

Natural Gas Advisory Committee

Q3 2026 Webinar



DATE: Wednesday, Sept 9, 2026

TIME: 1:00 – 2:30pm Pacific

WEBINAR: [Click here to join the meeting](#) (Meeting ID: 260 696 227 441 390 | Passcode: Yi7Nu766)

(if needed) Call-in audio only: 971-323-0535 | Phone Conference ID: 923 522 769#

AGENDA (All Times Pacific)

1:00-1:10 (10 min)	Welcome, Agenda Packet Review	Alisyn Maggiora	p. 1-2
1:10-1:40 (30 min)	Introductions + Committee Round Robin General highlights: Big changes (programs/personnel); current challenges, lessons learned; how utility activities relate to NEEA's; sharable tools/materials; policy directives w/ customers; findings, filings, IRPs. <i>Desired Outcome: Committee members and NEEA staff are apprised of latest activities, plans, and organizational updates from alliance members.</i>	NGAC Members	--
1:40-1:55 (15 min)	Housekeeping, Looking Ahead - Previous Meeting Notes & Action Items: June 2 - Announcements & Reminders 2027 Operations Planning Process & Webinar - Navien Survey & Upcoming Product Council - New & Manufactured Homes Work session (Sept 14) - Leadership in EE Awards (Dec 4) - Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey (Oct) - Proposed 2027 NGAC dates <i>Desired Outcome: Committee refreshed on previous meeting notes/action items and aware of significant upcoming items.</i>	Emily Moore Chuck Karras Alisyn Maggiora	p. 3
1:55-2:25 (30 min)	Program Expansion Opportunity Review: LLLC + HVAC - Overview of Luminaire Level Lighting Controls (LLLC) program and the expansion opportunity to include HVAC controls - Review of planned program development activities in 2026-27 <i>Desired Outcome: Committee members have awareness of the existing electric LLLC program and understand the opportunity and planned activities to expand the program and advance it into the gas portfolio (expected in late 2027).</i>	Emily Moore Nick Michel Suzi Asmus	p. 4-5
2:25-2:30 (5 min)	Public comment, wrap up and adjourn	Alisyn Maggiora	--

Informational Updates:

- **Page 6-8:** Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC Field Study Recruitment Updates
- **Page 9:** Program expansion reminder and Gas Advanced Performance (AP) DOAS Vote in Dec
- **Page 10-21:** Q2 2026 Market Progress Report (Gas + Electric Programs – Annual goals progress)

Additional Resources:

- [Newsletters on neea.org](#) (Emerging Tech | Market Research & Evaluation | Codes, Standards & New Construction)
- Most recent meeting notes, slides and agenda packets available on neea.org [here](#).
- [NGAC Charter](#)

PROPOSED 2027 NGAC MEETING DATES *(Reminder, no Q3 standing meeting)*

Quarter	Day(s)	Date(s)	TIME (PST)	LOCATION
Webinar	Wed	Jan 27	1-2pm	Virtual
Q1	Thurs	Mar 18	9am-4pm	Virtual
Webinar	Thurs	Apr 15	1-2pm	Virtual
Q2	Tues	June 1	9am-4pm	Hybrid (Seattle)
Webinar	Wed	Sept 22	1-2pm	Virtual
Q4	Thurs	Oct 28	9am-4pm	Virtual
Webinar	Wed	Dec 8	1-2pm	Virtual

REMAINING 2026 NGAC MEETING DATES: *(Reminder, no Q3 standing meeting)*

Quarter	Day(s)	Date(s)	TIME (PST)	LOCATION	ANTICIPATED TOPICS / NOTES
Q4	Thursday	Oct 22	9am-4pm	Virtual	• Gas expansion AP DOAS vote prep
Webinar	Wednesday	Dec 9	1-2pm	Virtual	• Gas expansion: AP DOAS vote

Memorandum – *Agenda item (Tier 1)*



September 2, 2026

TO: Natural Gas Advisory Committee (NGAC)

FROM: Emily Moore, Director, Market Strategy & Execution

SUBJECT: 2027 Operations Planning Process



Brief Overview:

NEEA staff have begun developing the 2027 Operations Plan and want to ensure NGAC members are aware of the process and the upcoming timeline for stakeholder engagement and feedback.

