit of energy-related benefits through the delivery of energy efficiency services for diverse and
5 underserved communities, as highlighted in Figure 13 reduce the energy burden experienced by income
6 eligible households. In addition there are other important benefits such as workforce development and
7 partnerships, improved health outcomes, and improved home comfort that can be achieved through
8 energy efficiency efforts.

9
10 E1 included focused support for Mi'kmaw communities for the first time in the 2020-2022 DSM Plan.
11 Building on the success of Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project, which was included as a new program
12 component in the 2020-2022 DSM Plan, the Settlement Plan expands support for Mi'kmaw communities
13 in the following areas.

- 14 • Participation in other residential program opportunities, such as:
 - 15 ○ Efficient Product Installation
 - 16 ○ Green Heat
 - 17 ○ Home Energy Assessment
- 18 • Focused engagement and outreach through the Diverse Communities initiative, including:
 - 19 ○ Mi'kmaw Engagement Officer

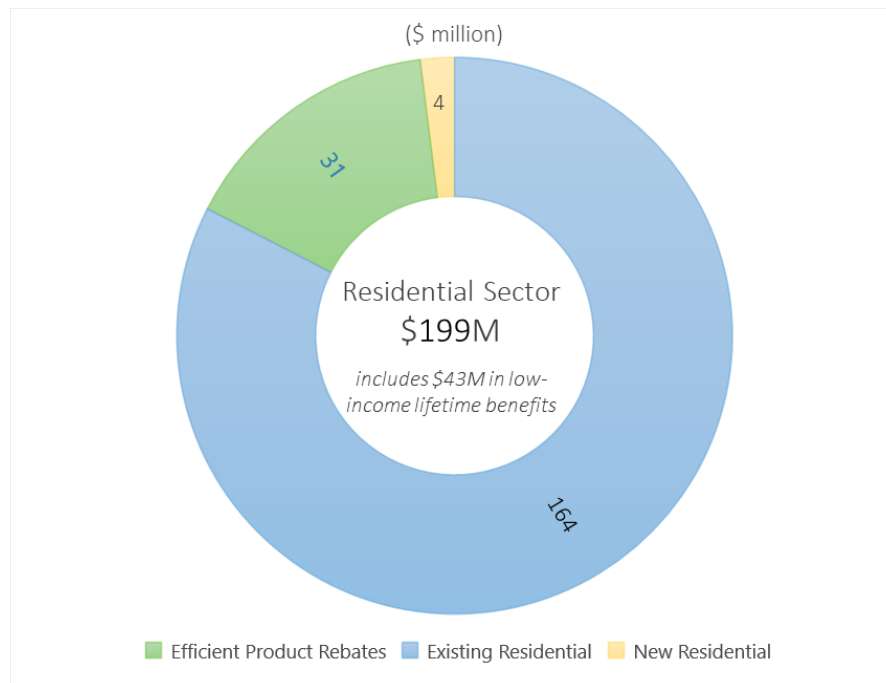
-
- Diversification training with the EPP network through partnerships with Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) Workforce Culture Training Program, workshops, and training sessions to help EPP network members understand the benefits of hiring a diverse workforce and the resources available to help navigate hiring and retaining a diverse workforce.
 - Development of opportunities for Onsite Energy Management and Business Development, such as:
 - Roving OEM for Mi'kmaw communities to support new partnership opportunities towards GHG, fuel reduction, and energy security through:
 - Energy Management Plans that set energy savings targets for each community, identify champions in the communities, and identify project opportunities
 - Identify program funding for energy efficiency projects
 - Engineering support for New Construction design process (Energy Manager acts as "owners engineer")
 - Business Development Manager for Mi'kmaw communities to support the identification of opportunities for participation in other E1 business programs and help customers throughout the participation process. Other business program opportunities include:
 - Custom
 - Small Business Energy Solutions
 - Business Energy Rebates
-

4. RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

For over a decade, E1's residential programs have provided Nova Scotia customers bill savings, improved comfort, and protection from energy cost increases. Over that decade, E1 introduced a new dedicated offer for Mi'kmaw communities, designed a pathway to higher performing new homes, and delivered programs that promote the adoption of high performing energy efficient technologies that transformed the Nova Scotian market, such as cold climate heat pumps and light-emitting diode (LED) lighting products.

The Settlement Plan will allow E1 to continue delivering cost-effective energy savings benefits for Nova Scotia's residential customers. The Settlement Plan pursues enhanced approaches to the delivery of programs and activities to better help customers navigate the complex upgrade choices available in today's energy market. Over the past three years, E1 has further refined its focus on understanding customers, their values, and how best to work with them to support the adoption of energy efficient measures in their homes. To provide the highest level of benefits to customers, E1 will continue to evolve and improve its services and delivery during the 2023-2025 DSM Plan period. As shown in Figure 14, the Settlement Plan outlines an extensive portfolio of program offerings in the 2023-2025 DSM plan period indicating lifetime benefits for the residential sector.

Figure 14: Residential Sector Lifetime Benefits



E1's Settlement Plan's residential sector provides a comprehensive portfolio of services that benefit all residential, low-income, and diverse and underserved communities. As the Nova Scotia electricity efficiency market continues to mature, some opportunities become increasingly saturated. E1 will evolve program and service offerings by taking advantage of new technologies and customer data to achieve energy savings from larger, more complex projects that are often more expensive to implement but produce higher, and longer lasting, energy savings.

This evolution is reflected in the Settlement Plan, which supports the adoption of a variety of energy efficient products and services in areas such as the building envelope, space heating equipment, and domestic water heating. The Settlement Plan demonstrates an increased shift towards non-lighting measures and builds on steps being taken in 2022. Enhancements for the Residential sector in the Settlement Plan, described in the next section, focus on the following key areas:

- decreasing reliance on energy savings from lighting;
- increasing accessibility to programs and services; and
- increasing types of benefits delivered by DSM (i.e. including system-peak demand reduction).

The Settlement Plan offers three Residential sector programs and ten program components, as presented in Table 16, below.

Table 16: Settlement Plan – Residential Sector Offerings

Program	Program Component	Target Market Segment	Delivery Approach	Enhancements in Settlement Plan	Section Reference
Residential Efficient Product Rebates	Appliance Retirement	Residential (renters, homeowners, landlords, low-income & Mi'kmaw)	Turn-key service	• Continued support	Section 4.1.2.1
	Instant Savings	Residential (renters, homeowners)	Point-of-sale discounts	• Expanded ENERGY STAR® Measures List	Section 4.1.2.2
Existing Residential	Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations	Residential (landlords)	Facilitated* and financial incentives	• Prescriptive Rebates	Section 4.2.2.1

Program	Program Component	Target Market Segment	Delivery Approach	Enhancements in Settlement Plan	Section Reference
Existing Residential	Efficient Product Installation	Residential (renters, homeowners, landlords, low-income)	Turn-key service	• Electrician-Installed Measures	Section 4.2.2.2
	Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project	Residential (band-owned homes)	Turn-key service	• Continued support	Section 4.2.2.3
	Green Heat	Residential (renters, homeowners, landlords)	Post-purchase rebates	• Continued support	Section 4.2.2.4
	Home Energy Assessment	Residential (homeowners, landlords)	Facilitated* and financial incentives	• Continued support	Section 4.2.2.5
	Affordable Single-family Homes	Residential (homeowners, low-income)	Turn-key service	• This is a new program component	Section 4.2.2.6
	Residential Behaviour	Residential (homeowners, renters, landlords)	Energy-use feedback	• This is a new program component	Section 4.2.2.7
New Residential	New Home Construction	Residential (homeowners, builders)	Facilitated* and financial incentives	• Wind down of existing program component in light of changes to the residential new construction market	Section 4.3

*Facilitated is defined as providing customers with assistance in identifying energy efficiency opportunities and guidance on implementation to satisfy program requirements.

To deliver the benefits of these programs to customers, E1 must intervene in various ways to overcome barriers to participation. Through marketing, education, awareness campaigns, partnerships, and expert technical support, E1 will increase customer awareness of services available, the benefits they provide to customers, and how individuals can participate.

4.1 RESIDENTIAL EFFICIENT PRODUCT REBATES PROGRAM

4.1.1 OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Residential Efficient Product Rebates program include:

- make energy-efficient products more accessible to Nova Scotians across all income levels and geographic locations;
- increase customer and retailer awareness of opportunities to increase their energy efficiency;
- increase demand for energy efficient products;
- increase the availability of energy-efficient products at retailers;
- increase customer and retailer awareness of the benefits of energy efficient products, particularly the lesser-known non-lighting products;
- encourage the adoption of energy efficient technologies and increase market participation for the purchase and installation of energy efficient products;
- remove old, inefficient appliances from the Nova Scotia electricity system and reduce the availability of used, inefficient appliances; and
- help customers achieve energy savings and power bill reductions.

Table 17, below, provides a summary of the participant, industry, environmental, and strategic DSM Portfolio benefits of the Residential Efficient Product Rebates program as designed in the Settlement Plan.

Table 17: Summary of Benefits – Efficient Product Rebates (Residential)

Participant Benefits	Industry Benefits	Environmental Benefits	Strategic DSM Portfolio Benefits
• utility bill savings and improved home comfort • improved access and reduced financial barriers to adoption of energy efficient products • improved safety and longevity of products	• increased retailer sales and customer satisfaction • leverages other program initiatives (old appliances replaced through other programs are retired through Appliance Retirement) • increased market awareness of energy efficiency opportunities	• reduced GHG emissions due to reductions in energy consumption • reduced adverse environmental impacts of appliance retirements through environmentally friendly decommissioning and recycling • reduced waste of inefficient baseline products with shorter useful lives, in particular incandescent and fluorescent lamps • alignment with Provincial and Federal incentives for reduced GHG emissions	• easy-to-participate with low-cost options for renters, landlords, and homeowners during peak seasons, such as renovation and home purchasing periods • increased public awareness of energy efficiency opportunities, driving participation in other E1 programs and services • establishes market channels that ease the expansion of future customer offers • supports adoption of codes and standards

4.1.2 OVERVIEW

Residential Efficient Product Rebates is a well-established program in Nova Scotia and has been operating as part of the E1 portfolio since 2010. The Residential Efficient Product Rebates program provides residential customers access to financial incentives for consumer products through retail channels and to retire and/or replace old inefficient appliances. The Residential Efficient Product Rebates program is comprised of two program components:

- Appliance Retirement; and
- Instant Savings.

Instant Savings on energy-efficient products has been operating since 2009¹⁹ and Appliance Retirement has been operating since 2010. Each of these program components is further described in the sections that follow.

4.1.2.1 APPLIANCE RETIREMENT PROGRAM COMPONENT

The Appliance Retirement program component helps residential customers responsibly dispose of old, inefficient appliances through a turn-key service approach. This service will pick up and responsibly recycle working, but less-efficient, home appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners from customers across the province. Customers receive a financial incentive for each retired appliance. Appliance Retirement also currently includes a free replacement service for qualified low-income customers participating in the HomeWarming program. As part of the replacement service, the older appliance is removed and retired, and a new energy efficient appliance is delivered and installed.

Table 18 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Appliance Retirement program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 18: Three-Year Summary of the Appliance Retirement Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
2023 Total	1.0	1.2	0.2	2,973

¹⁹ In 2009, NS Power offered a DSM program offering instant rebates program on energy efficient products. The responsibility and accountability for DSM administration transferred to Efficiency Nova Scotia effective October 1, 2010.

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.002</i>	<i>33</i>
2024 Total	1.0	1.2	0.2	2,973
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.002</i>	<i>33</i>
2025 Total	1.1	1.2	0.2	2,987
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.002</i>	<i>33</i>
Target Market	Includes all residential customers including low-income, diverse communities, and renter customer groups.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Affordability</u>: the cost difference between efficient products and less efficient products can create a participation barrier. • <u>Accessibility</u>: coordinating appliance purchases, deliveries, and retirements can be overly burdensome and result in participant's deferring the removal or replacement of inefficient appliances. • <u>Lack of trust</u>: some potential participants do not trust a free service. • <u>Lack of information</u>: lack of familiarity with energy efficient products and appliances.			
Key Components	• Turn-key, ease-of-access delivery model • No-cost appliance replacements for diverse and underserved communities • Environmentally friendly retirement of old, inefficient products			
Measures Promoted	• refrigerators • freezers • window air conditioning			
Program Component History & Highlights	• 2010 – pilot launched in Halifax Regional and Cape Breton Regional Municipality only • 2011 – pilot expanded to province-wide program component • 2012 – limited-time (1-year) pilot offer launched to offer customized incentives for replacing inefficient large-scale appliances with new ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances using a full-service (i.e. one-stop purchase, delivery, and decommissioning) delivery model • 2012 – temporarily offered participants the choice between incentives in the form of cash rebates or Air Miles rewards; the Air Miles promotion ended in 2014 • 2015 – integrated appliance replacements for low-income participants of the HomeWarming service, at no-cost to participants • 2020 – in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Appliance Retirement shifted to provide contactless pickup and delivery • 2021 – continued to offer contactless pick-ups and hosted several community drop-off events to provide communities with standardized times and locations for retirements of smaller-scale appliances Highlights:			

Program Component History & Highlights	• 56,354²⁰ – the number of inefficient appliances safely recycled through Appliance Retirement since 2012 • 95% – the portion of retired appliance components that are completely recycled through this program component
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Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

4.1.2.2 INSTANT SAVINGS PROGRAM COMPONENT

The Instant Savings program component focuses on purchases made through participating retail stores across Nova Scotia by offering customers point-of-sale rebates on eligible energy efficient products. Products typically include LED lighting products, thermostats, appliances, controls, and other consumer goods. Instant Savings provides point-of-sale rebates for energy efficient products and technologies in two formats: year-round incentives (offered on select products), and seasonal incentive campaigns (offered twice annually during spring and autumn).

E1 partners with national and independent retailers, as well as non-traditional retailers such as electricians and installers, to deliver rebates. Historically, incentives have been made available at more than 200 retail locations throughout Nova Scotia. In addition to point-of-sale rebates, Instant Savings also collaborates with retailers to increase customer engagement through in-store events where trained energy ambassadors demonstrate products, educate consumers on their use, and discuss the benefits of energy efficiency.

Table 19 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Instant Savings program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 19: Three-Year Summary of the Instant Savings Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
2023 Total	2.9	9.7	1.0	135,933
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.03</i>	<i>0.11</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>1,509</i>

²⁰ M10056, Exhibit 1, EfficiencyOne 2020 DSM Evaluation Reports, Final Report, March 26, 2021. See Residential Efficient Product Rebates Program, 2020 DSM Evaluation, March 31, 2021, page 5.

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
2024 Total	3.5	9.2	1.0	99,019
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.04</i>	<i>0.10</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>1,099</i>
2025 Total	4.5	9.7	1.0	79,234
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.05</i>	<i>0.11</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>879</i>
Target Market	Residential customers that purchase products through retail channels, including owner-occupied and rental properties. Key partnerships include major retailers such as Costco, Home Depot, and a variety of appliance, lighting, heating, and home improvement manufacturers and distributors.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Affordability</u>: the cost difference between efficient products and less efficient products can create a participation barrier. • <u>Awareness</u>: some potential participants may not be aware of the benefits of energy-efficient products. • <u>Accessibility & short decision period</u>: replacement of failing products or equipment can occur quickly resulting in lost opportunities. In the absence of widely available, discounted energy efficient products, consumers are likely to choose inefficient alternatives. • <u>Lack of information</u>: lack of knowledge around how to choose and install energy efficient products and appliances.			
Key Components	• Partnerships with national and local retailers • Product incentives to shift market behaviours • Advertising, education, and promotion			
Measures Promoted	• LED lighting – non-A-Series LED lighting • LED fixtures – recessed downlight fixtures and integrated fixtures – with and without motion sensors • dimmer switches – with and without indoor motion sensors • indoor and outdoor motion sensors • low-flow showerheads • programmable thermostats and smart thermostats for electric heating • smart power bars, power bars with built-in timers, and outdoor heavy-duty timers • clotheslines and outdoor drying racks • room air purifiers • ENERGY STAR® certified clothes washers and clothes dryers • dehumidifiers • variable speed pool pumps • air source heat pump hot water heaters			

Program Component History & Highlights	• 2009 – first pilot launched (Efficient Lighting Products) followed by several pilot adjustments (2010 – Power Down, 2011 – Plug into Savings, 2012 – Retail Markdown); all of which offered rebates primarily through seasonal campaigns in the spring and autumn • 2009 to 2011 – pilots continued with a heavy focus on lighting, specifically screw-in Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs), and then shifted toward LEDs with their introduction in 2011 • 2012 – the establishment of the full-scale program component, known as Instant Savings, and the development of the consistent delivery model that has remained unchanged • 2014 – the program component began offering year-round rebates on eligible refrigerators and clothes washers • 2018 – year-round rebate offerings expanded to include other products such as smart thermostats and dehumidifiers • 2019 – eligible products under Instant Savings shifted as a result of gradual market evolution; most notably changing with the discontinuation of rebates on all A-series LED lamps beginning in 2019. E1 introduced online retailers to their list of participating retailers. • 2020 – in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, online retailers became a heavier focus for future program delivery efforts; ENERGY STAR® certified clothes dryers were also added in 2020, along with the removal of ENERGY STAR® certified refrigerators Highlights: • 3,103,100²¹ – number of efficient products purchased through Instant Savings since 2015
Enhancements in 2023-2025	Expansion of the number of residential eligible ENERGY STAR® certified products available for point-of-sale rebates. New products may include ENERGY STAR® certified dishwashers, bathroom fans, air conditioning units, and kitchen range hoods. The introduction of these measures will reduce cost and access barriers, helping Nova Scotians adopt energy efficient products for their homes. The Instant Savings program component began exploring an expanded online rebate presence, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and increased activity in online retail marketplaces. The Settlement Plan will continue these efforts and may include exploration of an online vendor rebate model in the 2023-2025 Plan period.

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2 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical

3 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

²¹ M10056, Exhibit 1, EfficiencyOne 2020 DSM Evaluation Reports, Final Report, March 26, 2021. See Residential Efficient Product Rebates Program, 2020 DSM Evaluation, March 31, 2021, page 29.

4.1.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

4.1.3.1 PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Residential Efficient Product Rebates program uses both a self-serve and turn-key delivery approach to help residential customers make smart energy choices through the retirement and/or replacement of inefficient appliances and the purchase of high-efficiency consumer goods.

The Appliance Retirement program component uses a delivery agent approach for service delivery. The service to customers provided by the delivery agent includes the management of all aspects of appointment booking, pick-ups, transportation, and delivery/decommissioning of the appliances.

The Instant Savings program component engages a delivery agent for encouraging and recruiting retailers to participate, managing relationships with participating retailers, delivering in-store customer engagement events, and providing retailer training on energy-efficient products and additional E1 services. In 2023-2025 Plan period, E1 will continue to explore and grow its online point-of-sale rebate offering through the Instant Savings program component. This may include recruiting large-scale online marketplaces such as Amazon, expanding online rebate options through existing in-store retailers, and exploration of an online marketplace or web-based portal.

4.1.3.2 MARKETING STRATEGY

The marketing strategy for Appliance Retirement will focus on enhancing a customer's quality of life through non-energy benefits (convenient, hassle-free pick up and recycling) with the rebate promoted as a secondary message (through targeted advertising). The objective to increase the number of appliances retired is achieved through integrated marketing campaigns, which may include digital and social media, out-of-home (billboard, truck wraps), radio, and direct mail. To increase program participation across Nova Scotia, the marketing strategy is to reach out to potential participants through various platforms to encourage appliance retirement.

The marketing strategy for Instant Savings is to increase awareness and drive customers to retail locations to realize the benefits of energy efficient products. The marketing plan is designed to encourage customers to purchase a range of energy efficient products during campaign periods (or, for some products, year-round) to make their homes more efficient and comfortable, to incent customers to purchase energy

efficient products by removing the price barrier, and to ensure customers can easily recognize eligible products in-stores. It includes the following tactics:

- development of point-of-purchase materials and in-store signage;
- customer engagement events and materials;
- training for efficiency ambassadors; and
- E1 website updates.

Media promotion may include radio remotes, radio and television commercials, digital advertising, electronic billboard advertising, cross-promotion with other E1 programs (e.g. postcards delivered to customers in Appliance Retirement & Efficient Product Installation), and social media.

4.1.3.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Residential Efficient Product Rebates program has a quality assurance framework, which may include remote or in-person retailer site visits (during both campaign and non-campaign periods), random customer record review, appliance metering, appliance internal temperature testing, and customer satisfaction surveys.

4.1.4 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators for the Residential Efficient Product Rebates program are provided in Table 20, below.

Table 20: 2023-2025 Residential Efficient Product Rebates Performance Indicators

Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (products) ^c	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^d
					incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon		
2023	4.0	10.9	83	1.2	1.1	0.7	2.3	1.4	138,906	0.05
2024	4.6	10.4	91	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.2	1.4	101,991	0.05
2025	5.6	10.9	105	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.1	1.4	82,221	0.05
Total	14.1	32.3	279	3.5	1.1	0.7	2.2	1.4	323,118	0.05

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021. Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of individual products rebated through Appliance Retirement and Instant Savings.

^d Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

4.1.4.1 LOW-INCOME PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Low-Income performance indicators for the Residential Efficient Product Rebates program are provided in Table 21, below.

