

Meeting Notes
Q3 2025 Natural Gas Advisory Committee Webinar
September 10, 2025
1:00pm – 2:15pm Pacific
Online Only



Attendees:

Michelle Wildie – Puget Sound Energy
Jackie Goss – Energy Trust
Laney Ralph – NW Natural

Jodie Albert – Cascade Natural Gas
Kevin Duell – NW Natural

NEEA Staff: Alisyn Maggiora, Brandon Lindquist, Emily Moore, Deborah Sunada, Wylie Hampson, Neil Grigsby, Stephanie Quinn, Noe Contreras, Mark Rehley, Debbie Driscoll, Anu Teja

Resources

- **Agenda packet on NEEA.org:** <https://neea.org/resource/q3-ngac-webinar-agenda-packet/>
 - a. **Master slide deck on NEEA.org:** <https://neea.org/committee-documents/q2-2025-ngac-meeting-slides>

Welcome and Introductions

Vote Process Refresher (Slides [3-5](#), Packet [p. 2](#))

Alisyn Maggiora (amaggiora@neea.org), Senior Stakeholder Relations Manager, provided a refresher on the NGAC voting process. Voting members can cast a “yes” vote during the meeting, via email in advance, or through a delegate. A “no” vote requires a committee member to articulate their concerns during the meeting, which initiates a formal process as outlined in the NGAC charter. Abstentions are also permitted for members who prefer to remain neutral. The NEEA team conducted outreach in advance of the vote to identify and address any potential concerns.

2026 Operations Planning Process and Preview (Slides [7-11](#), Packet [p. 3](#))

Emily Moore (EMoore@neea.org), Director of Market Strategy & Execution, presented an overview of NEEA’s 2026 Operations Planning Process to date. Emily explained NEEA’s three-tiered planning structure: the Strategic Plan, which sets the five-year vision and goals; the Business Plan, which outlines how to deliver on that strategy; and the Annual Operations Plan, which details specific program-level goals, activities, and budgets. The 2026 plan represents the second year of the current five-year business cycle.

A draft of the 2026 Operations Plan will be distributed to the Board, RPAC, and NGAC on October 14. A feedback webinar is scheduled for October 16, and all feedback is due by October 30. This input will be incorporated into the final version of the plan, which will be reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee on November 12 and presented for a final vote at the December 8 board meeting. She encouraged committee members to ensure the October 16 webinar was on their calendars and to begin preparing for the two-week feedback window.

The Efficient Rooftop Units (RTU) program will continue its market development efforts, with a focus on engaging HVAC manufacturers and promoting mid-tier, lower-cost commercial products. The Advanced Commercial Water Heating program remains in the Program Development phase, with market characterization work expected to conclude in early 2026. Market Development for this program is not anticipated until 2027. Emily also noted two key advancements: the proposed transition of the Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC program into program development (pending a successful vote), and a potential

expansion of the High-Performance HVAC program to include Gas High-Efficiency DOAS systems. This latter initiative may be brought to the committee for a vote in early 2026. The 2026 plan would also include continued exploration of emerging opportunities, such as commercial laundry.

Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC Overview and Vote (Slides [13-21](#) | Packet [p. 4-24](#))

Deborah Sunada (dsunada@neea.org), Senior Program Manager, gave an overview on the Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC program in anticipation of the vote. The program targets residential gas customers who are choosing to add or upgrade to a dual-fuel system by using as an air-source heat pump paired with a gas furnace. The long-term vision is for efficient dual-fuel systems with grid-enabled controls to become the standard solution, offering energy savings, cost savings, and year-round comfort. The program's baseline assumes suboptimal design or installation practices, and the goal is to improve system efficiency through better design and installation. The advancement milestone vote was not a final endorsement of the program, but rather a commitment to continue learning and refining the concept through the program development phase. This phase will focus on research, market characterization, and refining assumptions to develop a robust market transformation strategy.

Factors supporting the program's advancement include the region's increasing demand for cooling, with more days exceeding 90°F, and the corresponding rise in electric load growth, estimated at around 4% annually. Dual-fuel systems could help manage electric peak demand and provide flexibility. There are also several unknowns, such as the effectiveness of static setpoints in milder climates like Oregon and Washington, the lack of a clear framework for reporting dual-fuel savings, and uncertainty about future energy system needs.

A key concern from stakeholders was the program's reliance on contractor and customer behavior, which could significantly influence system performance and energy savings. Stakeholders emphasized the need for standardized terminology across the supply chain and better customer education regarding system expectations and comfort. There were also concerns about the potential for reduced energy savings due to narrower setpoints and system design variations across different climates and utility rate structures. Additionally, some members expressed apprehension about the potential negative impact on the electric grid from fixed setpoints, especially in the absence of responsive, grid-enabled controls. To address these concerns, Deborah outlined the next steps for the Program Development phase. These include validating technical assumptions and energy savings through lab and field demonstrations, conducting market research on contractor and consumer behavior, and launching a large-scale market characterization study in 2026. The team will also work to refine the program's target market, baseline conditions, and near-term savings estimates, while identifying key barriers and intervention strategies. Deborah emphasized that this phase is intended to be iterative and collaborative, with continued engagement from stakeholders to ensure the program is both technically sound and regionally relevant.

VOTE: All NGAC members unanimously voted “yes” to advance the program into the NEEA portfolio. Votes were cast both via email and live during the meeting.

Housekeeping and Lookahead

- A. Let Alisyn Maggiora (amaggiora@neea.org) if you are interested in attending the Q4 NGAC meeting in person on October 28, 2025.
- B. Dual-Fuel Workgroup has been incorporated into NGAC as a standing agenda topic.
- C. Draft 2026 NGAC Dates are:
 - a. January 28 – Interim Webinar
 - b. March 3 – Q1 Meeting
 - c. April 16 – Interim Webinar

- d. June 2 – Q2 Meeting
 - e. No Q3 Meeting
 - f. September 9 – Interim Webinar
 - g. October 22 – Q4 Meeting
 - h. December 9 – Interim W
- D. The Leadership in Energy Efficiency Awards is December 8. Nominations run until September 19.
- E. Submit ideas for Session topics at Efficiency Exchange 2026 at <https://neea.org/efficiency-exchange-conference/>. Submit through October 24. The event will be May 5-6 2026 in Boise, Idaho.
- F. NEEA is offering twice-yearly 90-minute webinars for alliance members on Market Transformation. The target audience is committee members wanting a refresher and energy efficiency/conservation team members not on NEEA committees but who interact with NEEA's work or would benefit from understanding more. The next session is October 1. Contact Alisyn Maggiora (amaggiora@neea.org).
- G. NEEA Cycle 6 and 2024 Annual Report is now available at <https://neea.org/cycle-6-2024-annual-report>

Feedback, Wrap-Up, & Adjourn

- A. Action Items and Feedback
- 1) Action Items
 - a. None
 - 2) Feedback
 - a. None