The 2027 process and Operations Plan deliverable will be very similar to years past and will culminate in Board approval at the December 8th Board meeting.

Here are the key dates for stakeholder review of the Operations Plan that NGAC members should be aware of:

- 10/8: Draft 2026 Operations Plan shared with regional stakeholders
- 10/15: Webinar meeting held to review the draft Operations Plan
- 11/2: Feedback is due to NEEA

In the Q3 NGAC webinar, we'll review the timeline and preview any expected changes or milestones in the 2027 plan. Please raise any questions you have at the meeting and/or contact [Emily Moore](mailto:emoore@neea.org) (emoore@neea.org).

Memorandum – *Agenda item (Tier 1)*



September 2, 2026

TO: Natural Gas Advisory Committee (NGAC)

FROM: Suzi Asmus, Principal Program Manager; Nick Michel, Senior Market Transformation Manager

SUBJECT: Expansion of Luminaire Level Lighting Controls Program to Include HVAC Controls

Our Ask of You:

In the Q3 NGAC meeting, NEEA staff will provide an overview of the Luminaire Level Lighting Controls (LLLC) program and expansion opportunity to include HVAC controls. **Please review the context provided below and bring any questions, feedback, or concerns to the Q3 NGAC meeting.**

Brief Overview of Luminaire Level Lighting Controls program:

The LLLC program has been in the Market Development phase since mid-2019. LLLC are a type of networked lighting control (NLC) system in which each individual light fixture has a built-in sensor and controller so the luminaires can communicate and transmit data wirelessly and be flexibly programmed in a variety of groupings. This enables energy savings, better lighting experience, more adaptability for space utilization, and additional non-lighting benefits from connectivity to building and business systems.

The LLLC program has used a multi-faceted approach to transform the commercial lighting market by increasing demand for LLLC, strengthening regional sales efforts, building market capabilities for successful project delivery, leveraging national partnerships, creating a supportive code environment, and assisting Northwest utilities in standing up robust incentive programs. The goal is to make LLLC systems standard practice for commercial buildings.

Through NEEA's LLLC market interventions, product availability is strong and market awareness of LLLC is high. The most recent [Market Progress and Evaluation Report](#) for LLLC reported increasing percentages of installers, and designer/specifiers reported an ability and willingness to bid on projects that include LLLC. LLLC appear well positioned to continue a growth trajectory as ongoing efforts strengthen communication and acceptance of the value proposition and build the skills needed for successful sales and project implementation.

Summary of Expansion Opportunity:

The expansion opportunity builds upon the existing LLLC program by adding a simple integration pathway between lighting occupancy controls and rooftop unit (RTU) thermostats. In this configuration, occupancy data from sensors embedded in networked luminaires is communicated to the thermostat, allowing the HVAC system to make small, occupancy-based temperature adjustments within the controlled space. Rather than relying only on fixed thermostat schedules, the system uses real-time occupancy information to define setbacks and reduce unnecessary heating or cooling runtime when spaces are lightly occupied or vacant. This creates an opportunity to capture incremental energy savings from HVAC systems that have an LLLC system installed, while improving the value proposition of advanced lighting controls.

LLLC+HVAC is a fuel-neutral technology because RTUs can be fueled via natural gas or electricity, and reduced RTU runtime can generate both electric and natural gas savings. However, the near-term opportunity is expected to be especially relevant for natural gas savings, given that most RTUs in the Northwest are gas-fired and the region's climate is heating-dominant. The magnitude of energy savings is still to be determined and will require additional modeling and field validation; early returns indicate total HVAC savings between 8%-17% above a programmed thermostat, with the majority of savings opportunities expected from gas-fired RTUs.