Table 21: 2023-2025 Residential Efficient Product Rebates Low-Income Performance Indicators

Year	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products) ^a
2023	0.1	0.9	0.01	1,542
2024	0.1	1.0	0.01	1,132
2025	0.1	1.2	0.01	913
Total	0.4	3.1	0.04	3,587

Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

^a The number of individual products rebated through Instant Savings and Appliance Retirement

4.1.5 PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

The Residential Efficient Product Rebates program shows no difference in the Alternate Scenario when compared to the Settlement Plan. Therefore, there is no variance in the Residential Efficient Product Rebates program between the Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario. Table 22, below, presents this difference for the Residential Efficient Product Rebates program.

Table 22: 2023-2025 Residential Efficient Product Rebates Performance Indicators – Comparison of Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario

Scenario	Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (products) ^c	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^d
						incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon	incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon		
Settlement	2023	4.0	10.9	83	1.2	1.1	0.7	2.3	1.4	138,906	0.05
	2024	4.6	10.4	91	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.2	1.4	101,991	0.05
	2025	5.6	10.9	105	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.1	1.4	82,221	0.05
	Total	14.1	32.3	279	3.5	1.1	0.7	2.2	1.4	323,118	0.05
Alternate	2023	4.0	10.9	83	1.2	1.1	0.7	2.3	1.4	138,906	0.05
	2024	4.6	10.4	91	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.2	1.4	101,991	0.05
	2025	5.6	10.9	105	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.1	1.4	82,221	0.05
	Total	14.1	32.3	279	3.5	1.1	0.7	2.2	1.4	323,118	0.05
Variance from Settlement	2023	0%	(0%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	(0%)	0%
	2024	0%	0%	0%	(0%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	2025	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	(0%)	0%
	Total	0%	0%	0%	0%	(1%)	(1%)	0%	(0%)	(0%)	0%

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of individual products rebated through Appliance Retirement and Instant Savings.

^d Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

4.2 EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

4.2.1 OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Existing Residential program include:

- increase customer awareness of cost-effective options to increase their energy efficiency;
- improve the energy performance of residential dwellings within Nova Scotia;
- improve homeowners understanding of their home's energy efficiency and performance;
- help property owners improve the efficiency of low-income housing stock to reduce energy poverty and maintain affordable housing in Nova Scotia;
- significantly reduce energy use in homes across all Mi'kmaw communities;
- reduce the burden of heating and energy costs for low-income Nova Scotians;
- achieve lasting energy and system-peak demand savings;
- provide customer engagement to support the broader transition to wide-scale adoption of energy efficiency products and behaviours across Nova Scotia; and
- encourage the adoption of equipment that reduces utility peak demand.

Table 23, below, provides a summary of the participant, industry, environmental, and strategic DSM Portfolio benefits of the Existing Residential program as designed in the Settlement Plan.

Table 23: Summary of Benefits – Existing Residential

Participant Benefits	Industry Benefits	Environmental Benefits	Strategic DSM Portfolio Benefits
• utility bill savings and improved home comfort • greater program benefits for residents at the highest risk of energy poverty; limited rent increases for tenants through	• increased sales of energy efficient products • improved industry capacity and expertise in building envelope and deep retrofit services	• reduced GHG emissions due to reductions in energy consumption • alignment with Provincial and Federal incentives for reduced GHG emissions	• strengthened relationships and partnerships with Mi'kmaw communities • easy access to coordinated component offers (e.g. Efficient Product Installations and in-home energy assessments) • cross-promotion between components and creation of

Participant Benefits	Industry Benefits	Environmental Benefits	Strategic DSM Portfolio Benefits
Affordable Housing Agreements • customized recommendations for reducing energy use based on consumption patterns and building characteristics • increased energy literacy and dedicated support for diverse and underserved communities	• greater awareness of available energy efficiency expertise and services in the Nova Scotia market • local economic development opportunities through use of local installers and contractors	• increased resident awareness of opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint	potential for more complex future initiatives such as demand response • Residential Behaviour program component may provide opportunities for cost-efficiencies with behavioural demand response and may provide a foundational platform from which future low-cost DSM offers can be launched • supports codes and standards through incentivizing space and water heating systems above baseline standards, driving increased demand for the highest-efficiency products

4.2.2 OVERVIEW

The Existing Residential program has been operating in various forms since Efficiency Nova Scotia was established. The Existing Residential program provides residential customers with access to technical and financial assistance to identify, assess and implement energy efficiency and system-peak demand reduction upgrades. The Existing Residential program is comprised of the following seven components:

- Affordable Multi-family Housing and Non-Profit Organizations;
- Efficient Product Installation;
- Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project;
- Green Heat;
- Home Energy Assessment;
- Affordable Single-family Homes; and
- Residential Behaviour.

Each of these program components is further described in the sections that follow.

4.2.2.1 AFFORDABLE MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The Affordable Multi-family Housing and Non-Profit Organizations program component was developed specifically to help low-income renters, non-profits that provide shelter, and community services to low-

income residents, access the benefits of energy efficiency through reduced utility bills and stable rents. This program component offers energy audits and project management support for energy-efficient upgrades of low-income housing units, combined with technical and financial assistance, to help building owners make energy efficient upgrades.

Table 24 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Affordable Multi-family Housing and Non-Profit Organizations program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 24: Three-Year Summary of the Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations Program Component

Annual Plan ²²	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation	
				(products)	(projects)
2023 Total	1.3	1.9	0.6	133	42
2024 Total	1.3	1.9	0.6	133	42
2025 Total	1.4	1.9	0.6	133	42
Target Market	Offers property owners of existing residential facilities that provide affordable housing in Nova Scotia access to energy efficiency audits, contractors, and rebates for the completion of energy efficiency projects. These include for-profit and non-profit rental housing, shelters, transition houses, housing co-operatives, and non-profit services such as food banks and community outreach centres.				
Market Barriers	• <u>Affordability</u>: lack of financial resources to cover upfront costs (product/equipment, installation, energy assessments). • <u>Awareness</u>: lack of information/knowledge about energy efficient technologies, upgrades, energy savings, and benefits. • <u>Resources</u>: lack of time/human resources for project management, contractor management, upgrade implementation. • <u>Split incentive</u>: when landlords are not paying for utilities (specifically heating), they are often not motivated to implement energy efficiency upgrades to the building and/or equipment.				
Key Components	• Energy audits for affordable multi-family housing units and non-profit organizations • Project management support through energy efficiency upgrades • Improved efficiency, comfort, and performance of low-income housing stock				
Measures Promoted	Upgrades focus on building envelope, as well as measures such as: • heating systems (e.g. mini-split heat pumps)				

²² Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations is a 100% low-income program component; all figures are low-income figures.

	• fenestration (e.g. windows) • building envelope upgrades, such as draft-proofing and insulation • domestic hot water heating systems • ventilation upgrades, such as heat recovery ventilators • common-area lighting, on occasion
Program Component History & Highlights	• 2016 – pilot launched using a similar framework as SBES and specifically targeted at landlords renting affordable housing units • 2017 – initial pilot efforts did not generate strong participation results, leading to support from the Province of Nova Scotia to build on the DSM pilot and help overcome barriers in this target market • 2018 – continuing as a pilot through the SBES program component, the pilot adapted in response to feedback identifying a need for higher incentives, more time to complete projects, and additional project management support • 2019 – launched as a standalone program component, Affordable Multi-family Housing, under Existing Residential • 2020 – the program component expanded its scope to incorporate non-profit organizations providing shelter, in addition to its support for low-income renters • 2021 – pilot launched to test prescriptive rebate stream, which is further described in the Enhancements section Highlights: • 88%²³ – the growth in participants served by the Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations program component in 2020, over 2019, despite periods of suspended audits due to the global COVID-19 pandemic
Enhancements in 2023-2025	Continuing to build on the prescriptive rebate stream, introduced in the 2020-2022 DSM Plan, to help address barriers to participation for property owners with smaller (e.g. 1-3 units) buildings requiring more efficient space or water heating systems. The prescriptive stream is, by design, a complementary offering to the standard comprehensive stream. This stream will introduce new ways to access rebates for heat pumps, primarily mini-splits, and heat pump water heater measures – improving the heating system efficiency of the affordable housing stock in Nova Scotia.

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2 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical
3 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

4 4.2.2.2 EFFICIENT PRODUCT INSTALLATION

5 The Efficient Product Installation program component conducts low-cost energy efficient upgrades for
6 homeowners and renters, at no-cost. During a home visit, qualified installers provide free installation of
7 energy efficient products such as lighting, domestic hot water measures, smart technologies and controls,

²³ M10056, Exhibit 1, EfficiencyOne 2020 DSM Evaluation Reports, Final Report, March 26, 2021. See Existing Residential Program, 2020 DSM Evaluation, March 31, 2021, page 114.

and other electricity-saving equipment. Efficient Product Installation offers the opportunity to engage directly with customers during the home visit. Installers demonstrate energy efficient products and their benefits, educate customers on energy efficient practices and technologies, and promote the value of more comprehensive assessments and upgrades for the dwelling.

Table 25 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Efficient Product Installation program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 25: Three-Year Summary of the Efficient Product Installation Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
2023 Total	3.1	11.2	1.7	236,016
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.57</i>	<i>3.92</i>	<i>0.62</i>	<i>83,025</i>
2024 Total	3.3	11.6	1.6	221,507
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.62</i>	<i>4.08</i>	<i>0.60</i>	<i>77,921</i>
2025 Total	4.2	13.4	1.6	214,277
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.78</i>	<i>4.72</i>	<i>0.58</i>	<i>75,377</i>
Target Market	Serves all types of residential dwellings in Nova Scotia, including single detached homes, semi-detached homes/duplexes, townhouses, mobile/mini homes, rental housing, and other multi-family residences such as apartments and condominiums.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Affordability</u>: the cost difference between efficient products and less efficient products can create a participation barrier. • <u>Awareness</u>: some potential participants may not be aware of the benefits of energy-efficient products. • <u>Lack of trust</u>: some potential participants do not trust a free service. • <u>Lack of information</u>: lack of knowledge about how to select and install energy efficient products. • <u>Resources</u>: lack of time/human resources for project management, contractor management, and upgrade implementation. • <u>Split incentive for rentals</u>: when either landlords or renters are not paying for utilities, they are often not motivated to implement energy efficiency upgrades.			
Key Components	• Turn-key ease-of-access delivery model • No-cost products and installation • Environmentally friendly product recycling • In-home, personalized, education and awareness			
Measures Promoted	• LED lighting – A-series and non-A series, decorative, and specialty lamps • LED nightlights and holiday lights			

Measures Promoted	• pipe insulation • hot water tank wraps • kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators • low-flow showerheads • thermostatic shower valves • smart power bars • clotheslines (seasonal) • air sealing kits – foam gaskets, door sweeps, window air sealing, and door weatherstripping • <u>NEW</u> – smart thermostats for electric baseboard heating • <u>NEW</u> – dimmer switches and motion sensors • <u>NEW</u> – domestic hot water heater controls
Program Component History	• 2011 – pilot launched providing an additional no-cost service under several other program components and replacing primarily incandescents with screw-in Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFLs) • 2012 – pilot established as a standalone program component, Residential Direct Install, focusing on communities with a high percentage of low-income residents and participants of other program components • 2014 – program component expanded to serve all Nova Scotians, province-wide; known as the “light exchange program” the component shifted from installation of CFLs and began installing LEDs to replace incandescent bulbs • 2017 – merged with former program component, Rental Properties and Condominiums, the newly-titled Efficient Product Installation component expanded to provide a complete, consistent service to residents of all home types and sizes • 2018 – introduced its first of many annual season-based promotional product installations, swapping incandescent holiday lights with LEDs, which was a continuation from the previous community-based Holiday Light Exchange efforts conducted through Enabling Strategies; followed by several adjustments to measure offerings in response to market transformation in the residential lighting sector • 2019 – added a second seasonal promotion period, offering clotheslines in spring/summer, to drive interest and participation in the well-established service; expanded to provide direct installation of basic weather- and draft-proofing measures, such as door sweeps, weatherstripping, and foam gaskets
Enhancements in 2023-2025	Electrician-installed measures that enable automated energy use reduction and may provide the opportunity for E1 to integrate its EE and DR programming for cost efficiencies and ease of participation. New measures may include occupancy sensors, lighting controls, and smart thermostats for electric heating systems.

- 1 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical
- 2 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

4.2.2.3 MI'KMAW HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

The Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project program component is a whole-home retrofit service offered to customers at no-cost. Available to band-owned homes in Mi'kmaw communities, the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project provides a fully project-managed service inclusive of energy efficiency assessments and systematic improvements to building envelopes (including air tightness, insulation, windows, and doors), and heating and ventilation systems to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of their homes. Where possible, E1's delivery agents hire qualified Mi'kmaw and community-preferred contractors to complete the work.

Upgrades delivered through this program component also include draft proofing, insulation, energy efficient space and water heating equipment, and appliance replacements (offered exclusively to eligible low-income and Mi'kmaw customers participating in the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project, HomeWarming, and Affordable Single-family Homes program components).

Table 26 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 26: Three-Year Summary of the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project Program Component

Annual Plan ²⁴	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation	
				(products)	(homes)
2023 Total	1.2	0.5	0.2	130	118
2024 Total	1.2	0.5	0.2	130	118
2025 Total	1.3	0.5	0.2	130	118
Target Market	Band-owned homes in Mi'kmaw communities.				
Market Barriers	• <u>Affordability</u>: lack of financial resources to cover upfront costs (product/equipment, installation, energy assessments). • <u>Awareness</u>: lack of information/knowledge about energy efficient technologies, upgrades, energy savings, and benefits. • <u>Resources</u>: lack of time/human resources for project management, contractor management, upgrade implementation.				

²⁴ Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project is a 100% low-income program component; all figures are low-income figures.

Market Barriers	• <u>Split incentive</u>: without incorporating benefits for band offices and participants, Housing Managers often face competing priorities and limited financial resources to implement energy efficiency upgrades to the building and/or equipment.
Key Components	• Opportunity to engage Mi'kmaw communities through a community-driven, tailored solution to address their specific circumstances and interests • No-cost home energy assessments and energy efficiency upgrades tailored to the home • Improved efficiency, comfort, and performance of existing residential housing stock • In-home, personalized, education and awareness
Measures Promoted	Upgrades focus on building envelope, as well as measures such as: • heating systems – mini-split heat pumps • programmable or smart thermostats • window and/or door replacements • drain water heat recovery systems • air source heat pump water heaters • ventilation upgrades – bathroom fans and heat recovery ventilation • carbon monoxide detectors • appliance replacements – refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, and clothes dryers
Program Component History & Highlights	• 2018 – the First Nations Home Energy Efficiency pilot launched as phase 1 of a multi-phase pilot aimed at reaching participants across all Mi'kmaw communities • 2019 – phase 2 of the pilot commenced with the start of upgrades in participant homes • 2020 – with the approval of the 2020-2022 DSM Resource Plan, the pilot became a standalone program component and was renamed Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project Highlights: • 91²⁵ – number of Mi'kmaw participants in the DSM-portion of this program component since its launch

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2 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical

3 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

²⁵ M10056, Exhibit 1, EfficiencyOne 2020 DSM Evaluation Reports, Final Report, March 26, 2021. See Existing Residential Program, 2020 DSM Evaluation, March 31, 2021, page 103.

4.2.2.4 GREEN HEAT

The Green Heat program component is externally marketed as Heating System Rebates. Through this offering, Nova Scotians can apply for post-purchase rebates for high-efficiency space and water heating system upgrades. The program component encourages the installation of highly efficient heating systems, as well as heating systems fueled by renewable resources, such as solar and biomass.

Table 27 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Green Heat program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 27: Three-Year Summary of the Green Heat Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
2023 Total	2.2	3.6	2.7	3,406
2024 Total	2.2	3.6	2.7	3,408
2025 Total	2.2	3.6	2.7	3,408
Target Market	Property owners of residential dwellings in Nova Scotia, including single detached homes, semi-detached homes/duplexes, townhouses, mobile/mini homes, and condominiums.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Affordability</u>: lack of financial resources to cover upfront costs (product/equipment, installation). • <u>Awareness</u>: lack of information/knowledge about energy efficient technologies, upgrades, energy savings, and benefits. • <u>Short decision period</u>: replacement of failing space or water heating equipment can occur quickly resulting in lost opportunities if the efficient product is not purchased.			
Key Components	• Product incentives for major space and water heating upgrades to shift market behaviour • Ease-of-access to rebates within 180-days of purchase and installation • Improved efficiency, comfort, and performance of existing residential housing stock			
Measures Promoted	• heat pump systems – ductless mini-split heat pumps, central/ducted heat pumps, air-to-water heat pumps, and geothermal heat pumps • biomass systems – wood or pellet stoves and fireplace inserts, wood or pellet boilers, and wood or pellet central/ducted forced air furnaces • solar thermal air-to-air systems • domestic water heating systems – three-element (low-peak demand) water heaters, residential domestic hot water timers, and solar thermal domestic water heaters			
Program Component History & Highlights	• 2011 – pilot, Fuel Substitution, launched initially aimed at promoting fuel switching to natural gas heating systems • 2012 – pilot established as a standalone program component			

Program Component History & Highlights	• 2013 – modified initial natural gas fuel switching scope to focus on switching to fuel derived from renewable sources; program component retitled to Green Heat • 2015 – incorporated solar thermal rebates that were formerly offered under a separate program component and began rebating ductless mini-split heat pumps, resulting in significant increases to participation • 2017 – revised delivery model from pre-approval to post-purchase, mail-in rebates in response to market barriers to entry and participation • 2020 – launched new system peak demand measures, like electric thermal storage, and topped up rebates for the locational DSM pilot in Kentville, referred to as the Klondike Pilot; heat pump water heaters were removed due to low participation levels and this measure was added to the Instant Savings program component • 2021 – in response to persistent impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, increased the post-purchase application eligibility period from 90- to 180-days Highlights: • 13,632²⁶ – efficient space and water heating systems installed through the Green Heat program component since 2012
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Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

4.2.2.5 HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT

The Home Energy Assessment program component was developed specifically to help homeowners make informed choices about energy efficient and deep savings upgrades to their homes. Home energy evaluations, coupled with the interaction of a Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) registered Energy Advisor (EAs) and prioritized, tailored recommendations, educate and inform homeowners who may not otherwise be aware of their home's upgrade potential. Deep energy savings measures, such as building envelope improvements, and the installation of efficient heating systems, can deliver significant energy savings to customers.

Personalized recommendations and access to the trained expertise of EAs, helps homeowners confidently identify, navigate, and invest in energy saving upgrades that improve the energy efficiency and comfort of their homes. Financial incentives, in the form of rebates or financing, are offered to help homeowners overcome the financial barrier to implementing otherwise costly retrofits. Homeowners learn about the

²⁶ M10056, Exhibit 1, EfficiencyOne 2020 DSM Evaluation Reports, EfficiencyOne, Final Report, March 26, 2021. See Existing Residential Program, 2020 DSM Evaluation, March 31, 2021, page 34.

energy efficiency of their home, the fundamentals of building systems, and are empowered to conduct upgrades that provide them with both financial savings and increased home comfort.

Table 28 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Home Energy Assessment program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 28: Three-Year Summary of the Home Energy Assessment Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation	
				(products)	(homes)
2023 Total	3.9	8.6	4.3	96	1,827
2024 Total	3.9	8.6	4.3	97	1,827
2025 Total	3.9	8.6	4.3	96	1,827
Target Market	Property owners of residential dwellings in Nova Scotia, including single detached homes, semi-detached homes/duplexes, townhouses, mobile/mini homes, and condominiums.				
Market Barriers	• <u>Affordability</u>: lack of financial resources to cover upfront costs (product/equipment, installation, energy assessments). • <u>Awareness</u>: lack of information/knowledge about energy efficient technologies, upgrades, energy savings, and benefits. • <u>Lack of understanding</u>: homeowners may struggle to find qualified contractors to perform energy efficiency upgrades and/or be unsure about how to move forward and have upgrades completed. • <u>Short decision period</u>: replacement of failing space or water heating equipment can occur quickly resulting in lost opportunities if the efficient product is not purchased. • <u>Uncertainty</u>: homeowners may be reluctant to enroll if they do not understand the costs, benefits, and appropriateness of efficiency measures for their home specifically.				
Key Components	• Financing and stackable incentives for major home upgrades to shift market behaviour • Ease-of-access to home energy assessments and energy efficiency recommendations tailored to the home • In-home, personalized, education and awareness • Improved efficiency, comfort, and performance of existing residential housing stock				
Measures Promoted	• building envelope upgrades – ceiling/attic insulation, foundation/basement insulation including basement slab and foundation headers, exterior wall insulation, exposed floor insulation, and air sealing • heat pump systems – ductless mini-split heat pumps, central/ducted heat pumps, air-to-water heat pumps, and geothermal heat pumps • biomass systems – wood or pellet stoves and fireplace inserts, wood or pellet boilers, and wood or pellet central/ducted forced air furnaces • domestic water heating systems – residential domestic hot water timers, and air source heat pump water heaters				

Measures Promoted	• electric thermal storage systems – room units and central hydronic or forced air furnaces • heat recovery ventilation systems • windows, doors, and skylights • air sealing
Program Component History & Highlights	• 2000s – incentives offered through the federal government for building envelope upgrades in the EnerGuide for Existing Homes program • 2010 – E1 inherits the Existing Homes service from Conserve Nova Scotia and NS Power (acting as interim DSM Administrator) • 2012 – significant adjustments to newly titled Home Energy Assessment program component, including scaling back eligible measures to focus solely on building envelope upgrades; until 2012, when the Residential Direct Installation program component was established, this program component also included an optional stream providing no-cost direct install of efficient products • 2013 – introduced a financing option, which provided the option between rebates or low-interest financing of home upgrades • 2015 – reduced participant cost of assessments, bringing the total cost to participate to \$99 + HST; the program component also introduced rebates for space and water heating equipment, and re-structured rebates to encourage participants to achieve deeper energy savings through rebate top-ups for bundled upgrades • 2017 – Natural Resources Canada implemented a revised EnerGuide rating system, which rated home efficiency on its energy use (in gigajoules, GJ) rather than the previous 0-100 rating; this new scale meant that 0 GJ was the highest efficiency rating (previously an EnerGuide score of 100 was the highest efficiency rating) • 2018 – in response to customer feedback, the program component underwent a redesign to simplify the navigation of its delivery model and rebates for participants • 2020 – launched new system peak demand measures, like electric thermal storage, and topped up rebates for the locational DSM pilot in Kentville, referred to as the Klondike Pilot; a virtual audit stream was also piloted that coincided with the suspension of in-home visits due to the global COVID-19 pandemic • 2021 – increased the cost of assessments by in response to increased EAs scope due to the launch of the federal Greener Homes initiative, bringing the total cost to participate to \$199 + HST – the additional \$100 upfront cost is rebated to participants installing an eligible Greener Homes measure Highlights: • 12,285²⁷ – number of participants the Home Energy Assessment program component has helped improve the efficiency of their existing home since 2012

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- 2 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical
- 3 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

²⁷ M10056, Exhibit 1, EfficiencyOne 2020 DSM Evaluation Reports, Final Report, March 26, 2021. See Existing Residential Program, 2020 DSM Evaluation, March 31, 2021, page 36.

