

M12780 - EfficiencyOne - 2027-2031 Demand Side Management (DSM) Plan Application
INFORMATION REQUESTS from the Affordable Energy Coalition

INFORMATION REQUEST 1:

On pages 16-17 of Appendix A (pages 104-5) of the application, in section 3.2.1, Resource Scenario Design, you state that you changed the design objective regarding low income and equity from

- 15–20 percent investment in low-income and equity as a percentage of total investment.

To

- dedicated low-income and equity savings are aligned with the 2026 DSM Extension, representing approximately 11 percent of residential savings;

Similar wording occurs elsewhere in the application.

Please explain what practical difference this reframing makes in the amount of investment and savings related to low income and equity households and programming.

INFORMATION REQUEST 2:

Please explain how the savings for the low income and equity programs as a percentage of residential savings is calculated, pointing to the appropriate tables and figures.

Please explain how to calculate the investment for the low income and equity programs as a % of residential program investment, pointing to the appropriate tables and figures.

INFORMATION REQUEST 3:

In Table 14 of Appendix A, Solar PV generation of 1.7 GWH is shown.

Is this first year or lifetime generation?

Please report both first year and lifetime generation, to be comparable to first year and lifetime savings for other programs?

INFORMATION REQUEST 4:

The New Residential program described on pages 59-62 of Appendix A (pp 147-150) in Section 6.3 is delivered to and with Mi'kmaw communities. Its stated purpose is that it “offers subsidized energy efficiency assessments, home design support, and post-construction rebates to offset the incremental costs of building homes that operate at close to net zero energy performance levels.”

The 3 measures are:

- high performing building envelopes (air tightness, insulation, ventilation, windows/doors)
- high efficiency space and water heating systems (heat pumps and heat pump water heaters)
- solar-PV systems (via the residential Solar-PV program component)

A New Residential program with these measures would be just as beneficial to the broader low income population by offering it to new publicly funded affordable nonmarket housing serving low-income households.

Please explain why the New Residential program was not considered for all publicly funded affordable nonmarket housing serving low income households?

INFORMATION REQUEST 4

Efficiency One produced a report titled “Energy Poverty and an Equitable Transition to a Net-Zero Carbon Future in Nova Scotia” December 8, 2023.

Please provide the % of Nova Scotia households that this report concluded were in Energy Poverty and any other conclusions from that report that indicate what proportion of the Nova Scotia population struggles with energy poverty, defined as paying 6% of income on home energy.

INFORMATION REQUEST 5

The Affordable Single Family Homes program supplies free upgrades to building envelope of Single Family Homes for qualifying homeowners, with EfficiencyOne arranging the contractors to do the work. This is an excellent program with an excellent track record.

There is compelling reason for the Affordable Multi Family Housing Program to provide free upgrades to landlords housing low income tenants who pay their own heat and electricity bills in the same way that they do for low income homeowners. The tenant costs and the reduction in costs for low income households are directly equivalent. This change has been recommended to EfficiencyOne by the Affordable Energy Coalition but it is our understanding that there has been no change in the AMHP to this effect.

Why has EfficiencyOne not created a program of free installation of building envelope upgrades or other upgrades that would reduce energy costs in a similarly substantial way for tenants who pay their own heat and electricity bills, similar to the Affordable Single Family Homes program? Will EfficiencyOne consider this change in the proposed 5 year plan?

INFORMATION REQUEST 6

Plug in solar has become a widely popular technology that reduces electricity use and costs for smaller households such as apartment dwellers. Roughly 50% of low income households are apartment dwellers. Both spending and savings in the Affordable Multi Family Housing Program have been substantially lower than for the Single Family Program. This technology has the potential to close that gap somewhat.

Does EfficiencyOne have any intention to explore this relatively new technology in the proposed 5 year plan, for use as part of the Affordable Multi Family Housing Program?

INFORMATION REQUEST 7

EfficiencyOne created an excellent Energy Poverty Visualization Tool which provides the most reliable and up to date estimates of Energy Poverty in Nova Scotia, as the energy prices and incomes change over time.

Please provide an explanation of how the Energy Poverty Visualization Tool provides a reasonably accurate estimate of Energy Poverty in Nova Scotia as energy prices and incomes change.

Please provide a table showing the level of energy poverty in Nova Scotian, as calculated from periodically by the Energy Poverty Visualization Tool over the last few years since it was created, showing how energy poverty has changed, for the record.

INFORMATION REQUEST 8

Did E1 assess non-utility benefits from strategic electrification?

INFORMATION REQUEST 9

Did E1 consider if strategic electrification measures could be included as a component of a cost-effective portfolio?

INFORMATION REQUEST 10

Did E1 consider a scenario where the government changes legislative direction to better enable strategic electrification and what the current DSM plan should do in anticipate of that scenario

Submitted by Brian Gifford for the Affordable Energy Coalition