This expansion also offers a practical market transformation pathway: it leverages LLLC infrastructure already being promoted through the existing program and adds potential HVAC savings without requiring a full building automation system. While LLLC systems can connect to many HVAC systems through Building Automation and Control Networks (BACNet), that integration is often complex, cumbersome, and expensive, limiting its practical application to larger buildings. The proposed expansion provides a simpler and more cost-effective connection pathway for buildings with single-zone RTUs, particularly in small and medium commercial markets that are difficult to serve through more complex control systems. By making HVAC integration more practical and adding HVAC savings to lighting improvements, the concept broadens and strengthens the LLLC value proposition for smaller commercial buildings where lighting savings alone may not justify investment in advanced lighting controls.

The LLLC program is ideally positioned to leverage existing market activities and relationships to provide the quickest ramp for adoption of the HVAC expansion. Examples include:

- Leveraging local sales channels, key lighting specifiers, and targeted professional associations to influence decision-makers accepting LLLC value and relevance for their business.
- Supporting educational efforts that address perceived barriers to adoption.
- Collaborating with utility lighting programs to increase market acceptance of LLLC.
- Coordinating with national organizations, such as the DOE, Illuminating Engineering Society, ASHRAE and DesignLights Consortium, to strengthen their focus on LLLC and align efforts across regions.
- Engaging with partners beyond the Northwest to broaden adoption of LLLC, in turn creating market alignment and amplifying impact.

Thermostat costs are reasonably low—less than \$1,000—which increases the attractiveness of the concept and creates a lower barrier to adoption for building owners, contractors, and decision makers. The relatively low-cost integration point also strengthens the potential market transformation pathway by making the LLLC+HVAC concept easier to position as a practical lighting-adjacent enhancement rather than a major HVAC equipment upgrade. Although further market validation and savings assessment are needed, the combination of low incremental cost, simple integration, strong HVAC savings potential, and existing LLLC market interventions that can support a quicker ramp to adoption creates a compelling case for continued program development.

Planned Development Activities to Prepare for Advancement in Gas Portfolio:

The proposed 2026-2027 activities are designed to support the LLLC+HVAC expansion to become a viable market transformation opportunity by advancing savings validation, market understanding, program planning, and stakeholder alignment. Planned activities include:

- Develop an energy savings forecast
- Support funder-led pilot activities and gather early performance data
- Conduct market research on market size, barriers, value proposition, and channels
- Develop a measurability plan and data strategy
- Seek and support additional pilots to verify energy-saving performance
- Engage national stakeholders on technical specifications and QPL development
- Develop and review naturally occurring baseline and forecast assumptions

Based on the current planned activities, the estimated gas portfolio investment needed to support these efforts is **approximately \$60,000-\$100,000 in 2026, and \$160,000-\$220,000 in 2027**. Additional pilot opportunities could increase the 2027 maximum.

Please contact [Suzi Asmus \(sasmus@neea.org\)](mailto:sasmus@neea.org) if you have any questions about the Luminaire Level Lighting Controls Program or HVAC controls expansion.

Memorandum – *Informational Update (Tier 2)*



September 2, 2026

TO: Natural Gas Advisory Committee

FROM: Deborah Sunada, Program Manager, Residential Dual-Fuel HVAC

SUBJECT: Update on Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC “Switchover Temperature” Field Study

Our Ask of You:

Share the information in this memo with the necessary stakeholders in your organization for awareness of this field study. Contact Program Manager Deborah Sunada (dsunada@neea.org) for more information or to coordinate on the effort.

Brief Overview:

The Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC program is working with Swift Strategy to better understand the dual-fuel switchover setpoints that maximize heat pump utilization while maintaining homeowner comfort and minimizing risk of post-installation adjustments. A detailed description of the study can be found in the subsequent memo and FAQ in this packet “Funder Notification of Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC Switchover Temperature Behavior Study;” this was emailed to this committee on June 30, 2026.