4.2.2.6 AFFORDABLE SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

This is a new program component being re-introduced under the Existing Residential Program in the Settlement Plan. Re-introduction of this program component provides an opportunity to ensure equity of services for all participants (regardless of heat source), allows for transparency of program results for ratepayers through independent evaluation and reporting. The Affordable Single-family Homes program component provides a fully project managed, whole-home retrofit service at no-cost to income-qualified Nova Scotians. This effort will build on E1 experience delivering a similar program funded by the Province of Nova Scotia (to reduce non-electrical energy use), and through past E1 efforts to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes within income-eligible and low-income communities.

Upgrades delivered through this program component are inclusive of energy efficiency assessments and systematic improvements to building envelopes (including air tightness and insulation), energy efficient space heating and ventilation to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of participants’ homes. Upgrades also include appliance replacements (offered exclusively to eligible low-income and Mi’kmaq customers participating in the Mi’kmaq Home Energy Efficiency Project, HomeWarming, and Affordable Single-family Homes program components).

Table 29 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Affordable Single-family Homes program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 29: Three-Year Summary of the Affordable Single-family Homes Program Component

Annual Plan ²⁸	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation	
				(products)	(homes)
2023 Total	8.1	2.9	0.8	217	493
2024 Total	8.2	2.9	0.8	217	493
2025 Total	8.4	2.9	0.8	217	493
Target Market	Income-qualified (Statistics Canada Low-Income Cut-Off [LICO ²⁹] + 15% threshold) residential homeowners ³⁰ .				

²⁸ Affordable Single-family Homes is a 100% low-income program component; all figures are low-income figures.
²⁹ Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0241-01 Low-income cut-offs (LICOs) before and after tax by community size and family size, in current dollars.
³⁰ LICO is regularly updated by Statistics Canada.

Market Barriers	• <u>Affordability</u>: lack of financial resources to cover upfront costs (product/equipment, installation, energy assessments). • <u>Awareness</u>: lack of information/knowledge about energy efficient technologies, upgrades, energy savings, and benefits. • <u>Resources</u>: lack of time/human resources for project management, contractor management, upgrade implementation. • <u>Lack of trust</u>: some potential participants do not trust a free service. • <u>Lack of information</u>: lack of familiarity with energy efficient products.
Key Components	• Opportunity to support low-income homeowners to address their specific circumstances • No-cost home energy assessments and energy efficiency upgrades • In-home, personalized, education and awareness • Improved efficiency, comfort, and performance of existing residential housing stock
Program Component History	• 2000s – programming offered through funding from the federal and provincial government, and NS Power, to provide building envelope upgrades (scope 1) and no-cost direct install measures (scope 2) for low-income households through the Residential Energy Affordability Program or also known as Low Income Households program • 2010 – E1 inherits the existing service for low-income households from Conserve Nova Scotia and NS Power (acting as interim DSM Administrator) • 2011 – introduced no-cost replacements of refrigerators and freezers to ENERGY STAR® certified models; launched a pilot providing the residential direct install scope of the program for two First Nations communities • 2012 – expanded the appliance scope of the service to provide new ENERGY STAR® certified dehumidifiers or replacements of inefficient working dehumidifiers; scope 1, no-cost direct install of efficient products, is decoupled from the Low-Income Homeowner Service and is instead delivered as a pre-assessment service through the Residential Direct Installation program component • 2015 – implementation of a new funding and management structure resulted in the transition of administration for electric homes to a third party; the program was rebranded to HomeWarming, and E1 continued its administration of the service for non-electrically heated homes only • 2020 – program administration of the HomeWarming service for both electric and non-electric low-income households transitioned back to E1, continuing to utilize the existing third-party for delivering this service to electric homes
Enhancements in 2023-2025	Affordable Single-family Homes is a new program component being re-introduced under the Existing Residential Program in the Settlement Plan. This effort will build on E1's experience delivering a similar program funded by the Province of Nova Scotia (to reduce non-electrical energy use), and through past E1 efforts to improve energy efficiency, safety, and comfort for low-income homeowners.

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- 2 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical
- 3 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

4.2.2.7 RESIDENTIAL BEHAVIOUR

This is a new program component being re-introduced under the Existing Residential Program in the Settlement Plan (previously offered as Home Energy Report). The Residential Behaviour program component plans to provide tools and insights that will encourage Nova Scotians to adopt more energy-conscious behaviours and activities, leading to electricity savings and reduced utility bills. Through personalized and timely energy-use feedback, residential customers are empowered to make informed choices about their energy consumption behaviours and the E1 programs and services that can help support them along the way.

In the Settlement Plan, E1 will establish a home energy reporting initiative that builds on the foundation of E1's 2015 program and leverages advancements in energy reporting tools enabled through advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) data. AMI data provides near real-time energy consumption information and, when coupled with analytical tools and software, can provide meaningful insights that encourage Nova Scotians to shift behaviours.

The approval of NS Power's AMI³¹ capital project in 2018, and the expansion of NS Power's existing customer data sharing agreement with E1, opened the potential for future behavioural energy efficiency programming, leveraging AMI data, once meters were fully implemented and associated interval data came online. As of January 2022, NS Power reported that the large-scale implementation of AMI was substantially complete³², coinciding with the launch of NS Power's Time-Varying Pricing Pilot in November 2021. This large-scale deployment of AMI meters, and interval data availability, opens the door to low-cost demand side management program offerings through personalized and timely energy use feedback. The Residential Behaviour component may develop to include other feedback-based initiatives such as gamification through energy reduction challenges, and alerts and notifications providing at-a-glance energy saving recommendations and tips for residential customers.

Table 30 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Residential Behaviour program component in the Settlement Plan.

³¹ M08349 – Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project, was approved by the NSUARB on 11 June 2018.

³² M08349 – Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project, Fifth Semi-Annual Update, as filed 31 January 2022.

1 Table 30: Three-Year Summary of the Residential Behaviour Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (homes)
2023 Total	1.1	8.7	n/a	38,195
Low-income	0.13	0.96		4,240
2024 Total	2.2	29.8	n/a	131,379
Low-income	0.24	3.30		14,583
2025 Total	2.2	29.8	n/a	131,379
Low-income	0.24	3.30		14,583
Target Market	All residential customers who require assistance to make the best decisions around energy-use for their homes, including renters and owners.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Awareness</u>: lack of personal, relevant, and actionable insights about energy saving behaviours, products, and programs. • <u>Accessibility</u>: some potential participants may be unsure of the types of products or services available to reduce energy consumption, and how to get started. • <u>Short decision period</u>: in the absence of timely and personalized insights, potential participants may replace failing equipment without considering the efficient alternative. • <u>Lack of information</u>: lack of familiarity, information, or knowledge about energy efficient technologies, upgrades, energy savings and benefits.			
Key Components	• Detailed energy-use feedback • Personalized and timely home energy reports with calls-to-action			
Program Component History	• 2013 to 2015 – the Energy Savings Actions program launched as a limited-time (3-year) pilot, initially providing paper Home Energy Reports to 98,000 Nova Scotians and expanding, later the same year, to include web-based portal to all residential customers in the province			
Enhancements in 2023-2025	Residential Behaviour is a new program component being re-introduced under the Existing Residential Program, nearly one decade after E1’s initial offering in 2013-2015. This aligns with advances in energy-use feedback programming, the availability of AMI in Nova Scotia, and advances in analytical software and products available to deliver personalized, actionable insights. This new program component may also provide the opportunity for E1 to integrate its EE and DR programming for cost efficiencies and ease of participation.			

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3 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical

4 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

4.2.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

4.2.3.1 PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Existing Residential Program leverages a variety of delivery approaches to help customers implement energy efficiency improvements in their home. These strategies include:

- turn-key direct installation service;
- after purchase mail-in rebates;
- mid-stream instant rebates;
- project management support;
- energy use feedback and personalized, actionable insights to encourage adoption of energy efficiency behaviours and practices; and
- whole building energy modelling and upgrade incentives.

The Affordable Multi-family Housing and Non-Profit Organizations program component is delivered in partnership with contracted energy auditors. An energy audit is performed on the building to identify energy efficiency opportunities specific to the building. Following the completion of upgrades, which could include increased insulation, energy efficient space and water heating equipment, appliances and lighting, participants receive rebates based on the implemented upgrades.

Efficient Product Installation is delivered in partnership with delivery agents that are responsible for booking installation appointments with customers, installing energy efficient products in place of inefficient alternatives, decommissioning and, where applicable, recycling the inefficient alternative products, demonstrating the products to participants, engaging with customers about energy efficiency, installer training and education, reporting and data collection, and marketing efforts.

The Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project program component is delivered in partnership with Mi'kmaw Communities and two delivery agents. Housing Managers in each community select their participants based on need. Where possible, E1's delivery agents hire qualified Mi'kmaw-preferred contractors to complete the work. E1's delivery agents are responsible for:

- conducting the initial home energy assessment;
 - proposing upgrades that are reviewed and approved by both E1 and the Housing Managers;
 - hiring and managing contractors to implement the approved upgrades;
-

- conducting quality assurance site visits on all completed upgrades;
- conducting final home energy assessment; and
- providing documentation to E1.

Green Heat is delivered as an after-purchase rebate service. Participants may choose to submit an online, electronic mail, fax, or mail-in rebate application, at their convenience, following the installation of their new efficient equipment. This provides flexibility for customers, and also offers an opportunity for E1 to engage more directly with equipment providers to supply further information/training on relevant rebates.

The Home Energy Assessment program component is delivered with the support of NRCan licensed Service Organizations. Registered EAs complete an initial home energy assessment and provide the homeowner with a report containing tailored upgrade recommendations. Homeowners select and complete energy efficient upgrades. After completing upgrades, the EAs perform a final home energy assessment. Rebates provided to participants are based on the implemented upgrades.

The Affordable Single-family Homes program component will be delivered in partnership with delivery agent(s) licensed by NRCan as registered EAs. EAs will conduct pre-retrofit assessments, implement energy efficiency retrofits consisting largely of building envelope measures, and conduct post-retrofit assessments. E1's delivery agent(s) is responsible for:

- conducting an initial home energy assessment;
- proposing upgrades that are reviewed and approved by E1, and the homeowner;
- hiring and managing contractors to implement the approved upgrades;
- conducting quality assurance site visits on all completed upgrades;
- conducting the final home energy assessment; and
- providing documentation to E1.

The Residential Behaviour program component is expected to launch with the delivery of an opt-out home energy reporting service provided by paper, electronic mail, and/or online application. E1 is anticipating leveraging a third-party delivery model for this program component. As described in Section 4.2.2.7, Residential Behaviour may evolve over the 2023-2025 Plan period to include other feedback-based initiatives such as gamification through energy reduction challenges, and alerts and notifications providing at-a-glance energy saving recommendations and tips for residential customers.

4.2.3.2 MARKETING STRATEGY

The Existing Residential program marketing strategy will deliver integrated marketing campaigns by program component and market segment (e.g. home renovation, low-income, seniors), with a focus on providing more access to virtual education and support. E1's strategy will prioritize direct email marketing, as it is a highly cost-effective way to tailor communications to target market segments and is the preferred method of communication by both residents and businesses. E1 will continue to collaborate closely with its creative, digital, and media agency partners, EPP network members, and its program delivery agents to reach target markets and deliver effective program information and support. Specific tactics will include:

- contractor education and training;
- Delivery Agent education and training;
- industry event attendance and promotion;
- integrated media plans that include radio, TV, billboards, social media, streaming, search engine marketing, email marketing, events, and partnerships;
- in-store promotion and events;
- leveraging strategic partnerships; and
- community outreach and events.

4.2.3.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Existing Residential program has an established quality assurance framework inclusive of random and targeted site visits, energy model file reviews and rebuilds, documentation review, and customer surveys.

4.2.4 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators for the Existing Residential program are provided in Table 31, below.

Table 31: 2023-2025 Existing Residential Performance Indicators

Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (products) ^c	Participation (homes) ^d	Participation (projects) ^e	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^f
					incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon				
2023	20.9	37.3	403	10.3	1.5	1.1	2.4	1.8	239,998	40,633	42	0.05
2024	22.5	58.8	433	10.2	1.6	1.1	2.5	1.8	225,492	133,818	42	0.05
2025	23.6	60.6	456	10.2	1.6	1.2	2.5	1.8	218,261	133,818	42	0.05
Total	67.0	156.7	1,292	30.7	1.5	1.1	2.5	1.8	683,752	308,268	125	0.05

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of individual products rebated through Efficient Product Installation, Green Heat, Home Energy Assessment, Affordable Single-family Homes, Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project.

^d The number of households completing upgrades through Home Energy Assessment, Affordable Single-family Homes, Affordable Multi-family Housing, and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project.

^e The number of projects completing upgrades through the Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations program component.

^f Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

4.2.4.1 LOW-INCOME PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Low-income performance indicators for the Existing Residential program are provided in Table 32, below.

Table 32: 2023-2025 Existing Residential Low-Income Performance Indicators

Year	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products) ^a	Participation (homes) ^b	Participation (projects) ^c
2023	10.2	120.4	2.2	83,505	4,851	42
2024	12.7	126.0	2.1	78,401	15,194	42
2025	13.3	134.2	2.1	75,858	15,194	42
Total	36.2	380.7	6.5	237,764	35,239	125

Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

^a The number of individual products rebated through Efficient Product Installation, the Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations, and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project.

^b The number of households completing upgrades through Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project, Residential Behaviour, and Affordable Single-family Homes

^c The number of projects completing upgrades through the Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations program component.

4.2.5 PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

The Existing Residential Program features several differences in the Alternate Scenario when compared to the Settlement Plan. The Efficient Product Installation program component does not contain a major initiative relating to smart thermostat and electrician-installed measures within the Alternate Scenario. As well, a lower level of Green Heat activity is featured within the alternate scenario across all DSM Plan years, owing a lower incentive approach for non-heat-pump-based measures. Lower levels of activity for Residential Behaviour are also present in the Alternate Scenario, as well as slightly lower levels of activity for Affordable Single-family Homes. Table 33, below, presents this difference for the Existing Residential program.

Table 33: 2023-2025 Existing Residential Performance Indicators – Comparison of Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario

Scenario	Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (products) ^c	Participation (homes) ^d	Participation (projects) ^e	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^f
						incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon	incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon				
Settlement	2023	20.9	37.3	403	10.3	1.5	1.1	2.4	1.8	239,998	40,633	42	0.05
	2024	22.5	58.8	433	10.2	1.6	1.1	2.5	1.8	225,492	133,818	42	0.05
	2025	23.6	60.6	456	10.2	1.6	1.2	2.5	1.8	218,261	133,818	42	0.05
	Total	67.0	156.7	1,292	30.7	1.5	1.1	2.5	1.8	683,752	308,268	125	0.05
Alternate	2023	17.9	30.1	359	9.6	1.5	1.1	2.5	1.9	167,667	30,607	42	0.05
	2024	18.8	45.6	374	9.5	1.5	1.1	2.6	1.9	154,118	100,849	42	0.05
	2025	19.0	45.3	374	9.5	1.5	1.1	2.6	2.0	140,567	100,849	42	0.05
	Total	55.6	121.0	1,107	28.6	1.5	1.1	2.6	1.9	462,353	232,305	125	0.05
Variance from Settlement	2023	(15%)	(19%)	(11%)	(7%)	(1%)	0%	5%	6%	(30%)	(25%)	0%	(4%)
	2024	(16%)	(22%)	(14%)	(7%)	(3%)	(1%)	4%	6%	(32%)	(25%)	0%	(3%)
	2025	(20%)	(25%)	(18%)	(7%)	(4%)	(2%)	5%	7%	(36%)	(25%)	0%	(2%)
	Total	(17%)	(23%)	(14%)	(7%)	(3%)	(1%)	5%	6%	(32%)	(25%)	0%	(3%)

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of individual products rebated through Efficient Product Installation, Green Heat, Home Energy Assessment, Affordable Single-family Homes, Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations, and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project.

^d The number of households completing upgrades through Home Energy Assessment, Affordable Single-family Homes, Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations, and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project.

^e The number of projects completing upgrades through the Affordable Multi-family Housing & Non-Profit Organizations program component.

^f Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

4.3 NEW RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

4.3.1 OVERVIEW

The New Residential program provides residential home builders and new home market entrants access to technical assistance and financial incentives for the installation of energy efficiency upgrades during the design and early construction phases. The program consists of one program component, New Home Construction, which is further described in the section that follows. In the Settlement Plan, E1 will wind down activities in its New Residential program and refocus its support of new residential markets through the development of a market transformation approach. This approach is further described in Enabling Strategies under Section 7.

4.3.1.1 NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM COMPONENT

Since its adoption in 2011, the New Home Construction program component has provided support, education, and incentives to the building industry in Nova Scotia. The program has been successful at meeting targets established within the existing funding envelope and at moving the residential new construction market baseline. In Econoler's 2020 evaluation, it became evident that, with the increased popularity of heat pump installations in the residential new construction market, future savings adjustments were estimated to be reduced by at least 70% for the New Home Construction program component. The cost of delivering the existing program would therefore become too expensive to offer within a limited DSM budget. As a result, the program will be wound up and replaced with a new market transformation program within Enabling Strategies.

The New Home Construction program component provides financial incentives to participants based on whole home modelling. Typical energy efficiency upgrades recommended and implemented by program participants are increased insulation levels, energy efficient space heating and water heating equipment, and efficient ventilation systems.

Incentives are provided to reduce both the upfront costs of pre- and post-construction modelling, as well as for the implementation of comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades. Upgrade incentives are performance-based (corresponding to the size and configuration of the home) and are aligned with the achievement of consumption targets as compared to a home built to the Nova Scotia building code. Incentives are tiered and increase with increased energy savings to encourage homeowners and builders to build top performance homes such as passive homes, net zero ready, and net zero homes.

Table 34 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the New Home Construction program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 34: Three-Year Summary of the New Home Construction Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (homes)
2023 Total	0.8	0.4	1.3	419
2024 Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2025 Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

4.3.2 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

4.3.2.1 PROGRAM DELIVERY

New registrations for the New Residential program will close in July 2022. As a result of long lead times for new residential construction, the final year of efficient new residential build completions, enrolled prior to July 2022, will wind up in the first year (2023) of the Settlement Plan.

The New Residential program will be delivered in partnership with contracted Service Organizations, licensed by NRCAN, until wind up is complete in 2023. Customers will continue to work directly with E1 and NRCAN registered EAs for detailed home design advice and program guidance until that time. Upon completion of the new home, a final onsite evaluation is completed by the EAs, and the home is modelled (as built). The modelled results provide an energy rating for the completed new home.

4.3.3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators for the New Residential program are provided in Table 35, below.

Table 35: 2023-2025 New Residential Performance Indicators

Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (homes) ^c	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^d
					incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon		
2023	0.8	0.4	13	1.3	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.4	419	0.06
2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0.8	0.4	13	1.3	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.4	419	0.06

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of households completing upgrades through New Home Construction.

^d Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

4.3.4 PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

New Residential investment and savings in the Settlement Plan are included in year 2023 only. The estimates are based on a wind up of the program with new registrations ending in July 2022. The number of completions in 2023 are assumed to be the same in both the Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario since both are based on the number of expected registrations in 2022. Therefore, there is no variance in the New Residential program between the Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario – as summarized in Table 36, below.

Table 36: 2023-2025 New Residential Performance Indicators – Comparison of Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario

Scenario	Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (homes) ^c	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^d
						incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon	incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon		
Settlement	2023	0.8	0.4	13	1.3	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.4	419	0.06
	2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	0.8	0.4	13	1.3	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.4	419	0.06
Alternate	2023	0.8	0.4	13	1.3	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.4	419	0.06
	2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	0.8	0.4	13	1.3	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.4	419	0.06
Variance from Settlement	2023	0%	0%	(0%)	0%	0%	(0%)	0%	(0%)	0%	0%
	2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	0%	0%	(0%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of households completing upgrades through New Home Construction.

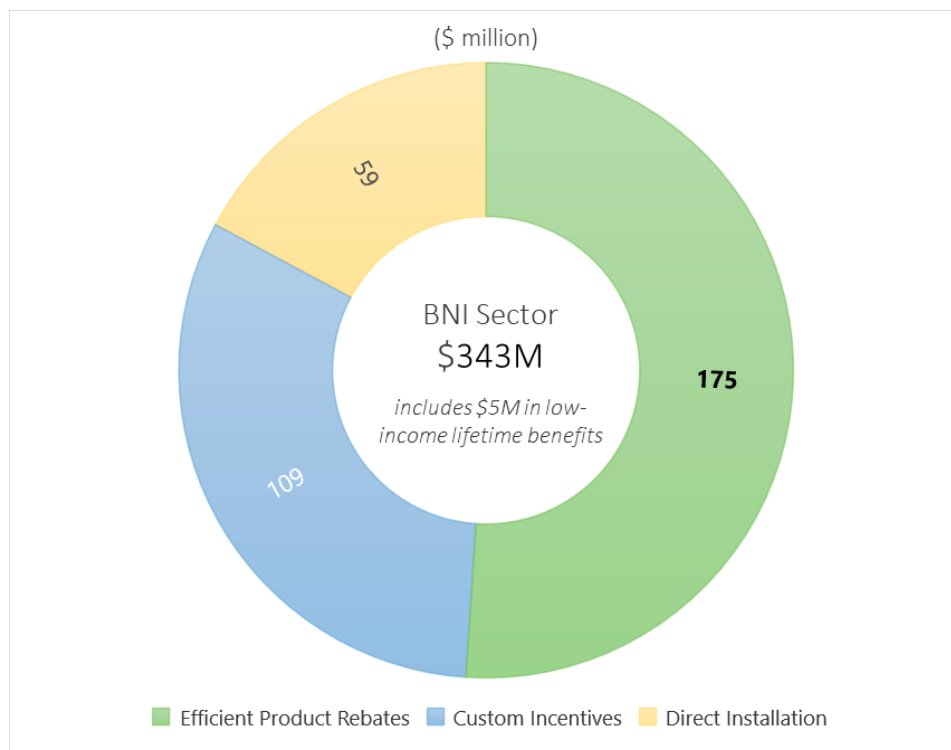
^d Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

5. BUSINESS, NON-PROFIT & INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

For over a decade, E1 has been a leader in designing and implementing business, non-profit, and institutional (BNI) energy efficiency programs. E1 has built an extremely successful mid-stream delivery pathway, developed a prominent small business turn-key and open market service, and most recently introduced Industrial Energy Managers (IEMs). The Settlement Plan builds on previous achievements with a focus on expanding equity, streamlining delivery approaches, and increasing awareness of the availability and value of energy efficiency.

Increasing participation by BNI customers in energy efficiency programs is an important element of E1's Settlement Plan. During a time when businesses are facing an uncertain economic outlook, energy savings opportunities are diminishing in easy to reach areas, and business priorities may not include investing in energy efficiency. E1 remains focused on the fundamentals of program success – awareness, simplicity, proven value, continuous improvement to the portfolio of services, expanding industry capacity and expertise. Figure 15 outlines the BNI Sector Lifetime Benefits over the 2023-2025 DSM plan period.

Figure 15: BNI Sector Lifetime Benefits



The Settlement Plan aims to help more business customers overcome barriers to participation by making it easier for them to participate in programs, connecting them with expertise specific to their needs, and building on engagement and development efforts. The Settlement Plan supports the adoption of a variety of energy-efficient products and services in areas such as capital retrofit projects, process-focused energy management and new building construction. The Settlement Plan demonstrates an increased shift towards helping customers achieve savings that are more challenging and builds on related steps taken in 2019 that have eliminated incentives for some lighting measures. Enhancements for this plan period, described in the next section, focus on the following key areas:

- decreasing reliance on energy savings from lighting;
- increasing accessibility to programs; and
- increasing the types of benefits delivered by DSM (i.e. including system-peak demand reduction).

The Settlement Plan offers three BNI sector programs comprised of four program components, as presented in Table 37, below.

Table 37: Settlement Plan – BNI Sector Offerings

Program	Program Component	Target Market Segment	Delivery Approach	Enhancements in Settlement Plan	Section Reference
BNI Efficient Product Rebates	Business Energy Rebates	Existing and new construction BNI facilities	Point of sale rebates and mail in rebates	• Mid-stream Commercial Kitchen Rebates	Section 5.1.2.1
Custom Incentives	Custom	Existing and new construction BNI facilities	Facilitated* and financial incentives	• Pay-for-Performance	Section 5.2.2.1
	Strategic Energy Management & Energy Management Information Systems	Industrial, institutional	Facilitated* and financial incentives	• Continued support	Section 5.2.2.2
Direct Installation	Small Business Energy Solutions	Small businesses	Facilitated* and financial incentives	• Commercial Direct Install Stream	Section 5.3.2.1

*Facilitated is defined as providing customers with assistance in identifying energy efficiency opportunities and guidance on implementation to satisfy program requirements.

5.1 EFFICIENT PRODUCT REBATES PROGRAM

5.1.1 OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the BNI Efficient Product Rebates program include:

- encourage businesses to use efficient products in a variety of facilities;
- increase the market penetration of the supported technologies;
- promote the adoption of high-efficiency equipment; and
- transform the market by raising the efficiency of standard practices.

Table 38, below, provides a summary of the participant, industry, environmental, and strategic DSM Portfolio benefits of the Efficient Product Rebates program as designed in the Settlement Plan.

Table 38: Summary of Benefits – Efficient Product Rebates (BNI)

Participant Benefits	Industry Benefits	Environmental Benefits	Strategic DSM Portfolio Benefits
• utility bill savings and improved building comfort • reduced maintenance and extended equipment life • improved access and reduced financial barriers to adoption of energy efficient products • improved visibility, improved customer experience in retail outlets • savings can contribute to corporate environmental goals	• increased sales of energy efficient products • support for a wide range of products including agricultural, horticultural, refrigeration, HVAC, and lighting • local economic development opportunities for distributors and contractors	• reduced GHG emissions due to reductions in energy consumption • reduced waste of inefficient baseline products with shorter useful lives, in particular incandescent and fluorescent lamps • alignment with Provincial and Federal incentives for reduced GHG emissions • increased business and commercial awareness of opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint	• establishes market channels that enable no-effort customer participation • supports codes and standards through incentivizing equipment above baseline standards, driving increased demand for the highest-efficiency products • improves communication channels with industry and customers through a mix of Business Development Manager, Efficiency Preferred Partner network, Onsite Energy Manager, Industrial Energy Manager, and other supports

5.1.2 OVERVIEW

The Efficient Product Rebates program provides BNI customers with financial incentives, in the form of prescriptive/semi-prescriptive rebates or financing, for the installation of energy efficient and system-peak

demand-reducing equipment. The program focuses primarily on equipment that has applicability across a variety of commercial, industrial, and institutional customers and equipment that has predictable energy and system-peak demand savings. The program consists of one program component, Business Energy Rebates, which offers customers two participation pathways, each of which is further described in the section that follows.

5.1.2.1 BUSINESS ENERGY REBATES PROGRAM COMPONENT

The Business Energy Rebates program component offers two participation pathways – Instant Rebates and Mail-In rebates:

- Instant Rebates: customers have access to prescriptive rebates on a limited suite of energy efficiency equipment through point-of-purchase discounts across a province-wide network of distribution partners; and
- Mail-In Rebates: customers have access to prescriptive rebates on a larger suite of energy efficiency equipment through mail-in applications. Through the mail-in pathway, customers can have their rebate adjusted in some cases to reflect the energy savings resulting from the specific conditions of the facility.

The term ‘prescriptive rebate’ refers to a particular rebate value that is calculated prior to a participant purchasing or submitting a proposal for an eligible measure. If a given measure or technology demonstrates energy savings potential, a corresponding rebate value is applied to the purchase of said measure or technology.

Table 39 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Business Energy Rebates program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 39: Three-Year Summary of the Business Energy Rebates Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
2023 Total	7.4	35.3	6.7	207,143
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.09</i>	<i>0.47</i>	<i>0.12</i>	<i>2,738</i>
2024 Total	7.4	35.3	6.7	206,157

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.09</i>	<i>0.47</i>	<i>0.12</i>	<i>2,725</i>
2025 Total	8.4	38.5	7.2	224,127
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.10</i>	<i>0.51</i>	<i>0.13</i>	<i>2,963</i>
Target Market	The target market includes all existing and new construction Nova Scotia business, non-profit and institutional facilities, including multi-unit residential buildings.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Upfront costs</u>: the higher priced energy efficient equipment is a barrier for many customers. • <u>Project return</u>: competing priorities for capital investments. • <u>Lack of knowledge & technical expertise</u>: many customers are not familiar with high efficiency options. • <u>Time & internal capacity constraints</u>: some businesses may not have the internal capacity to consider energy efficiency options (e.g. identify, evaluate) in purchasing decisions.			
Key Components	• Accessible rebates to participants through two options • Product-level expertise and insight into energy efficiency products for end-users • Project management support through energy efficient upgrades			
Measures Promoted	Measures listed under the BNI Efficient Product Rebates program are prescriptive and semi-prescriptive. As the program develops and expands in scope, the list of eligible measures may change, as required. Eligible mail-in measures include: • agriculture • compressed air • heating • IT & datacenters • kitchen • laundry • lighting • refrigeration • solar thermal • pool equipment • pumping • variable frequency drive • water heating Eligible instant rebate measures include: • select lighting measures • refrigeration • pumping			

Program Component History	• 2010 – launched as a part of DSM portfolio, initially modelled closely after successful prescriptive programs offered in other markets, specifically Efficiency Vermont. • 2010 to 2019 – program component success led to an increase in the adoption of LED products in existing buildings and new construction projects throughout Nova Scotia. Along with E1 incentives, decreasing prices and widespread availability have removed some of the barriers for businesses to be able to access and incorporate some of these LED products. • 2019 – removed several lighting categories from the component in response to market transformation and adjusted available rebates on others to help drive the market towards other energy efficient products. • 2020 – launched new system peak demand measures, electric thermal storage, and topped up rebates for the locational DSM pilot in Kentville, referred to as the Klondike Pilot. Introduced a Rooftop Unit (RTU) Fan Speed Control pilot to help retrofit existing buildings to have demand control ventilation via occupancy sensors or CO₂ sensors.
Enhancements in 2023-2025	Offering commercial kitchen incentives in-store via participating retail partners in addition to the commercial kitchen category currently offered through the BNI Efficient Product Rebates Mail-In path. This enhancement refreshes rebates to improve existing incentive offerings, expansion of rebate offerings, and migration to midstream rebates. In 2021, Efficient Product Rebates introduced a horticultural lighting rebate that will continued to be offered in the 2023-2025 DSM Settlement Plan. The introduction of this category will help businesses reduce costs, increase productivity, yield, and quality.

Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

5.1.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

5.1.3.1 PROGRAM DELIVERY

BNI Efficient Product Rebates uses a self-directed approach for both the Instant Rebate and Mail-In incentive pathways. Through Instant Rebates, point-of-purchase discounts are available on a limited range of efficient equipment and products. The Mail-In pathway provides access to a larger variety of high efficiency equipment and products eligible for incentives via pre-approval and post-purchase.

Program partners are crucial to the success of the BNI Efficient Product Rebates program. In particular, electrical and pumping distributors and contractors within the province play a key role in promoting instant rebates through the program. These distributors and contractors also aid customers in the form of product expertise, as well as assistance in completing mail-in applications. Electrical distributors and contractors involved with the BNI Efficient Product Rebates program are active participants in the EPP network, which provides marketing support and training to distributors.

5.1.3.2 MARKETING STRATEGY

The marketing strategy will focus on distributor and contractor engagement, direct email marketing to key customer segments, outreach to trade and industry associations, and event attendance and sponsorships. The marketing strategy will be supported by E1's Business Development team, who work directly with businesses in the target market to identify and develop project opportunities, Onsite Energy Managers, and EPP network members. Specific tactics will include:

- business development engagement;
- outreach to relevant industry and trade associations;
- integrated media plans that may include radio, TV, billboards, social media, streaming, search engine marketing, email marketing, and placements in relevant trade publications;
- participation in trade shows and industry events; and
- distributor training and instore promotion.

5.1.3.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

The BNI Efficient Product Rebates program has an established quality assurance framework that includes random and targeted site visits, documentation review, and customer surveys.

5.1.4 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators for the BNI Efficient Product Rebate program are provided in Table 40, below.

Table 40: 2023-2025 BNI Efficient Product Rebates Performance Indicators

Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (products) ^c	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^d
					incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon		
2023	7.4	35.3	525	6.7	3.8	2.5	7.5	5.0	207,143	0.01
2024	7.4	35.3	526	6.7	3.8	2.6	7.6	5.2	206,157	0.01
2025	8.4	38.5	572	7.2	3.8	2.6	7.4	5.2	224,127	0.01
Total	23.2	109.1	1,623	20.6	3.8	2.6	7.5	5.1	637,426	0.01

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of individual products rebated through the Mail-In and Instant Rebates pathways of Business Energy Rebates.

^d Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

5.1.4.1 LOW-INCOME PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Low-income performance indicators for the BNI Efficient Product Rebate program are provided in Table 41, below.

Table 41: 2023-2025 BNI Efficient Product Rebates Low-Income Performance Indicators

Year	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products) ^a
2023	0.5	6.9	0.1	2,738
2024	0.5	6.9	0.1	2,725
2025	0.5	7.6	0.1	2,963
Total	1.4	21.5	0.4	8,426

Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

^a The number of individual products rebated through Business Energy Rebates.

5.1.5 PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

The Efficient Product Rebates Program features a modestly lower amount of participation, with marginally lower incentives, in the 2025 Plan year. This is due to an incentive increase applied within the Settlement Plan that is modelled to produce slightly higher energy and demand savings in the last year of the 2023-2025 DSM Plan period. Table 42, below, presents this difference for the BNI Efficient Product Rebates program.

Table 42: Efficient Product Rebates (BNI) Performance Indicators – Comparison of Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario

Scenario	Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (products) ^c	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^d
						incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon	incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon		
Settlement	2023	7.4	35.3	525	6.7	3.8	2.5	7.5	5.0	207,143	0.01
	2024	7.4	35.3	526	6.7	3.8	2.6	7.6	5.2	206,157	0.01
	2025	8.4	38.5	572	7.2	3.8	2.6	7.4	5.2	224,127	0.01
	Total	23.2	109.1	1,623	20.6	3.8	2.6	7.5	5.1	637,426	0.01
Alternate	2023	7.3	34.6	515	6.5	3.7	2.5	7.5	5.0	202,966	0.01
	2024	7.3	34.6	515	6.5	3.7	2.5	7.6	5.1	201,999	0.01
	2025	7.5	35.6	531	6.7	3.7	2.6	7.7	5.3	207,791	0.01
	Total	22.1	104.8	1,560	19.8	3.7	2.5	7.6	5.1	612,756	0.01
Variance from Settlement	2023	(2%)	(2%)	(2%)	(2%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(2%)	0%
	2024	(2%)	(2%)	(2%)	(2%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(2%)	0%
	2025	(10%)	(7%)	(7%)	(7%)	(1%)	(1%)	3%	2%	(7%)	(3%)
	Total	(5%)	(4%)	(4%)	(4%)	(1%)	(1%)	0%	0%	(4%)	(1%)

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of individual products rebated through the Mail-In and Instant Rebates elements of Business Energy Rebates

^d Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

5.2 CUSTOM INCENTIVES PROGRAM

5.2.1 OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Custom Incentives program include:

- influence electrical energy efficiency and system-peak demand reduction projects within Nova Scotia;
- build awareness around cost-effective energy efficiency options and the benefits of energy efficiency to program participants, developers, and builders;
- reduce barriers to implementing complex, custom energy efficiency projects;
- increase developer and builder awareness of cost-effective options for improving the energy efficiency of new buildings;
- increase the number of new buildings adopting high efficiency design techniques;
- provide customers with the knowledge and tools required to enable energy management;
- promote long term relationships with customers to achieve energy sustainability, and cost reduction objectives; and
- further diversify the program offerings of E1 by developing new programs from technologies and methods successfully trialed in the Custom Incentives program.

Table 43, below, provides a summary of the participant, industry, environmental, and strategic DSM Portfolio benefits of the Custom Incentives program as designed in the Settlement Plan.

1 Table 43: Summary of Benefits – Custom Incentives

Participant Benefits	Industry Benefits	Environmental Benefits	Strategic DSM Portfolio Benefits
• utility bill savings and improved building comfort • reduced maintenance and extended equipment life • access to energy expertise through funded studies and on-site energy manager support • improved control over buildings and industrial processes	• support for vendors, installers, and consultants across many industries • advancement in building design, systems, and technology • increased market demand towards more energy efficient buildings and technologies • sharing of energy management strategies between program participants • drives competitiveness in building and maintaining more efficient industrial facilities	• reduced GHG emissions due to reductions in energy consumption • other environmental or non-energy benefits (depending on the project), such as enhanced building value, lease rates, performance, etc. • alignment with Provincial and Federal incentives for reduced GHG emissions • increased commercial and industrial awareness of opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint	• market transformation through promoting and funding buildings that exceed minimum building code • builds relationships with major electricity customers • longer-term relationships between E1 and customers allow sharing of information and experiences with new technologies and energy management approaches • provides a mechanism for incentive support for innovative and complex projects, in a flexible manner that can be customized by vertical and customer need • improves communication channels with industry and customers through a mix of Business Development Manager, Efficiency Preferred Partner network, Onsite Energy Manager, Industrial Energy Manager, and other supports

5.2.2 OVERVIEW

The Custom Incentives program provides financial incentives and technical assistance to help non-profit, institutional, commercial, and industrial customers reduce their electrical energy consumption and system-peak demand. Support is customized based upon consideration of project-specific energy and system-peak demand savings. The program is designed to accommodate a wide range of customer project types and works directly with customers to identify and implement energy efficiency and system-peak demand reduction projects that are not supported by other E1 programs.

The Custom Incentives program is comprised of the following two program components:

- Custom;

- Strategic Energy Management (SEM) & Energy Management Information Systems (EMIS).

Each of these program components is further described in the sections that follow.

5.2.2.1 CUSTOM PROGRAM COMPONENT

Custom offers three services: Retrofit (including compressed air leak audits), New Construction (NC), and Building Optimization (BOpt). To provide more focused support, the Custom group is divided in two parts, one that focuses on Commercial & Institutional (C&I) participants and the other on Industrial participants as shown in Table 44, below.

Table 44: Criteria for Industrial and Commercial/Institutional Offerings in the Custom Program Component

Customer Base	Criteria
Industrial	• Rate code 21, 22, 23 or 25 except municipal, transportation, and Department of National Defence (DND) facilities • Agriculture facilities • Aquaculture facilities
Commercial & Institutional	All other commercial customers, and all: • Municipal facilities • Transportation facilities • DND facilities

Custom has criteria to determine what types of facilities, projects, measures, and costs are eligible. These criteria ensure the program works the way it is intended and that E1 only pays incentives for actions that generate incremental energy savings. This program component enhancement may also provide the opportunity for E1 to integrate its EE and DR programming for cost efficiencies and ease of participation.

Table 45 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Custom program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 45: Three-Year Summary of the Custom Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (projects)
2023 Total	7.3	22.3	4.7	257

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (projects)
2024 Total	7.5	23.1	4.8	266
2025 Total	7.7	24.2	4.8	278
Target Market	Open to eligible existing and new construction Nova Scotia business, non-profit, institutional, and industrial customers. Despite its broad customer eligibility criteria, the program component typically targets larger energy users.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Upfront costs & internal competition for capital</u>: financial constraints resulting from internal competition for capital; upfront cost requirements for feasibility studies and audits, before energy savings potential is known, can be challenging for companies to justify. • <u>Payback periods</u>: companies often require short paybacks on investments making it challenging for custom energy efficiency projects to compete against other capital investments. • <u>Time & internal capacity constraints</u>: some companies may not have the internal capacity to consider energy efficiency options (e.g. identify, evaluate) in purchasing decisions. • <u>Lack of internal commitment & technical expertise</u>: in-house staff may be unfamiliar with, or face challenges with internal commitment to, new efficient technologies or processes.			
Key Components	• <u>Retrofit</u>: help to conduct scoping and feasibility studies; and assist with the implementation of energy efficiency projects using a customized and flexible approach. • <u>NC</u>: help achieve electrical energy savings in new buildings and for major renovations in existing buildings; and participation begins at the preliminary design stage to ensure the effective implementation of energy efficiency measures and achieve maximum savings. • <u>BOpt</u>: helps organizations conduct an investigation study with the objective of improving building operation efficiency; and assist with the implementation of no-cost or low-cost energy efficiency measures identified through a recommissioning process i.e. operating schedule changes.			
Measures Promoted	A variety of technical and financial assistance is available through the program, which is designed to consider projects individually. This approach allows support to be customized based on case specific energy and system-peak demand savings. Some key areas of support provided through the program include: • financial incentives for initial scoping and feasibility studies to evaluate energy and system-peak demand savings opportunities • financial incentives for energy modelling of new building designs to identify and evaluate energy efficiency upgrades • financial incentives (rebates and financing) for implementing cost-effective electrical energy efficiency and system-peak demand reduction projects • financial and/or technical assistance for improvements to compressed air systems • financial and/or technical assistance to optimize building performance			

	financial and technical support for customers to assess and implement energy management opportunities, specifically in the areas of operations, maintenance, and behavioural savings
Program Component History	2008 – launched as a single component, custom retrofit as a part of DSM portfolio 2010 – E1 began administering the program and added a new construction service to help streamline offerings for large BNI participants 2013 – initiated a compressed air optimization offering 2014 – introduced a BOpt service, formerly known as existing building commissioning, 2016 – re-vamped the BOpt service to encourage higher participation with a revised structure and delivery process 2018 – launched a new construction commissioning pilot to encourage participants to fully commission their building at the end of the construction process 2020 – divided custom retrofit service into subsector for commercial & institutional and industrial with IEM added; also adjusted eligibility criteria and incentive structure for new construction service to better align with upcoming code changes, including higher levels of efficiency
Enhancements in 2023-2025	Expansion on pay-for-performance pilot efforts offering incentives, typically \$/kWh, which are determined based on the level of savings a customer achieves within a certain timeframe. The level of savings is assessed using a whole building(s) approach that relies on billing or electricity consumption data, as opposed to detailed measurement and verification (M&V) for each efficiency measure installed. This will streamline the M&V processes and be more cost effective. The successful Implementation of a pay-for-performance initiative requires access to AMI data, at scale, to validate performance targets. The introduction of a pay-for-performance structure in the 2023-2025 Plan period, aligns with advances in energy-use feedback programming, the availability of AMI in Nova Scotia and advances in analytical software and products available to access near real-time customer data.

Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

5.2.2.2 STRATEGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT & ENERGY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS PROGRAM COMPONENT

Strategic Energy Management (SEM) offers qualifying industrial organizations a comprehensive approach to energy management. Participants work with a service provider to identify energy saving opportunities and execute an action plan using a 12-month, staged approach. Participants save energy by making changes to operations, maintenance, and behaviours.

SEM is also a conduit for participants to engage E1 in capital upgrades and other E1 services using a single-entry point, while ensuring activities are sequenced, logical, and coordinated. SEM includes a system of

accountability to propel action – participants check-in weekly with the service provider to report on their projects' status. Through SEM, participants integrate energy management into their core businesses, permeating every aspect of their organizations, including operations, processes, and culture. This program component enhancement may also provide the opportunity for E1 to integrate its EE and DR programming for cost efficiencies and ease of participation.

Energy Management Information Systems (EMIS) offers qualifying industrial organizations financial incentives to implement technical systems to better manage their energy use. Participants work with consultants to undergo an audit to define the scope, costs, and savings associated with the system; develop a plan to implement the system; and install and integrate the system into their facilities.

Facilities that engage in the program benefit from a customized, holistic approach to managing their energy. The systems can encompass an entire facility or specific processes or departments within a facility. EMIS includes meters for energy measurement, infrastructure for data collection and storage, software for converting data to information, and support to systematically convert information into action. This program component enhancement may also provide the opportunity for E1 to integrate its EE and DR programming for cost efficiencies and ease of participation.

Table 46 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the SEM & EMIS program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 46: Three-Year Summary of the SEM & EMIS Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (participants)
2023 Total	0.9	2.7	0.3	8
2024 Total	0.9	2.7	0.3	8
2025 Total	0.9	2.7	0.3	8
Target Market	SEM is available to industrial customers across the province. The program targets larger energy users, such as medium-to-large industrials, and has support for commercial/institutional customers through pilots. EMIS is available to industrial customers across the province. The program targets larger energy users, such as medium-to-large industrials.			

Market Barriers	• <u>Upfront costs & internal competition for capital</u>: financial constraints resulting from internal competition for capital; upfront cost requirements for feasibility studies and audits, before energy savings potential is known, can be challenging for companies to justify. • <u>Payback periods</u>: companies often require short paybacks on investments making it challenging for custom energy efficiency projects to compete against other capital investments. • <u>Time & internal capacity constraints</u>: some companies may not have the internal capacity to consider energy efficiency options (e.g. identify, evaluate) in purchasing decisions. • <u>Lack of internal commitment & technical expertise</u>: in-house staff may be unfamiliar with, or face challenges with internal commitment to, new efficient technologies or processes.
Key Components	• Assisting large and mid-sized industrial companies develop and implement energy management information systems and in implementing strategic energy management • Providing industry with specific tools and a structured path to enable energy management that is information-driven, ongoing, organizational, and systematic • Influencing industry's understanding and management of energy use within Nova Scotia • Support capital energy efficiency projects identified through EMIS and/or SEM • Provide the energy efficiency industry with a structured path to enable strategic energy management
Measures Promoted	A variety of technical and financial assistance is available through the program, which is designed to consider projects individually. This approach allows support to be customized based on case specific energy and system-peak demand savings. Some key areas of support provided through the program include: • financial incentives for initial scoping and EMIS audits to evaluate energy and system-peak demand savings opportunities • financial incentives for EMIS implementation plans, equipment costs, and implementation costs Technical and financial assistance is available through the program, which is designed to support customers with strategic energy management. Some key areas of support provided through the program include: • financial incentives for SEM service provider facilitation • expertise to evaluate energy and system-peak demand savings opportunities
Program Component History	• 2012 – launched EMIS as a pilot • 2013 – introduction of EMIS as a standalone program component • 2014 – launched SEM as a cohort delivery approach • 2016 – integrated the program component into the Custom Incentives program • 2019 – highest number of participants with some participants crossing over from the Strategic Energy Management program component • Present – implemented continuous, individualized uptake approach to better accommodate individual customer timelines.

1

2 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical

3 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

5.2.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

5.2.3.1 PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Custom Incentives program structure is designed to overcome customer barriers associated with large upfront costs, lack of in-house capacity and business case requirements. The program is delivered through a combination of E1 staff, contracted partners, and third parties to identify, define, assess, and implement energy saving opportunities. Involved external resources are often consulting engineering firms, efficiency contractors, and service providers, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning automation companies. The Custom Incentive program components and services have similarities in how they are delivered; however, their processes, incentives, eligibility criteria, and target markets vary to best meet the market's needs while ensuring the program achieves its goals.

The Retrofit service offers participants incentives to offset the cost of scoping studies, feasibility studies, and project implementation.

- Scoping studies can identify opportunities to save electrical energy.
- Feasibility study incentives offer participants financial incentives towards the cost of detailed energy audit to analyze electrical energy-saving measures
- Implementation incentives are initiated once the participant notifies program staff of project completion, submit completed M&V materials, and submit a copy of invoices.

The NC service provides technical advice and energy modelling support in the conceptual and design stages of a project, when businesses can consider implementing the most energy efficient measures at the lowest possible cost. Implementation incentives are provided to help bring down incremental costs associated with constructing a building that is more efficient than one that only meets the building code minimum requirements.

The BOpt service encourages businesses to review their existing building's systems, processes, and operating conditions to ensure they are optimized for the building's current operational needs. Unlike Retrofit projects, BOpt projects are intended to focus on low capital cost operational improvements. BOpt aims to maximize value for participants by using an investigation study to identify opportunities with low implementation costs and short simple payback periods.

EMIS participants hire consultants to perform scoping audits, develop implementation plans, and implement energy management information systems in their facilities. E1 maintains an EMIS Consultant

and Service Provider Roster with a list of firms that meet the program component's requirements. Throughout each stage, E1 works with participants and consultants to ensure the participant is benefiting as much as possible from the program, with realized and maximized energy savings, and a positive customer experience, and to ensure that industry standards and program protocols are upheld.

SEM is delivered through a service provider that works closely with participants to assess their energy use, develop an energy management plan, conduct ongoing modelling of the impacts of energy saving activities, and provide overall support throughout their involvement in the program component. Upon discovering the component, participants sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), attend a kick-off meeting, support data collection activities and energy modelling requirements, establish an energy team and an energy management scope and policy, host annual energy improvement events, and implement various energy saving measures and processes.

5.2.3.2 MARKETING STRATEGY

Promotion of the Custom Incentives program is largely driven by E1's Business Development team. Business Development Managers directly engage clients across 18 market verticals to build long-term relationships and identify and develop project opportunities. This work is supported by an integrated marketing plan and engagement with contractors and consultants, including recruiting key professionals such as architects to join the EPP network. Specific tactics will include:

- business development engagement;
- presentations to relevant industry associations;
- integrated media plans, including search engine marketing, email marketing, placements in relevant trade publications and sponsorships;
- attendance and sponsorship of trade shows and other industry events;
- engagement with developers, architects, mechanical and electrical designers, and others; and
- service provider and contractor training.

5.2.3.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Custom Incentives program has an established framework for quality assurance. Quality control of projects includes pre and post measurement of energy consumption (e.g. direct, modelled, expert review), random and targeted site visits, documentation review and customer surveys.

5.2.4 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators for the Custom Incentives program are provided in Table 47, below.

Table 47: 2023-2025 Custom Incentives Performance Indicators

Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (projects) ^c	Participation (participants) ^d	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^e
					incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon			
2023	8.2	24.9	305	5.0	2.5	1.7	4.2	2.8	257	8	0.03
2024	8.4	25.7	313	5.1	2.5	1.7	4.4	2.9	266	8	0.03
2025	8.6	26.8	322	5.1	2.5	1.7	4.4	3.0	278	8	0.03
Total	25.2	77.5	940	15.2	2.5	1.7	4.3	2.9	801	23	0.03

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e emissions were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021. Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs are lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of projects supported through the Custom program component (includes Custom Retrofit, BNI New Construction, and Building Optimization).

^d The number of companies participating in EMIS and SEM.

^e Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

5.2.4.1 LOW-INCOME PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Low-income performance indicators for the Custom Incentives program were calculated using 2020 actuals, consistent with the approach used for other programs. In 2020, the Custom Incentives program component had no low-income participation; therefore, low-income participation in the 2023-2025 Plan period was assumed to be zero.

5.2.5 PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

In the Alternate Scenario, the Custom Incentives program has a marginally lower amount of participation and incentive spending when compared with the Settlement Plan. In addition, Custom Incentives features a lower level of the pay-for-performance enhancement reflecting a decreased emphasis on this aspect of the Custom Incentives program within the Alternate Scenario. Table 48, below, presents this difference for the Custom Incentives program.

Table 48: Custom Incentives Performance Indicators – Comparison of Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario

Scenario	Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (projects) ^c	Participation (participants) ^d	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^e
						incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon	incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon			
Settlement	2023	8.2	24.9	305	5.0	2.5	1.7	4.2	2.8	257	8	0.03
	2024	8.4	25.7	313	5.1	2.5	1.7	4.4	2.9	266	8	0.03
	2025	8.6	26.8	322	5.1	2.5	1.7	4.4	3.0	278	8	0.03
	Total	25.2	77.5	940	15.2	2.5	1.7	4.3	2.9	801	23	0.03
Alternate	2023	8.5	25.6	307	5.0	2.5	1.7	4.1	2.8	257	10	0.03
	2024	8.7	26.6	316	5.1	2.5	1.7	4.2	2.9	266	10	0.03
	2025	9.0	27.9	325	5.1	2.5	1.7	4.2	2.9	278	11	0.03
	Total	26.2	80.0	948	15.2	2.5	1.7	4.2	2.8	801	31	0.03
Variance from Settlement	2023	3%	3%	1%	0%	(1%)	(1%)	(2%)	(2%)	0%	28%	2%
	2024	4%	3%	1%	0%	(1%)	(1%)	(3%)	(3%)	0%	37%	3%
	2025	5%	4%	1%	0%	(1%)	(1%)	(4%)	(4%)	0%	47%	4%
	Total	4%	3%	1%	0%	(1%)	(1%)	(3%)	(3%)	0%	37%	3%

2 Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may
3 not add correctly, due to rounding.

4 Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the
5 Base level of DSM. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

6 Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

7 ^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

8 ^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

9 ^c The number of projects supported through the Custom program component (includes Custom Retrofit, BNI New Construction,
10 and Building Optimization).

11 ^d The number of companies participating in EMIS and SEM.

12 ^e Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

15 5.3 DIRECT INSTALLATION PROGRAM

16 5.3.1 OBJECTIVES

17 Objectives of the Direct Installation program include assisting small businesses to:

- 18 • identify energy savings opportunities within their business;
- 19 • make informed decisions about energy upgrades;
- 20 • overcome financial barriers to completing energy upgrades by offering incentives; and
- 21 • become more profitable and more comfortable through energy efficiency.

22
23 Table 49, below, provides a summary of the participant, industry, environmental, and strategic DSM
24 Portfolio benefits of the Direct Installation program as designed in the Settlement Plan.

1 Table 49: Summary of Benefits – Direct Installation

Participant Benefits	Industry Benefits	Environmental Benefits	Strategic DSM Portfolio Benefits
• utility bill savings and improved building comfort reduced maintenance costs • reduced maintenance and extended equipment life • improved access and reduced financial barriers to adoption of energy efficient products • improved visibility, improved customer experience in retail outlets • savings can contribute to corporate environmental goals	• increased sales of efficient products • support for a wide range of products including agricultural, horticultural, refrigeration, HVAC, and lighting • local economic development opportunities for distributors and contractors	• reduced GHG emissions due to reductions in energy consumption • reduced waste of inefficient baseline products with shorter useful lives, in particular incandescent and fluorescent lamps • alignment with Provincial and Federal incentives for reduced GHG emissions • increased business awareness of opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint	• access to hard-to-reach customers with limited capital • improves communication channels with industry and customers through a mix of Business Development Manager, Efficiency Preferred Partner network, and Audit pathway supports • increased public awareness of energy efficiency opportunities, driving participation in other E1 programs and services • establishes market channels that ease the expansion of future customer offers

3 5.3.2 OVERVIEW

4 The Direct Installation program provides small business customers access to technical assistance and
5 financial incentives for the installation of energy efficient and system-peak demand reduction equipment.
6 The program consists of one program component, Small Business Energy Solutions, which offers customers
7 two participation pathways, each of which is further described in the section that follows.

9 5.3.2.1 SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM COMPONENT

10 The Small Business Energy Solutions program component provides small business customers access to
11 technical assistance and financial incentives for the installation of energy efficient and system-peak
12 demand reduction equipment. There are two pathways available for customers: self-directed and
13 facilitated. These pathways are described as follows:

- 14 • Self-directed: this pathway allows customers who have already identified and selected those
15 energy efficiency opportunities they plan to pursue to select a contractor of their choosing to
16 complete the upgrades, or E1 can direct them to seek out contractors using the EPP network.

- Facilitated: this pathway provides customers with assistance in identifying energy efficiency opportunities with an energy audit performed by a Small Business Energy Auditor. The customer then selects the opportunities they plan to pursue and select a contractor themselves or by using the EPP network.

Financial assistance is provided for a variety of prescriptive energy efficiency products; however, customized incentives are an option for customers when energy savings are identified and estimated by a Small Business Energy Auditor.

Table 50 provides a summary of the three-year investment, energy savings, demand savings, target market, and key components of the Small Business Energy Solutions program component in the Settlement Plan.

Table 50: Three-Year Summary of the Small Business Energy Solutions Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	Energy Savings (GWh)	Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products)
2023 Total	6.4	11.9	2.5	106,189
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.11</i>	<i>0.48</i>	<i>0.14</i>	<i>4,272</i>
2024 Total	6.6	12.2	2.5	110,270
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.11</i>	<i>0.49</i>	<i>0.14</i>	<i>4,436</i>
2025 Total	6.8	12.6	2.6	114,333
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.11</i>	<i>0.51</i>	<i>0.15</i>	<i>4,600</i>
Target Market	The target market is primarily small commercial businesses, and can also include not-for-profits, multi-unit residential buildings and small industrials. The program is targeted to those small businesses with annual electrical energy consumption of 350,000 kWh or less.			
Market Barriers	Affordability: the cost of equipment/upgrades and lack of access to affordable capital can be a barrier to program participation. Awareness: some potential participants may not understand the costs, benefits, and appropriateness of various projects for their business. Resources: some participants may not have the resources, such as time, human capital for project management, and capacity to hire contractors to implement upgrades.			
Key Components	- Increase customer awareness of cost-effective energy efficiency and system-peak demand reduction options - Help small business make smart energy upgrades - Help small business be more profitable and more comfortable - Remove/eliminate barriers for the adoption of energy efficient and system-peak demand reduction products by Nova Scotia's small businesses			

Measures Promoted	Financial and technical support to small business customers through both a self-directed and facilitated pathway. This support includes: • no-cost energy audits to assess upgrade opportunities • customized measure incentives through the energy audit path • prescriptive rebates through the self-serve path for energy efficient upgrades in the areas of lighting and heating, ventilation and air conditioning primarily and system-peak demand reduction upgrades, specifically through ETS units
Program Component History	• 2008 – launched the Direct Installation in Dartmouth and Pictou County with incentives available for energy efficient lighting upgrades • 2009 – incorporated a recycling component into the program • 2010 – expanded the program to include small businesses province-wide and the broadened the program offering to include non-lighting measures • 2015 – significant changes were made to the program in an effort to increase industry participation. E1 modified the program from a delivery agent model (responsible for all aspects of program delivery including marketing, administration, ordering, delivery, and installation) to a program design that allowed participants to select their own contractors and install approved energy efficiency products. This change coincided with the development of the EPP network, where participants could find qualified contractors for their projects. No-cost energy audits were made available for certain qualifying small businesses where a Small Business Energy Auditor would perform a complete energy audit and develop a list of energy efficiency opportunities for the participant. • 2020 – launched dedicated support through a Small Business Development Manager with an increased focus on growing awareness and participation in the energy audit path where the participant receives additional support from the Small Business Energy Auditor
Enhancements in 2023-2025	Offering of a Commercial Direct Install stream within the Direct Installation program component. This allows Small Business Energy Solutions to offer new and existing measures with less reliance on lighting and less effort involved for the customer. New measures eligible for direct installation include controls for cooler/refrigeration, HVAC, lighting and motors, weatherization/insulation, and custom measures.

1
2 Please refer to Attachment 4 – 2023-2025 Settlement Plan Measure-level Energy Efficiency Technical
3 Tables Compliance Filing for additional detail.

4

5 5.3.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

6 5.3.3.1 PROGRAM DELIVERY

7 The Direct Installation program is designed to overcome barriers faced by Nova Scotia small businesses,
8 including lack of capital for implementing energy efficient upgrades, lack of time and expertise to identify
9 and assess efficiency opportunities.

The Direct Installation program offers two pathways for small businesses: a self-directed approach (DIY) and a facilitated approach (Energy Audit). The self-directed pathway is designed for those businesses that already know what energy options they wish to pursue. The facilitated pathway is delivered in partnership with contracted Small Business Energy Auditors. Small Business Energy Auditors provide technical support to small business customers. They conduct an energy audit of the business to identify energy upgrade opportunities, provide recommendations to the customer and help them understand the options that have been assessed. Financial incentives are provided for both the cost of the energy audit as well as the implementation of energy efficiency upgrades.

5.3.3.2 MARKETING STRATEGY

The marketing strategy includes a mix of traditional and digital marketing methods, with a focus on direct email marketing, to effectively reach small businesses. Media plans are complemented by business development engagement, engagement with relevant industry associations, and event attendance and sponsorship. Specific tactics will include:

- business development engagement;
- engagement with relevant industry associations (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Restaurants Canada, Black Business Initiative);
- integrated media plans, including radio, TV, billboards, search engine marketing, email marketing, placements in relevant trade publications, and sponsorships;
- attendance and sponsorship of trade shows and other industry events; and
- service provider and contractor training.

5.3.3.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

Direct Installation has an established quality assurance framework, which includes random and targeted site inspections, documentation review, and customer surveys.

5.3.4 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators for the Direct Installation program are provided in Table 51, below.

Table 51: 2023-2025 Direct Installation Performance Indicators

Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (products) ^c	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^d
					incl. carbon	excl. carbon	incl. carbon	excl. carbon		
2023	6.4	11.9	172	2.5	2.2	1.5	2.9	2.0	106,189	0.04
2024	6.6	12.2	178	2.5	2.2	1.5	3.0	2.0	110,270	0.04
2025	6.8	12.6	183	2.6	2.2	1.6	3.0	2.1	114,333	0.04
Total	19.8	36.7	533	7.6	2.2	1.5	3.0	2.0	330,792	0.04

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

^c The number of individual products rebated through Small Business Energy Solutions.

^d Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

5.3.4.1 LOW-INCOME PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Low-income performance indicators for the Direct Installation program are provided in Table 52, below.

Table 52: 2023-2025 Direct Installation Low-Income Performance Indicators

Year	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Participation (products) ^a
2023	0.5	6.9	0.1	4,272
2024	0.5	7.1	0.1	4,436
2025	0.5	7.4	0.1	4,600
Total	1.5	21.4	0.4	13,307

Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

^a The number of individual products rebated through Small Business Energy Solutions.

5.3.5 PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

The Direct Installation program does not vary between the Alternate Scenario and Settlement Plan – as summarized in Table 53, below.

1 Table 53: Direct Installation Performance Indicators – Comparison of Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario

Scenario	Year	Investment (\$ million)	First-Year Energy Savings (GWh)	Lifetime Energy Savings (GWh)	Peak Demand Savings (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^a		Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^b		Participation (products) ^c	Lifetime Unit Cost (\$/kWh) ^d
						incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon	incl. Carbon	excl. Carbon		
Settlement	2023	6.4	11.9	172	2.5	2.2	1.5	2.9	2.0	106,189	0.04
	2024	6.6	12.2	178	2.5	2.2	1.5	3.0	2.0	110,270	0.04
	2025	6.8	12.6	183	2.6	2.2	1.6	3.0	2.1	114,333	0.04
	Total	19.8	36.7	533	7.6	2.2	1.5	3.0	2.0	330,792	0.04
Alternate	2023	6.8	12.5	182	2.6	2.2	1.5	2.9	1.9	111,976	0.04
	2024	7.0	12.9	187	2.7	2.3	1.5	3.0	2.0	116,279	0.04
	2025	7.2	13.3	193	2.8	2.3	1.6	3.0	2.1	120,564	0.04
	Total	21.1	38.7	562	8.0	2.2	1.5	2.9	2.0	348,819	0.04
Variance from Settlement	2023	6%	5%	5%	5%	1%	1%	(1%)	(1%)	5%	1%
	2024	6%	5%	5%	5%	1%	1%	(1%)	(1%)	5%	1%
	2025	6%	5%	5%	5%	1%	1%	(1%)	(1%)	5%	1%
	Total	6%	5%	5%	5%	1%	1%	(1%)	(1%)	5%	1%

2 Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may
3 not add correctly, due to rounding.

4 Annual avoided costs of energy and capacity and annual avoided CO₂e were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the
5 Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C. Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

6 Cost-effectiveness ratios in the total row are calculated using 2023 present values of each year's costs and lifetime benefits.

7 ^a TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs.

8 ^b PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs.

9 ^c The number of individual products rebated through Small Business Energy Solutions.

10 ^d Lifetime unit cost is the quotient of lifetime energy savings and investment.

6. DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM & PATHWAYS

E1 is proposing the introduction of a new DR program in the Settlement Plan. This is a significant new development for E1 and the Nova Scotia electricity sector.

DR is defined by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as, *“changes in electric usage by demand-side resources from their normal consumption patterns in response to changes in the price of electricity over time, or to incentive payments designed to induce lower electricity use at times of high wholesale market prices or when system reliability is jeopardized.”*³³

The 2020 IRP selected DR as a new cost-effective resource for the provincial electricity grid because of the on-demand capacity and grid services it can provide. As a flexible resource, DR can support Nova Scotia meeting its climate objectives of retiring coal by 2030, increasing renewables to 80% by 2030, and achieving net zero by 2050³⁴.

E1’s 2019 Potential Study modelled DR potential that was used in the 2020 IRP. It found three cost-effective sub-programs (pathways): direct load control, critical peak pricing (CPP), and BNI curtailment. Since that time, pilots for all three of these pathways have been initiated in Nova Scotia. CPP is being piloted through NS Power’s approved Time-Varying Pricing (TVP) application³⁵, while direct load control and BNI curtailment are being piloted through the E1/NS Power DR Working Group collaboration.

E1 engaged the expertise of Guidehouse (formerly Navigant Consulting) in the development of its DR Plan including DR modelling and a DR Roadmap. The 2023-2025 DR modelling builds on the work conducted for the 2019 Potential Study, which was also completed by Guidehouse. The DR Roadmap provides additional implementation details and considers how DR can ramp over the period 2021-2030. The DR Roadmap has been included as Attachment 5 – Demand Response Roadmap.

E1’s DSM Plan proposes expanding the direct load control and BNI curtailment pathways. It also supports NS Power’s CPP rate through enabling technologies (i.e. providing smart thermostats to CPP participants).

³³ Reports on Demand Response and Advanced Metering. (2022) <https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/electric/power-sales-and-markets/demand-response/reports-demand-response-and>

³⁴ Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, SNS 2021, c.20

³⁵ M09777, Nova Scotia Power, Time-Varying Pricing Tariff Application, November 30, 2020, and NSUARB Order, June 22, 2021.

In addition to the three pathways identified in the 2019 Potential Study, three new pathways are included in E1's DR Plan: behavioural DR, electric vehicle charging, and behind-the-meter battery. Incorporating these additional pathways will allow E1 and NS Power to test additional DR technologies, delivery approaches, and use cases in Nova Scotia. It will provide customers with additional choices and reach a broader range of customers. Over time, a more diverse DR portfolio may also help E1 and NS Power achieve the capacity requirements from DR identified in the IRP.

Since 2019, E1 and NS Power have worked collaboratively to develop, launch, and assess DR pilots to ascertain their feasibility and scalability. The pilots provide valuable learning on use cases (benefits), costs, unit impacts, participant interest/satisfaction, as well as operational details including how NS Power's system operator will use the resources, and E1 and NS Power's roles.

Throughout the remainder of 2022, and the 2023-2025 DSM Plan period, it will be important that E1 and NS Power continue to collaborate closely and remain open to adjusting plans based on the latest learnings and insights from the pilots and other sources to ensure programs are providing the best possible value to ratepayers. The DR program proposed in this plan is innovative and could establish Nova Scotia as a leader in DR activities in Canada. This is in part because:

- E1 and NS Power's collaborative approach to DR delivery is innovative in industry; and
- DR is relatively new in Canada, with most jurisdictions currently in the piloting stage. The majority of established DR programs in the United States are based on summer-peaking utilities, meaning there is less industry experience with winter peaking utilities.

The DR proposed in the Settlement Plan could be best viewed as an ambitious testing period for E1 and NS Power to further define how DR will be operationalized in Nova Scotia, to determine the optimal mix of DR delivery pathways, optimize costs, and learn more about possible use cases and their benefits. E1's proposed DR program, as developed by Guidehouse, is comprised of two program components – covering both the Residential and BNI sectors, which are further described in Attachment 5 – Demand Response Roadmap.

6.1 OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the DR program include:

- achieve demand response capacity that is available to NS Power to utilize during peak periods;

- provide customers with the knowledge and tools required to enable demand management;
- diversify E1's program offerings by supporting control and storage technologies; and provide customers with new opportunities to save money; and
- learn more about how best to effectively deliver DR programs in Nova Scotia.

6.2 BENEFITS

Table 54, below, provides a summary of the participant, industry, environmental, and strategic DSM Portfolio benefits of the DR Program as designed in the Settlement Plan.

Table 54: Summary of Benefits – Demand Response

Participant Benefits	Industry Benefits	Environmental Benefits	Strategic DSM Portfolio Benefits
• financial incentives for shifting or curtailing load • access to new controls and information to better manage energy and demand • better understanding of demand opportunities	• equips industry actors with more comprehensive solutions (i.e. energy efficiency and capacity-focused initiatives) • creates demand for products and services to support project implementation, such as equipment installations • supports the adoption of emerging technologies (e.g. batteries, electric vehicles) in the Nova Scotia market	• integrates with energy efficiency to jointly manage all aspects of electricity consumption and usage • opportunity for improved renewable generation following and reduced reliance on carbon intensive peaking plants • may support electrification through reduced financial barriers to adoption and mitigation of electrification peak load impacts	• creates on demand flexible capacity and grid services • may facilitate beneficial electrification and customer connections to the system by addressing capacity constraints • improves cross-utility coordination of capacity-focused programming, which may facilitate more flexible load creating efficiencies and cost-savings for ratepayers

The primary utility use case for current DR pilots (i.e. the residential direct load control water heating and BNI curtailment pilots) is load leveling (i.e. peak demand reduction). The benefits of this use case can be characterized as the established avoided costs of generation, transmission, and distribution, which were used in DR Plan modelling. The modelling results for the DR program currently indicate that the costs to deliver these programs outweigh the benefits. The benefits are quantified using the current avoided cost calculations.

An objective of current and future pilots will be to explore additional use cases, and if possible, quantify the benefits of these use cases. Future use cases that have been identified through the E1/NS Power DR Working Group include:

- intermittent renewable generation following (load shifting);
- generation contingency (10-minute operating reserve);
- distribution congestion management;
- cold load pickup relief; and
- fast frequency response.

6.3 OVERVIEW

Within Guidehouse’s DR Roadmap, there are two program components: Residential DR and BNI DR. Each of the Residential and BNI program components offer multiple pathways to provide a fulsome portfolio of ratepayer options to receive economic incentives and support in return for enrollment and participation. These pathways, developed by Guidehouse, are further described in the sections that follow.

6.3.1 RESIDENTIAL DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM COMPONENT

The Residential DR program component aims to help facilitate a more flexible residential load that may provide residential customers with economic incentives and/or more visibility and control of their loads.

In the Settlement Plan, E1 will explore the implementation of up to five pathways for residential customers: battery control, behavioural DR, direct load control, enabling technologies through CPP rates, and electric vehicle managed charging. Specific to the behavioural DR pathway, E1 will liaise with NS Power and stakeholders, and then seek Board approval before implementing new incentives to compensate customers for reducing their load under the Demand Response program. These pathways, along with a summary of the three-year investment, new installed demand capacity, total available demand capacity, and target market, are described in Table 55, below, and in Attachment 5 – Demand Response Roadmap.

1 Table 55: Three-Year Summary of the Residential Demand Response Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	New DR Capacity (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Participation ³⁶ (participants)
2023 Total	0.4	0.1	0.2	374
Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	New DR Capacity (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Participation ³⁷ (participants)
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.04</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.02</i>	<i>31</i>
2024 Total	2.2	2.8	2.9	14,468
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.16</i>	<i>0.24</i>	<i>0.26</i>	<i>1,742</i>
2025 Total	2.8	4.2	7.1	39,096
<i>Low-income</i>	<i>0.25</i>	<i>0.40</i>	<i>0.66</i>	<i>4,858</i>
Target Market	The target market is primarily residential customers, and can also include renters, diverse and underserved communities, landlords responsible for utility bills, and residential customers on dynamic (time-varying) rate structures.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Awareness</u>: some potential participants may not understand the costs, benefits, and appropriateness of various projects for their residence. • <u>Resources</u>: some participants may not have the resources, such as time, human capital for project management, and capacity to hire contractors to implement upgrades. • <u>Hassle factor</u>: demand response can require customers to make choices that inconvenience them temporarily. This may include reduced comfort, reduced productivity, and products/services being unavailable during DR events.			
Program Component Pathways	• Battery Control – utility control of behind-the-meter batteries for load shifting and dispatching to the grid. Customers receive an upfront enrollment incentive as well as an annual payment to participate in DR events. • Behavioural DR – targeted notifications and messaging are provided to customers to encourage peak shaving, e.g. alerts, targeted notifications, tips, and personalized communications • Direct Load Control – utility control of end-use equipment including smart thermostats (mini-split heat pumps, central heat pumps, and electric baseboards), and electric water heaters. E1 has included both a bring-your-own-device option (with Instant Savings incentives available) and a direct install option. Customers receive an annual payment to participate in DR events. • Enabling Technologies (CPP) – customers on a Critical Peak Pricing (Dynamic Pricing) rate are eligible to receive enabling technologies, such as a smart thermostat. Having enabling technologies increases the average load impact per customer. • Electric Vehicle Managed Charging – managed charging of electric vehicles (EV) either through EV supply equipment (EVSE) or on-board charging control.			

³⁶ total active participants in each year – i.e. participants enrolled in any given year are counted each year that participation occurs

³⁷ total active participants in each year – i.e. participants enrolled in any given year are counted each year that participation occurs

Supported Technologies	• behind-the-meter batteries • smart thermostats for electric resistance baseboard, mini-split heat pump systems, and central heat pumps • domestic hot water controllers and connected water heaters • electric vehicle supply equipment and on-board charging controllers
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Please refer to Attachment 6 – 2023-2025 Demand Response Technical Tables for additional detail.

6.3.2 BNI DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM COMPONENT

The BNI DR program component aims to help facilitate more flexible non-residential load that may provide customers with economic incentives and/or more visibility and control of their loads.

In the Settlement Plan, E1 will explore the implementation of up to four pathways available for BNI customers: battery control, curtailment, direct load control, and enabling technologies through CPP rates. These pathways, along with a summary of the three-year investment, new installed demand capacity, total available demand capacity, and target market, are described in Table 56, below, and in Attachment 5 – Demand Response Roadmap.

Table 56: Three-Year Summary of the BNI Demand Response Program Component

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)	New DR Capacity (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Participation ³⁸ (participants)
2023 Total	1.1	2.8	2.8	32
2024 Total	1.3	4.3	7.1	606
2025 Total	2.1	3.6	10.7	1,055
Target Market	The target market is comprised of all non-residential customers, and can also include diverse and underserved communities, landlords responsible for utility bills, and customers on dynamic (time-varying) rate structures.			
Market Barriers	• <u>Awareness</u>: some potential participants may not understand the costs, benefits, and appropriateness of various projects for their business. • <u>Resources</u>: some participants may not have the resources, such as time, human capital for project management, and capacity to hire contractors to implement upgrades. • <u>Hassle factor</u>: demand response can require customers to make choices that inconvenience them temporarily. This may include reduced comfort, reduced productivity, and products/services being unavailable during DR events.			

³⁸ total active participants in each year – i.e. participants enrolled in any given year are counted each year that participation occurs

Program Component Pathways	• Battery Control – utility control of behind-the-meter batteries for load shifting and dispatching to the grid. Customers receive an enrollment incentive to install batteries as well as an annual payment to participate in DR events. • Curtailment – firm capacity reduction commitment. \$/kW payment based on capacity commitment regardless of whether DR events are called. When DR events are called, participants are paid based on actual kW reduced during the event, plus receive additional energy payment (\$/kWh) based on actual energy reduced during DR events. • Direct Load Control – utility control of end-use equipment including smart thermostats (mini-split heat pumps, central heat pumps, and electric baseboards), and electric water heaters. E1 has included both a bring-your-own-device option (with Small Business Energy Solutions/Business Energy Rebates incentives available) and a direct install option through SBES. Customers receive an annual payment to participate in DR events. • Enabling Technologies (CPP) – customers on a Critical Peak Pricing (Dynamic Pricing) rate are eligible to receive enabling technologies, such as a smart thermostat. Having enabling technologies increases the average load impact per customer.
Supported Technologies	• behind-the-meter batteries • smart thermostats for electric resistance baseboard, central heat pump, and mini-split heat pump systems • commercial hot water controllers and connected water heaters • customized control systems for curtailable loads such as: HVAC systems, standard or advanced (networked) lighting controls, water heating systems, or total industrial facility loads

Please refer to Attachment 6 – 2023-2025 Demand Response Technical Tables for additional detail.

6.4 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

6.4.1 PROGRAM DELIVERY

The DR program structure is designed to overcome customer barriers associated with lack of awareness, lack of resources, and the “hassle factor” experienced by customers participating in DR events for customers (e.g. reduced control over their equipment during DR events). The DR program is intended to help residential and BNI customers modify their usage during peak events when there is value to the utility to shift load. The program will be delivered through a combination of E1 staff in collaboration with NS Power, contracted partners, and third parties to identify, define, assess, and implement system-peak load shifting opportunities. E1 will explore a variety of delivery approaches through each of the pathways available through DR program components. It is anticipated that delivery approaches may evolve over the duration of the Settlement Plan as E1, and NS Power, navigate the launch of new DR initiatives. E1 will integrate the DR program, and technologies, with existing EE programs, where appropriate.

6.4.2 MARKETING & OUTREACH STRATEGY

E1 will leverage its experience marketing energy efficiency programs and demand response pilots, and its existing relationships with NS Power and DSM Administrators in other leading jurisdictions to develop an effective marketing and outreach strategy for the DR program. This work may include engaging the expertise of a consultant to assist in strategy development. E1 will work with its creative, digital, and media agency partners to identify and profile the target market, develop messaging, and establish the appropriate mix of traditional and digital marketing methods. The strategy is expected to also include direct client engagement from E1's Business Development team as well as contractor education and training.

6.4.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

For DR pathways the framework is expected to leverage applicable EE quality assurance activities for pathways co-delivered with EE activities. The quality assurance framework is also expected to include test events, customer surveys, and in-person and remote inspections.

6.5 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

DR is a valuable tool for managing peak demand on the electricity system, offering utilities a lower-cost alternative to acquiring additional flexible generation capacity. DR resources, sometimes called virtual power plants, can be and are often called upon to temporarily reduce load during peak times. In contrast, energy efficiency results in permanent electricity consumption reductions through replacement of inefficient products and equipment, or improvements to building envelope through air sealing or insulation.

DR involves the addition of new demand capacity – i.e. recruiting customers, installing enabling technologies, and connecting them to the applicable aggregator or Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS) so the capacity can respond to events or price signals. Capacity must also be maintained annually so that it remains available to the utility. This may require annual aggregator/DERMS costs, annual incentive payments to customers, and on-going customer service/education. Available demand capacity describes how much DR is available to the utility during the winter peak period. It is net of participant opt-outs, attrition, and unavailable capacity.

Demand capacity is measured based on the availability during the winter peak period (i.e. December through February). Depending on the technology, the capacity available at other times may vary

considerably. For example, smart thermostats controlling electric resistance heating will have high availability in the winter peak period and will have insignificant, or no, availability in the summer months.

New demand capacity, and available demand capacity will both be measured during the winter peak period (December through February) and claimed in the second calendar year of the winter peak period. For example, demand response capacity available in December 2022 to February 2023 will be claimed in 2023, after the winter period is completed.

Performance target and indicators for the DR program are provided in Table 57, below.

Table 57: 2023-2025 Demand Response Performance Target and Indicators

Year	Investment ^a (\$ million)	New DR Capacity (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^b	Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^c	Participation (participants) ^d	10-Year Levelized Unit Cost (\$/kW-year) ^e
2023	1.5	2.9	3.0	-	-	406	-
2024	3.5	7.0	10.0	-	-	15,074	-
2025	5.0	7.8	17.9	-	-	40,151	-
Total	10.0	17.8	17.9	1.1	0.7	40,151	229.59

Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may not add correctly, due to rounding.

Annual avoided costs of capacity were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C.

Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

Total cost-effectiveness tests are calculated using the sum of each year's present value of benefits and costs

^a Investment for DR includes only E1's required investment for the Settlement Plan. It is recognized that in order for DR benefits to be realized, NS Power collaboration and investment will also be required. This may include investment for staff resource, event calling by the system operator, and Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) integration.

^b TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life.

^c PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life.

^d total active participants in each year – i.e. participants enrolled in any given year are counted each year that participation occurs

^e Calculated by taking the net present value of costs and MWs for each DR pathway over the 2022-2031 timeframe; includes all E1 and NS Power costs

6.5.1 LOW-INCOME PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Low-income performance indicators for the DR program are provided in Table 58, below.

Table 58: 2023-2025 Demand Response Low-Income Performance Indicators

Year	New DR Capacity (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Participation (participants) ^a
2023	0.01	0.02	31
2024	0.24	0.26	1,742
2025	0.40	0.66	4,858
Total	0.7	0.7	4,858

^a The number of low-income residents participating in a Demand Response pathway

Within the DR Plan model, the residential customer class was classified as either residential market or residential low-income. The assumptions used in the model include the prevalence of low-income customers in the general population, and Guidehouse assumptions of the likelihood of a low-income customer participating in DR pathway.

6.6 PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

E1 engaged Guidehouse in the development of both the Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario. In order to develop the DR Alternate Scenario, the following adjustments were made:

- EV charging and DR Behavioural pathways were removed because they had the smallest potential, and it was not feasible to keep six delivery pathways in the smaller Alternate Scenario;
- the delivery of direct install smart thermostats was removed from the DR Alternate Scenario because it had been removed from the EE Alternate Scenario and these measures were assumed to be co-delivered;
- Incentives were reduced, where applicable, to reflect the lower required participation; and
- Direct Load Control (minus smart thermostats), Critical Peak Pricing, BNI Curtailment, and BTM Battery were adjusted downwards to achieve an Alternate Scenario of 8.3 MW and \$5.5 million.

Table 59, below presents this difference for the DR program.

1 Table 59: Demand Response Performance Indicators – Comparison of Settlement Plan and Alternate Scenario

Scenario	Year	Investment ^a (\$ million)	New DR Capacity (MW)	Available DR Capacity (MW)	Total Resource Cost Test (TRC) ^b	Program Administrator Cost Test (PAC) ^c	Participation (participants) ^d	10-Year Levelized Unit Cost (\$/kW-year) ^e
Settlement	2023	1.5	2.9	3.0	-	-	406	-
	2024	3.5	7.0	10.0	-	-	15,074	-
	2025	5.0	7.8	17.9	-	-	40,151	-
	Total	10.0	17.8	17.9	1.1	0.7	40,151	229.59
Alternate	2023	1.3	1.4	1.5	-	-	196	-
	2024	1.8	3.3	4.8	-	-	2,660	-
	2025	2.6	3.5	8.3	-	-	5,605	-
	Total	5.6	8.2	8.3	1.0	0.7	5,605	214.68
Variance from Settlement	2023	(14%)	(50%)	(50%)	-	-	(52%)	-
	2024	(49%)	(53%)	(52%)	-	-	(82%)	-
	2025	(49%)	(55%)	(54%)	-	-	(86%)	-
	Total	(44%)	(54%)	(54%)	(10%)	2%	(86%)	(6%)

2 Currency is expressed in nominal dollars. Currency in the total row is a straight sum of 3 years of nominal values. Columns may
3 not add correctly, due to rounding.

4 Annual avoided costs of capacity were provided by NS Power, from the 2020 IRP using the Base level of DSM for Scenario 2.0C.

5 Avoided costs of transmission and distribution were provided by NS Power in 2021.

6 Total cost-effectiveness tests are calculated using the sum of each year's present value of benefits and costs

7 ^a Investment for DR includes only E1's required investment for the Settlement Plan. It is recognized that in order for DR benefits
8 to be realized, NS Power collaboration and investment will also be required. This may include investment for staff resource, event
9 calling by the system operator, and Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) integration.

10 ^b TRC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to the sum of E1's and participants' costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs
11 and benefits are taken to include the expected full program life.

12 ^c PAC is a benefit/cost ratio comparing lifetime benefits to E1's costs. For DR, 10-year lifetime costs and benefits are taken to
13 include the expected full program life.

14 ^d total active participants in each year – i.e. participants enrolled in any given year are counted each year that participation
15 occurs

16 ^e Calculated by taking the net present value of costs and MWs for each DR pathway over the 2022-2031 timeframe; includes all
17 E1 and NS Power costs

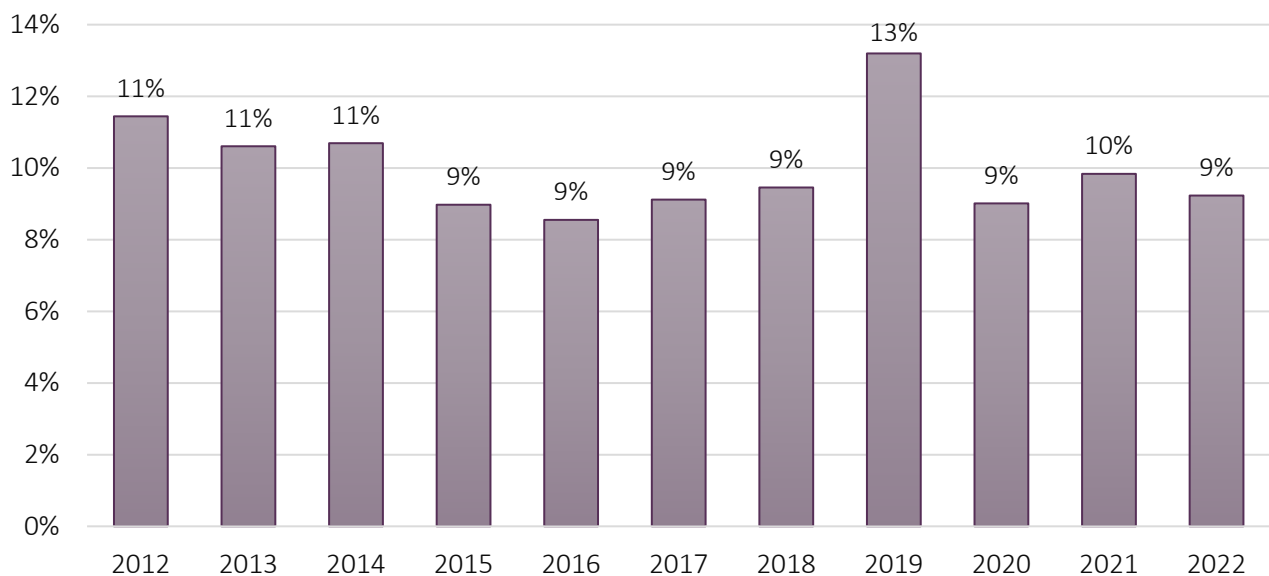
7. ENABLING STRATEGIES

E1 has delivered energy efficiency and conservation programs through annual and/or three-year DSM Plan cycles since 2010. Beginning with the development of its first DSM Plan for the 2012 program year, E1 has included an Enabling Strategies component in its DSM portfolio focused on three categories:

- Education and Outreach;
- Development and Research; and
- Other Enabling Strategies.

Over the past decade, enabling strategies activities have contributed to building capacity in Nova Scotia's energy efficiency industry by increasing awareness about energy efficiency and conservation, supporting market adoption through innovative product and service offerings, and enabling Nova Scotians to make informed energy choices through education and tools. Historically, E1 has invested an average of 10% of its total DSM Portfolio investment in Enabling Strategies³⁹ – as shown in Figure 16, below.

Figure 16: Planned Enabling Strategies Investments as a Percentage of DSM Portfolio (2012 to 2022)



This crucial component of the DSM portfolio has also supported the evolution and maturity of E1. In its early years, E1 heavily focused its activities on Education and Outreach. This has been paramount in driving greater awareness and prominence in the franchise's market presence. In its 2020-2022 DSM Plan, E1

³⁹ Approved DSM Plan investments in Enabling Strategies

began to shift focus to support future programming through innovation, research, and development. In 2020, E1 celebrated one decade since its inception – and the final year of the current Plan (2022), marks one decade of independent DSM planning and administration of energy efficiency and conservation activities in Nova Scotia.

The DSM landscape is rapidly evolving. Topics like electrification and distributed energy resources are gaining prominence, market opportunities continue to mature, and equity is a growing concern as governments, program administrators, and other stakeholders are increasingly focused on reducing GHG emissions, and new technologies are emerging. These and other trends are reflected in the Settlement Plan, including the Enabling Strategies.

7.1 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Enabling Strategies component of the Plan serves several purposes: improving product and service offerings through innovation, increasing education and awareness about products and services to increase participation, building industry capacity, supporting the transformation of the Nova Scotia market, and providing Nova Scotians with the tools to make informed decisions about their energy behaviours. Investment in Enabling Strategies also allows E1 to conduct activities that improve its overall impact for Nova Scotians.

The key objectives of the 2023-2025 DSM Enabling Strategies include:

- address non-cost barriers to participating in DSM programs and services – e.g. providing education, offering more virtual options, and making it easier to access energy efficiency expertise and professional services to implement projects;
- evolve DSM programs and services through innovation, product development and pilots, and improvements to delivery of these services; and
- continue to drive market transformation and increased capacity of the energy efficiency industry.

Over the 2023-2025 Plan period, E1's Enabling Strategies will better equip the organization, the industry, and all Nova Scotians to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing energy landscape. This includes shifting climate conditions, market maturity and transformation, emerging technologies, and post-pandemic economic impacts. As E1 developed the Enabling Strategies component of the Settlement Plan, the

approach taken built on its firm historical foundation and looked to several emerging topics crucial to preparing for the future.

E1 identified its key areas of focus, which are:

- heightened focus on innovation, pilots and new technologies, and emerging topics including beneficial electrification and deeper energy savings;
- identify and address participation barriers amongst diverse and underserved communities;
- increased efforts in support of market transformation; and
- renewed emphasis on building capacity to support current and future program implementation.

7.2 EDUCATION & OUTREACH

7.2.1 OBJECTIVES

The objective of Education and Outreach activities is to increase program participation by providing Nova Scotians with information on reducing their energy consumption, communicating participant benefits, and improving access to energy efficiency services. Education and Outreach activities also help, over time, to establish energy efficiency and conservation behaviours as a cultural norm in Nova Scotia. These activities will:

- provide Nova Scotians with access to efficiency expertise and support;
- improve the public's understanding of how to achieve energy and demand savings and influence their decisions to become energy efficient;
- address barriers to implementing upgrades, such as the availability of qualified products and contractors; and
- ensure the energy efficiency industry has the knowledge, skills, and capacity to meet current and future demand for programs and services and support the adoption of emerging technologies.

7.2.2 OVERVIEW

Seven in ten residents and businesses say that it is important for them to reduce their use of energy, while four in ten still feel they need help understanding how to achieve energy savings⁴⁰, highlighting an important opportunity for Enabling Strategies activities in the 2023 to 2025 Plan period. These activities

⁴⁰ Narrative Research, 2021 DSM Report, Prepared for EfficiencyOne, January 2022.

will build on E1's experience and expertise, and take into account recent feedback from Nova Scotians, including non-participants, through formal and informal research.

Table 60 provides a summary of the three-year investment and areas of focus for the Education & Outreach component of Enabling Strategies in the Settlement Plan.

Table 60: Three-Year Summary of the Education & Outreach Component of Enabling Strategies

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)
2023 Total	1.4
2024 Total	1.5
2025 Total	1.5
Areas of Focus	<u>Community Outreach & Education</u> : activities aimed at increasing public awareness and education through outreach such as community events, home shows, and tradeshow, presentations and information sessions, media interviews and appearances, and educational resources.
	<u>Diverse & Underserved Communities</u> : providing more dedicated and specialized support for diverse and underserved communities through community liaisons and partnership development, youth engagement in energy efficiency careers, diversity, equity and inclusion training and support for the energy efficiency industry, and community-based events, workshops, and information sessions.
	<u>Partnership Development</u> : initiatives such as continued growth and development of Efficiency Preferred Partner network growth and development, strategic partnerships and sponsorships, and workforce development initiatives – e.g. job fairs, recruitment support for contracted Service Providers.
	<u>Green Schools Nova Scotia & Post-Secondary Education</u> : continued support of the Green Schools Nova Scotia program and partnerships with post-secondary institutions, including the NSCC. Enhancements will include new Mi'kmaw Engagement Officer and new opportunities to engage youth in energy efficiency careers, including facilitated internships with Efficiency Preferred Partner network members, and field trips to expose youth to careers in the energy efficiency industry.
	<u>New Residential Market Transformation</u> : efforts in training, education, and supporting industry capacity development for actors in the residential new construction market such as building designers, contractors, builders, and enforcement officials.

7.2.3 ACTIVITIES WITHIN AREAS OF FOCUS

7.2.3.1 COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Community outreach and education activities promote program awareness and participation by allowing E1 to provide Nova Scotians with information on reducing their energy consumption and the benefits of implementing energy efficiency upgrades. They also allow E1 to gather feedback from residents and

businesses on ways to improve access to its programs and services. Activities within this area of focus include:

- advertising to increase awareness and understanding of how to achieve energy savings and positively influence decisions to participate in DSM programs;
- engaging Nova Scotians on the Efficiency Nova Scotia website, social media channels, emails and newsletters, and media appearances and stories, to promote participation in DSM programs;
- improving access to virtual support by implementing live chat software;
- attending and sponsoring events, presentations, information sessions and demonstrations that promote energy efficiency programs and behaviours, including home shows, trade shows, and community events; and
- developing educational resources, guides, and tools to improve Nova Scotians' understanding of how to achieve energy savings in their home or business.

Performance goals for community outreach and education activities will be developed and may include, awareness levels, website and email conversion rates, social media engagement, and referrals from home shows, trade shows, and community events.

7.2.3.2 DIVERSE & UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Diverse and underserved communities, or groups, such as Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotians, are communities that experience collective barriers to participating in society based on age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, race, sexual orientation, and other factors. Education and outreach efforts with these communities will include:

- developing culturally appropriate marketing materials, educational resources, guides and tools to improve engagement and understanding;
- employing community liaisons from the respective communities to facilitate communication and coordinate activities between E1 and each community, including giving presentations, hosting and attending meetings, and gathering feedback and ideas to improve energy efficiency programs and delivery approaches;
- developing partnerships with community organizations;
- hosting and sponsoring events to introduce youth from these communities to careers in the energy efficiency industry; and

- hosting and sponsoring diversity, equity, and inclusion training for EPP network members to create employment opportunities for underrepresented groups in the energy efficiency industry.

Performance goals for diverse and underserved communities will be developed and may include referrals from community liaisons and partnerships, youth engaged, and training engagement and participation.

7.2.3.3 PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Partnership development activities focus on growing and developing the EPP network to improve access to energy efficiency products and contractors. The EPP network builds relationships with various organizations to reach target markets and advance other Enabling Strategies objectives. Through partnership developments, E1 will support growth in the knowledge, skills, and capacity of the energy efficiency industry to meet current and future demand for programs and services, and to promote the adoption of emerging technologies. Activities within this area of focus include:

- continuing to recruit new members to the EPP network, including businesses owned or operated by members of diverse and underserved communities;
- continuing to implement quality assurance standards and practices to ensure EPP network members provide Nova Scotians with high quality services and products;
- developing strategic partnerships with identified organizations in relevant sectors to reach more Nova Scotians;
- hosting and sponsoring training and other professional development opportunities to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the energy efficiency industry;
- attending job fairs to promote careers in the energy efficiency industry;
- hosting and sponsoring events to introduce youth to careers in the energy efficiency industry; and
- sharing job postings and offering other recruitment support to increase the capacity of contracted Service Providers.

Performance goals for partnership development activities will be developed and may include, new members, quality assurance metrics (e.g. complaints, average time to resolve complaints), referrals from strategic partnerships, training engagement and participation, youth engaged, and referrals from career events and other recruitment activities.

7.2.3.4 GREEN SCHOOLS NOVA SCOTIA & POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Green Schools Nova Scotia initiative has formed part of E1's Enabling Strategies since 2016. The initiative engages over 25,000 students across 340 schools each year to adopt smarter energy habits. E1 has also developed strategic partnerships with the NSCC, Saint Mary's University, and Dalhousie University to promote energy efficiency curriculum in post-secondary education and to attract students to careers in the energy efficiency industry. Activities within this area of focus will include:

- continuing to offer free educational resources, support, activities and workshops to teachers across all schools in Nova Scotia;
- developing culturally appropriate materials, including added resources, promotions and social media content;
- offering community engagements to faith-based and cultural groups to increase participation of youth in diverse and underserved communities;
- continuing to provide field trips that expose youth from across the province to careers in the energy efficiency industry; and
- facilitating co-op placements and/or internships with EPP network members.

Performance goals will be established for education activities and may include, student engagements, field trip engagement and participation, and co-op and internship placement results.

7.2.3.5 NEW RESIDENTIAL MARKET TRANSFORMATION

With the increased popularity in heat pump adoption, E1 has an opportunity to expand influence further into the new construction industry. In an effort to help meet the provincial climate goals of net zero by 2050, broadening and taking a more holistic approach is required to facilitate change in the new construction market. In 2022, E1 will be re-designing a market transformation program and that will be launched in 2023, overlapping the wind up of the New Home Construction program component.

In the 2023-2025 Plan years, E1 will place increased emphasis on activities that help to redefine the market for energy efficiency through market transformation and customer education. Market transformation is a high-level framework of programs to create market change by creating accelerated adoption of energy efficient products, services, and practices. These efforts often support increasing the stringency and compliance of building codes. In 2023-2025, E1 is transitioning from a traditional resource acquisition

approach to a market transformation approach for the new residential market. Activities within this area of focus may include:

- conducting baseline studies and market research to determine current market state, building code and efficiency literacy levels, and best practices established in other jurisdictions;
- providing training, education, and supporting industry capacity development for market actors such as building designers, contractors, builders, and enforcement officials;
- developing case studies, supporting code awareness and enforcement, and promotional activities to build awareness and compliance; and
- leveraging online tools to engage and inform, increase consumer demand for energy efficient buildings, and improve access to market actors engaging in high efficiency construction standards.

Market transformation efforts focused on appliances, equipment, and heat pumps is further described under the Development & Research category, below.

7.3 DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH

7.3.1 OBJECTIVES

E1 uses an evidence-based approach to design effective programs that support customers. Investments in research and development ensure that E1's programs and services continue to evolve in response to changes in the DSM landscape, market conditions, and as new technologies emerge. These activities will:

- leverage E1's internal subject matter expertise to innovate in preparation for the next decade of DSM;
- conduct market research, studies, and analyses to quantify DSM potential, evaluate emerging technologies, and test new delivery approaches;
- support the evolution of DSM programs and future DSM Resource Plans via research and development initiatives;
- drive market transformation and advancements of energy efficiency codes and standards through studies and research, partnerships with local and federal governments, market actors, and policymakers; and
- improve customer service and engagement through customer relationship management.

7.3.2 OVERVIEW

The Development & Research category historically includes research and development efforts not directly affiliated to specific programs or services. Keeping customers front-and-center when making decisions around program delivery, design, and offerings is an important aspect of delivering cost-effective energy and demand savings. Reducing barriers to enrollment and offering compelling services and delivery approaches is critical. Through investments in development and research, E1 is able to maintain flexibility to adapt to evolving conditions, like those presented by the global COVID-19 pandemic and prepare its DSM portfolio to meet the evolving needs of a changing climate and energy landscape.

Table 61 provides a summary of the three-year investment and areas of focus for the Development & Research component of Enabling Strategies in the Settlement Plan.

Table 61: Three-Year Summary of the Development & Research Component of Enabling Strategies

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)
2023 Total	1.5
2024 Total	1.5
2025 Total	1.5
Areas of Focus	<u>Innovation & Emerging Technologies</u> : driving participation and uptake through product demonstrations, technical papers, pilots, and new initiatives.
	<u>Market Research</u> : DSM potential studies; research into emerging areas such as deeper energy savings.
	<u>Beneficial Electrification</u> : strategy development and collaboration to inform future beneficial electrification efforts and E1's role in supporting decarbonization in Nova Scotia.
	<u>Locational Efforts</u> : exploration of locational DSM efforts is an area of interest for E1 in the 2023-2025 Plan period.
	<u>Market Transformation</u> : codes and standards support through the Canadian Standards Association; heat pump, appliance, and equipment standards; baselining and market research; code compliance efforts; and savings attribution research.
	<u>Data & Analytics</u> : integrate AMI data into operations; improvements to E1's data environment; analytics to drive participation through targeted communication.

7.3.3 ACTIVITIES WITHIN AREAS OF FOCUS

7.3.3.1 INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

In 2023-2025, E1 will increase its focus on innovation, pilots, and emerging technologies within the development and research category of its Enabling Strategies. These activities enable adoption of measures, offerings, or delivery approaches that demonstrate cost-effectiveness and/or energy savings potential but are not yet fully understood or established in the Nova Scotia market. Focusing on product development and pilot projects generates Nova Scotia-specific findings about cost-effectiveness and market demand before making larger investments in program deployment and delivery. Innovation pilots typically facilitate early-stage analysis and testing on emerging technologies, strategies for program delivery, or initiatives that have been implemented elsewhere but not in the Nova Scotia market. Activities within this area of focus include:

- developing programs for current and future DSM Plan portfolios;
- researching and exploring the market potential for emerging technologies and service delivery models;
- redeveloping or improving existing DSM program and product offerings;
- conducting pilots to evaluate new initiatives, program enhancements, measures, or delivery approaches; and
- promoting more favorable market conditions for the increased use of energy-efficient products and services, including strategies to implement demand response activities.

Future areas of focus are expected to include electrification, deep retrofits, virtual audits, and market transformation.

7.3.3.2 MARKET RESEARCH

E1 will continue to undertake market research initiatives to better understand how to meet changing market conditions, reach underserved segments of customers, and best leverage new information and technology. Activities within this area of focus include:

- understanding customers and market conditions through specific research, such as:
 - motivations and barriers;
 - trends and preferences in consumer behaviour (including energy consumption); and
 - other research or studies, as needed.

- researching opportunities from other jurisdictions and partnering with other DSM experts;
- exploring opportunities to help businesses manage and reduce electrical demand;
- conducting research to assess current and future DSM market potential through potential studies and baselining;
- exploring emerging areas of focus, such as net zero (or deeper energy retrofits to obtain near net zero) options for existing residential; and
- contributing to the advancement of innovative demand side management efforts through technical papers, collaboration with other jurisdictions, and studies.

7.3.3.3 BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

Beneficial electrification is a form of electricity DSM focused on the conversion of existing end use applications from fossil fuel sources to electricity, with the intended result of reducing total GHG emissions. Examples of electrification include heat pumps replacing oil-fired heating systems, electric water heaters replacing oil-fired heaters, and electric vehicles. E1 defines beneficial electrification (BE) as electrification activities having the following attributes:

- environmental benefits – must result in a net reduction in source GHG emissions;
- customer benefits – must save money for the customer over the life of the equipment; and
- grid flexibility – must either not increase annual system-peak demand, or have the flexibility (controls, capacity, etc.) to be removed from utility system-peak through curtailment or shifting.

NS Power's 2020 IRP identified electrification as a key element of its strategy to meet the electricity system's contribution to federal and provincial GHG reduction targets, although no participant or utility costs for electrification were modelled in the IRP. NS Power will be working with stakeholders throughout the recently announced IRP update process, which included more clarification on the electrification strategy. E1 expects to be an active stakeholder in the development of NS Power's electrification strategy and is, as an independent administrator, well-positioned to deliver programs in the future. E1's areas of focus, in supporting electrification, may include:

- participating in the electrification working group identified as part of the NS Power IRP Action Plan⁴¹;
- assisting in the development of an electrification strategy for Nova Scotia, generally; and

⁴¹ https://irp.nspower.ca/files/key-documents/final-irp-report/E3_NS-Power_2020_IRP_Report_final_Nov-27-2020.pdf

- supporting developmental work on the strategy in the following specific areas:
 - determining the mechanisms through which BE activities are funded, planned, approved, and evaluated;
 - establishing E1's role in the ongoing design and administration of BE programs. Specifically, identifying how E1's assets and capabilities, developed through years of investment by electricity ratepayers and taxpayers, should be optimized to support BE objectives;
 - establishing a cost effectiveness testing methodology for BE measures and programs, including the process through which the benefits and avoided costs of BE are quantified; and
 - identifying how BE programs and measures will interact with other DSM programs for the optimum benefit of electricity ratepayers.

7.3.3.4 LOCATIONAL EFFORTS

Locational DSM provides geographically targeted demand-side resources to alleviate capacity-constrained system resources, such as substations and distribution assets. Efforts can include demand response technologies, energy efficiency offers (such as in the Klondike Pilot), or a combination of both. The Klondike Pilot launched in December 2019 is a limited-time locational DSM offering to NS Power customers serviced by the Klondike substation in Kentville. As E1's first geo-targeted effort, the Pilot provided learnings and identified opportunities to build on the delivery approach for future efforts. The Klondike Pilot launched shortly before the global COVID-19 pandemic and was challenged with the cancellation of several in-person events and marketing outreach efforts. Locational DSM is an area of interest for future development that requires full collaborative development with NS Power. E1 intends to build on its pilot development work with NS Power through the E1/NS Power DR Working Group to explore and identify opportunities for locational pilots or efforts, as a demand-side resource for capacity-constrained assets.

7.3.3.5 MARKET TRANSFORMATION

In 2023-2025, E1 will place increased emphasis on activities that help to redefine the market for energy efficiency through market transformation and customer education. Market transformation is a high-level framework of programs that create a market change and may result in savings (e.g. energy, demand, GHG emission reductions) by accelerating adoption of energy efficient products, services, and practices. These efforts often support technologies like appliances and heat pumps but also include increasing the

stringency and compliance of building codes. Of particular focus for E1 is the residential new construction market, which is further described under the Education & Outreach category, above.

Pursuing market transformation aligns with recommendations E1 has received through its Evaluation and Verification activities. As E1 transitions from a traditional resource acquisition approach to a market transformation approach, activities within this area of focus may include:

- conducting baseline studies, market research, and collaborating closely with levels of governments, to improve adoption of, and compliance with, higher codes and standards in the appliances, equipment, and heat pump markets;
- helping Nova Scotians overcome market barriers through coordinated efforts in education, product demonstration, and marketing;
- aligning provincial regulations with the federal level standards will create energy-saving opportunities, i.e. introduction of standards which meet or exceed federal minimums;
- collaborating with other jurisdictions, organizations, and governments in the development and implementation of stringent and harmonized standards, through activities such as training, education, and industry support;
- improving building code compliance and developing specialized supports, resources, and training for building officials;
- piloting market transformation approaches, such as code compliance support, to help establish stakeholder relationships, gather valuable insights on the market behaviour, and inform the design of future initiatives at scale; and
- promoting the optimal use of energy efficient equipment, such as rightsizing heat pumps and proper commissioning.

In 2023-2025, E1 will continue to advocate for and support the adoption of energy-efficiency standards within provincial and federal regulations. E1 will also continue its participation in the Canadian Standards Association's Steering Committee on Performance, Energy Efficiency, and Renewables, and associated Strategic Resource Task Force, as well as other related committee participation as opportunities arise. In addition, E1 will maintain its technical and policy support to the provincial and federal governments relating to electrification, DR, energy storage, and other forms of DSM.

7.3.3.6 DATA & ANALYTICS

Over the past decade of DSM administration, the use of data and analytics has become increasingly important to support the effective delivery of the DSM portfolio by providing insights on pilot and program results, highlighting energy-saving opportunities and areas for process improvements, and informing the strategies and tactics best suited to reach Nova Scotians and drive participation. With the large-scale deployment of AMI in Nova Scotia well underway, access to high-resolution customer data will provide opportunities for program development and delivery. Activities within this area of focus include:

- integrating AMI data to implement enhancements (e.g. Custom Pay-for-Performance) and new developments (e.g. Residential Behaviour/Behavioural DR), as outlined in the Settlement Plan;
- use of advanced analytics (e.g. machine-learning and artificial intelligence) to:
 - develop more customized offerings and information to customers based on electricity usage patterns and load shape; and
 - determine potential for process improvements (e.g. test the effectiveness of touchless energy audits, more reliance on usage data for measurement and verification, where appropriate).
- Improving and developing other customer-centric approaches to engagement and service delivery, such as:
 - testing alternative marketing approaches;
 - piloting new technologies and approaches to make delivery of savings easier for customers, and to improve customer engagement and interactions; and
 - examining and piloting new use cases using customer energy usage data.

7.4 OTHER ENABLING STRATEGIES

7.4.1 OBJECTIVES

Investments in E1's Other Enabling Strategies:

- support the evolution of DSM programs and future DSM Resource Plans via research and development initiatives;
- ensure the cohesive oversight, development, and reporting of DSM Resource Plans and other regulatory filings; and
- improve stakeholder engagement through relationship management, consultations, and involvement in development activities.

7.4.2 OVERVIEW

Other Enabling Strategies for 2023-2025 is comprised of Regulatory Affairs activities, which include the following activities:

- NSUARB processes, such as DSM Plan development and reporting;
- DSM Advisory Group initiatives and stakeholder consultation;
- industry research; and
- legal work related to regulatory initiatives.

Table 62 provides a summary of the three-year investment and areas of focus for the Other Enabling Strategies component of Enabling Strategies in the Settlement Plan.

Table 62: Three-Year Summary of the Other Enabling Strategies Component of Enabling Strategies

Annual Plan	Investment (\$M)
2023 Total	0.9
2024 Total	1.6
2025 Total	1.6
Areas of Focus	<u>DSM Plan Development & Reporting</u> : development of cyclical DSM Resource Plans and portfolios, reporting and accountability for performance targets, and consultative processes relating to DSM Plan developments.
Areas of Focus	<u>Stakeholder Engagement</u> : regular and technical sessions of the DSM Advisory Group, regulatory consultants and stakeholders, and relationships with working groups such as E1/NS Power Demand Response Working Group.
Areas of Focus	<u>Other Regulatory Initiatives</u> : research and development into new and emerging regulatory areas, monitoring of the Nova Scotia and external regulatory environments, and support for all NSUARB processes.

7.4.3 ACTIVITIES WITHIN AREAS OF FOCUS

7.4.3.1 DSM PLAN DEVELOPMENT & REPORTING

DSM Plan development and reporting activities are an essential function of E1's Regulatory Affairs Team. Through its Enabling Strategies, Regulatory Affairs manages all demand side management related filings, including the development of E1's DSM Resource Plans, and progress reporting through quarterly and annual DSM Reports. 2023-2025 activities within this area of focus include:

- developing the 2026-2028 DSM Resource Plan;

- working with NS Power, and other stakeholders, to gain support of the 2026-2028 DSM Resource Plan with NSUARB-approval of same; and
- developing and/or filing regular report updates with the NSUARB on topics, such as:
 - 2023, 2024, 2025 Quarterly Reports;
 - 2023, 2024, 2025 Evaluation Reports;
 - 2022, 2023, 2024 Annual Progress Reports;
 - 2022, 2023, 2024 Audited Financial Statements;
 - 2023-2025 Historical-looking Rate and Bill Impact Analysis filed as part of the 2026-2028 DSM Resource Plan Application; and
- other studies, reports, and updates, as appropriate.

Section 9 provides the details of Reporting activities developed for the Settlement Plan.

7.4.3.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Support and engagement of stakeholders is a topic of significance to E1. As described in Section 2.1 of this Plan, stakeholder feedback following the development of the 2020-2022 DSM Plan centered around the desire to be engaged early, often, and meaningfully in the development processes for its DSM Plans. In response, E1 initiated the development of this Plan earlier than ever, and worked to incorporate multiple iterations of stakeholder consultations, feedback opportunities, and reports providing updates along major milestones in the 2023-2025 development process.

E1 will continue to engage stakeholders outside of the development of the DSM Plan throughout 2023-2025 on both regular and emerging topics. Engagement activities are expected to include:

- Regular DSMAG meetings;
- Technical DSMAG Sessions;
- One-on-one stakeholder consultations; and
- Maintaining a DSMAG SharePoint Site as a central source for all DSMAG documents.

7.4.3.3 OTHER REGULATORY INITIATIVES

Other regulatory initiatives include NSUARB processes, not directly tied to DSM Plan development or reporting, such as industry research and jurisdictional scans, and legal work related to regulatory matters.

1 Activities within this area of focus include:

- 2 • engaging and fostering relationships with other jurisdictions to support continuous improvement
- 3 of E1's DSM planning and administration processes;
- 4 • working with the Evaluation and Verification Consultants to facilitate their efforts and pursuing
- 5 commitments arising from the 2023-2025 DSM Resource Plan regulatory process;
- 6 • researching new and emerging topics or regulatory areas for consideration in the DSM planning
- 7 and administration landscape;
- 8 • supporting and/or leading the development of other studies, reports, and updates, as appropriate;
- 9 • monitoring of the Nova Scotia and external regulatory environments for new developments or best
- 10 practices for consideration in E1's regulatory context;
- 11 • supporting E1's participation in all NSUARB processes; the electricity system is embarking on a
- 12 significant period of transformation which will result in more (and more complex) regulatory
- 13 proceedings which are expected to be interwoven with DSM; and
- 14 • informing and supporting other E1 departments on E1 and non-E1 regulatory matters.

8. EVALUATION

E1's measurement and evaluation activities are a crucial component of its Regulatory Affairs functions. Through independent, third-party measurement and evaluation processes, E1 is able to stay accountable to its tracked performance metrics, program results, and DSM portfolio outcomes. These processes are vital to improve the operations of EE and DR programs, measure their impacts, and attribute energy and demand savings to E1's efforts and ratepayer investments. Evaluation activities provide E1 with timely, tailored feedback through annual recommendations. These recommendations provide E1 with essential insights on the opportunities, barriers, and areas for improvement within existing programs, pilots, and new initiatives. Activities within this area of focus include developing and/or filing regular report updates with the NSUARB on topics, including Evaluation Reports and evaluation recommendation updates.

E1 proposes to take a similar approach to evaluation in the Settlement Plan as in 2020-2022 DSM Resource Plan, where evaluation activities are conducted to ensure accurate determination of net electrical energy and net system-peak demand savings. Evaluation activities will be condensed where appropriate, in recognition of the maturity level that some E1 program components have reached. Evaluation activities will include an annual impact evaluation for each program in each of the three years. In all cases, evaluation activities will be undertaken to ensure the accurate determination of net electrical energy and net system-peak demand savings, to maximize the value of the evaluation process, and to provide opportunities for continuous improvement.

8.1 IMPACT EVALUATIONS

Annual impact evaluations will provide E1, stakeholders, and the NSUARB with up-to-date impacts on net electrical energy and net system-peak demand savings as progress indicators towards the overall approved Settlement Plan energy and system-peak demand savings targets. E1 will work with the Evaluator to determine if a program component requires a full impact evaluation or a condensed impact evaluation. A condensed impact evaluation involves using some or all of the previous year's impact evaluation parameters, methodologies and related calculations referenced in previous evaluated results. Condensed impact evaluations are expected to consist of energy (annual and lifetime) and system-peak demand savings results. Distortion effects would include any changes or updates to programs and measures that occurred following the filing of the 2022 evaluation reports. This means that for stable, mature program

components, the Evaluator may use the previous year's unitary savings values, realization rates, and/or installation rates.

A comprehensive impact evaluation (previously referred to in the 2020-2022 DSM Resource Plan as a full impact evaluation) involves reviewing key elements to help establish the baseline definitions, savings calculation methodologies and the values of the parameters used to calculate savings. Comprehensive impact evaluations are expected for newer program components and those with recent changes or more variable savings parameters. The Evaluator will design and conduct a full scope of evaluation activities for program components that require a comprehensive impact evaluation.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented an opportunity to pilot innovative solutions where traditional evaluation activities were restricted, such as virtual site visits. E1 will explore with the Evaluator how to leverage insights from these activities to support the continued use of virtual site visits where appropriate in the future.

8.2 PROCESS AND MARKET EVALUATIONS

Program process and market evaluations will remain consistent with what has occurred in the 2020-2022 DSM Resource Plan. Process evaluations identify and recommend improvements that are likely to increase the program's efficiency or effectiveness, while maintaining high levels of participant satisfaction. Market evaluation studies indicate how the overall supply chain and market for energy efficiency products work, and how they have been affected by the program(s). E1 will work with the Evaluator to determine what program components should be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- newly created program components that have not yet been evaluated;
- program components that have incurred major changes;
- program components that received many recommendations from the evaluator;
- program components that have a variance of energy savings larger than 25 percent of plan year target; and
- program components that have not received a process evaluation in the past two years.

8.3 DEMAND RESPONSE

As a part of the Settlement Plan, DR will be introduced as a new program with several pathways under the Residential and BNI DR program components. DR program evaluation is aimed at verifying and quantifying the available capacity to the utility during the winter peak period.

In the 2021/2022 winter period, E1 developed several pilot initiatives that focused on reducing demand during the Nova Scotia peak period. E1 engaged the Evaluator to provide research support and advice on event-based DR evaluation and reporting. The Evaluator reviewed DR program documentation and guidelines from grid operators, utility regulators, research and standards development organizations, electric utilities, and DR aggregators to understand and document current best practices in event-based DR program evaluation. In the jurisdictions included in the Evaluator's research, DR programs are evaluated using ex-ante and ex-post evaluation strategies depending on whether evaluating highly variable loads or homogeneous loads. E1 plans to use these evaluation strategies to evaluate the DR pilots and will help inform the evaluation methodology for each DR program component for the Settlement Plan. E1 will work with the Evaluator to form a preliminary evaluation plan for each DR program component.

9. REPORTING

E1 proposes to report on the implementation of the Settlement Plan through Quarterly Reports and Annual Progress Reports (APR).

9.1 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS

In the first quarter of each calendar year, E1 will file an APR with the NSUARB, which will include the following information:

- a summary of the context, activities and milestones achieved in the prior year, including the status of the annual performance indicators;
- a management discussion and analysis of any major discrepancies (25 percent or greater variance) relative to the original plan's intent and forecasts;
- a summary of expenditures, energy, and system-peak demand savings for each program; and
- Plan period forecast information (savings and expenditures) for the three-year Plan period⁴².

In the event E1 proposes significant changes to elements within an approved plan, advance notice will be provided to the NSUARB and stakeholders within the APR. Significant changes include:

- adding a new Program;
- terminating an existing Program;
- increasing or decreasing the 3-year plan budget for the total Residential sector and for the total BNI sector by more than 25 percent; and
- increasing or decreasing the 3-year plan savings target for the total Residential sector and for the total BNI sector by more than 25 percent.

9.2 QUARTERLY REPORTS

E1 will file quarterly reports with the NSUARB for quarters one through three of each year⁴³. The reports will provide quarterly status updates and service highlights and communicate course adjustments (e.g. mid-course adjustments) within the current approved DSM Resource Plan.

⁴² M09750, EfficiencyOne Performance Alignment Study, April 21, 2020, at page 4, lines 5-10.

⁴³ E1 will file its quarterly reports in accordance with the NSUARB's Revised Filing Dates letter, issued January 9, 2018, as follows: Q1 – May 25; Q2 – August 25; Q3 – November 25.

E1 proposes to continue reporting quarterly on the following metrics, including:

- quarterly and year-to-date (YTD) highlights (comparison of savings targets, mid-course adjustments, results and discussion of 25 percent or greater variances in energy and demand savings or investment results at the program level, discussion of 10 percent or greater variances in incentive levels at the measure level);
- YTD investment by rate class (compared to annual planned mid-course adjusted expenditures);
- sector highlights (results, participation, and items of interest by program, as well as low-income results);
- demand response highlights (including details of projects and progress towards the three-year Performance Target, and spending to date);
- updates on the establishment and operation of E1's Residential Behavioural initiatives (including EE program component and behavioural DR pathway within the DR program component) and ongoing collaboration with NS Power in relation to CEM;
- other activities (organized by Enabling Strategies categories); and
- updated year-end forecast information for savings targets and spending.

9.3 MID-COURSE ADJUSTMENTS & FLEXIBILITY

E1 often makes limited adjustments to an approved DSM Resource Plan to reflect changes in market conditions and updated insights from program and organizational evaluations unknown at the time of DSM Resource Plan development. When setting 2023-2025 Mid-Course Adjustments (MCAs), E1 will follow the same approach as was taken for the 2020-2022 DSM Resource Plan MCAs. This approach includes the following:

- E1 will provide explanations of changes, that have a variance in energy savings, demand savings, or investment that are 25 percent or more at a program level.
- As per above, and dependent on approved cost allocation methodology, E1 will undertake reasonable efforts to consider impacts to any customer rate class on an annual basis that result from program changes.
- E1 will provide written advance notice of its intent to implement mid-course adjustments by program and their customer rate class impacts in the APRs for the 2023-2025 DSM Resource Plan period and will file the MCAs with the Quarterly Report in Q1. It is E1's position that it is not able to provide advance notice of mid-course adjustments resulting from third-party evaluation reports, as these adjustments are made after receipt of these reports.

9.4 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

E1 will retain the services of an external financial auditor to prepare audited annual financial statements. These will be filed with the NSUARB in the second quarter of the following year, no later than April 28 in accordance with the NSUARB's Revised Filing Dates letter issued January 9, 2018.

9.5 RATE & BILL IMPACT ANALYSIS

E1 will file its historical Rate and Bill Impact Analysis (RBIA) and forward-looking RBIA as part of each DSM Resource Plan. The historical RBIA estimates the high-level, long-term impact to rates and bills of all DSM activities up to and including those of the previous calendar year, as well as any future DSM investments that have been approved by the NSUARB. The forward-looking RBIA estimates the high-level, long-term impact to rates and bills of all DSM activities conducted as part of the proposed DSM Resource Plan.

9.6 DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

The DSMAG is a forum to provide strategic or directional advice and stakeholder perspectives on current or emerging DSM issues including development of future DSM applications and plans. Throughout the 2023-2025 Plan period, E1 will continue to facilitate DSMAG meetings in pursuit of the objectives agreed to in DSMAG's Revised Terms of Reference⁴⁴ and DSM issues identified in, but not limited to, the 2023-2025 Resource Plan regulatory proceeding (e.g. assess and develop an optimal DSM cost-effectiveness testing methodology, discussion of potential updates to avoided costs before the 2026-2028 DSM Resource Plan application, discussion of research initiatives with significant expenditures, in advance of implementation, within the Enabling Strategies component).

9.7 PERFORMANCE METRICS

For the 2023-2025 Plan period, E1 proposes the following definitions and requirements for Performance Targets and Thresholds as consistent with requirements outlined in the Standardized Filing Framework⁴⁵.

⁴⁴ E1 was directed by the NSUARB in matter M09096 (2020-2022 DSM Plan) to revise the existing Terms of Reference (TOR) of the DSMAG. E1 undertook a full review of the existing TOR in consultation with DSMAG members. On June 30, 2020, DSMAG Revised Terms of Reference were filed with the NSUARB. The revised TOR requires an annual review; this was completed in 2021 in consultation with DSMAG members and a revised TOR was filed with the NSUARB on September 20, 2021.

⁴⁵ In accordance with the Consensus Agreement to the 2016-2018 DSM Resource Plan, Parties agreed to establish a Standardized Filing Framework for future applications to approve a DSM Supply Agreement. The Standardized Filing Framework was approved by the NSUARB September 13, 2016 (M07543).

9.7.1 DEFINITIONS

To provide clarity, the following definitions are used:

- **Performance Metric:** A quantifiable measure that is used to track and assess the status of a specific achievement.
- **Performance Indicators:** A set of particular performance metrics used to indicate or monitor progress toward performance targets. Performance Indicators are management tools that provide information to allow an organization to take action to help it deliver on performance targets.
- **Performance Target:** A performance metric expressed as a specific quantified goal that identifies the desired outcome of an activity at a specific point in time. In this Application Performance Targets refer to NSUARB-approved targets.
- **Performance Threshold:** A predefined quantity, percentage, or range which identifies the allowable deviation from a Performance Target within which the actual outcome is considered to have achieved success. In this Application, Performance Thresholds refer to NSUARB-approved thresholds.

9.7.2 PERFORMANCE TARGETS & THRESHOLDS

- Performance Targets⁴⁶ apply to the period of the NSUARB-approved Supply Agreement with NS Power, rather than annually; and
- E1 is deemed to be in substantial compliance with the NSUARB-approved Plan Performance Targets if 90 percent or greater achievement is reached on each of the cumulative annual energy savings and cumulative annual system-peak demand savings Performance Targets⁴⁷. If less than 90 percent is achieved of either cumulative annual energy savings or cumulative annual system-peak demand savings Performance Targets, E1 understands that the NSUARB would use its discretion to determine appropriate action.

Performance Targets consist of:

- Cumulative annual energy savings;
- Cumulative annual system-peak demand savings;

⁴⁶ Performance targets are at the portfolio (i.e. DSM Plan) level.

⁴⁷ The cumulative annual system-peak demand savings Performance Target does not include Demand Response savings from new demand capacity or available demand capacity.

- Cumulative annual energy savings applicable to the Affordable Single-family Homes, Affordable Multi-family Housing and Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project programs; and
- Available demand response capacity during the winter peak period over the three-year plan.

Performance Indicators consist of:

- Annual incremental energy savings (reported by program and rate class);
- Cumulative annual energy savings (reported by program and rate class);
- Annual lifetime energy savings (reported by program and rate class);
- Cumulative lifetime energy savings (reported by program and rate class);
- Annual incremental system-peak demand savings (reported by program and rate class);
- Cumulative annual system-peak demand savings (reported by program and rate class);
- Annual new demand response capacity and available demand response capacity (reported by program);
- Cumulative new demand response capacity and available demand response capacity (reported by program) ⁴⁸;
- Total ratepayer benefits;
- Total spending (reported by program and rate class);
- Customer satisfaction;
- Incidental cumulative annual energy savings applicable to low-income and underserved communities from nontargeted programs; and
- Reporting on low-income program participation, expenditures, and savings through a variety of methods, including estimation based on geographic census information.

⁴⁸ For the DR program, E1 proposes a performance indicator of new demand capacity and available demand capacity. Both will be measured during the winter peak period (December through February) and claimed in the second calendar year of the winter peak period. For example, demand response capacity available in December 2022 to February 2023 will be claimed in 2023 after the winter peak period is completed.

10. CONCLUSION

The Settlement Plan is responsive to the climate emergency and helps advance recent environmental goals preparing for the future. The Settlement Plan positions E1 to achieve levels of DSM in the future and is a transition from where we are today and where we need to be if we are to accomplish net zero by 2050. As a result, savings targets are 1.2% of NS Power's load, an increase from 1.0% today, and will save over 1,700 kilotonnes of lifetime greenhouse gas emissions.

The Settlement Plan is expanding accessibility and equity to all Nova Scotians through the reintroduction of an Affordable Single-family Homes and Residential Behaviour program components, increased support to Nova Scotia small businesses who have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, greater support for Mi'kmaw communities through a Diverse and Underserved Communities initiative, and increased Education and Outreach activities.

The Settlement Plan is cost effective and affordable. It delivers \$543M in lifetime benefits to ratepayers, a return three times greater than the investment of \$173M with a payback in under five years, while providing average participant bill savings between 1.2% and 7.9%.

The Settlement Plan is achievable, reflects stakeholder feedback and subject matter expertise, and is in the best interest of ratepayers. The Settlement Plan represents growth, both for energy efficiency and demand response resources.