Recruitment & Data Collection Update:

Actively underway, Swift is engaging HVAC installation contractor partners testing messaging and value propositions to develop scripts and materials for building out their contractor network. Qualified sites will be recruited from jobs where they were already contracted to install a dual-fuel system and Swift team members may join the contractor and may ask the customer if they want to participate in the study. We expect homeowner recruitment to begin in September and run through November 2026.

Utility Communications:

The team is planning to develop a participant tracker with the relevant gas and electric utilities listed. As contractors are onboarded, NEEA program staff may reach out to the relevant utilities in the operating territory to inform them of outreach. Only NEEA and Swift will be referenced in any communication materials with the contractor or homeowner. There is no action required of utilities. NEEA program staff will provide FAQ materials that the contractors and homeowners receive for awareness.

PROGRAM LIFECYCLE STATUS



Memorandum - Informational (Tier 2)

6/30/2026 - Sent via email to the following committees



TO: Natural Gas Advisory Committee
Regional Portfolio Advisory Committee
Residential Coordinating Committee

FROM: Deborah Sunada, Program Manager, Residential Dual-Fuel HVAC

SUBJECT: Funder Notification of Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC Switchover Temperature Behavior Study

Our Ask of You:

Share the information in this memo with the necessary stakeholders in your organization for awareness of this field study. Contact Program Manager Deborah Sunada (dsunada@neea.org) for more information or coordinate on the effort.

Brief Overview:

The Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC program is preparing to launch a field study to better understand the dual-fuel switchover setpoints that maximize heat pump utilization and savings while maintaining homeowner comfort and minimizing risk of post-installation adjustments. This will include recruiting at least 50 homeowners from across the region, setting the heat pump switchover temperature according to a test plan developed, and collecting feedback through online surveys throughout the test period. Regional outreach is expected to begin in August 2026.

The DF Res HVAC team and our contractors, Swift Strategy, want to ensure key stakeholders in your organizations are aware of this work and want to answer any questions your team has to prepare for any communications received from customers.

Please contact Deborah Sunada (dsunada@neea.org) if you have questions about this memo.

PROGRAM LIFECYCLE STATUS



Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1300, Portland, OR 97232
503.688.5400 | Fax 503.688.5447
neea.org | info@neea.org

Description of Study:

The study will identify dual-fuel switchover setpoints that maximize heat pump utilization and savings while maintaining homeowner comfort and minimizing risk of post-installation adjustments. Objectives include quantifying comfort and acceptability across a range of switchover setpoints, documenting how switchover is implemented across different system types, and understand contractor influence on initial switchover settings. The project anticipates a minimum of 50 participants across the region. Details of this study are still being finalized and will be shared in a future notification.

Insights from the study will provide critical information on quantifying impacts of behavior across different switchover temperature setpoints and resultant energy savings as inputs to future dual-fuel programs.

Recruitment & Data Collection:

We anticipate outreach and recruitment to be conducted between **August - October 2026** via HVAC contractors installing new dual-fuel systems; this may also include homeowners who have installed a dual-fuel system in the last year. The project team will work with HVAC contractors to screen new installations for willing participants and follow up with site visits before accepting participants. The project team seeks to recruit at least 50 participants across the alliance's four state region.

Data collection will go through March/April 2027. The primary data collection method will entail customers completing out 3-4 surveys over the entire period. Participants will be shown how to adjust their switchover temperature as necessary.

Homeowners will receive a \$250 gift card or similar after the study period. Contractors will receive an incentive and those details will be provided in a future update.

How the Study Benefits Utilities:

There is extensive modelling and laboratory research on ideal dual-fuel switchover temperature setpoints for maximizing energy efficiency and energy savings along with acknowledgement on the gap between the modelling results and actual field findings. The study aims to quantify switchover setpoints, installation practices, and customer comfort and behavior insights that may be used to improve program requirements and delivery.

NEEA Forums – Awareness & Results:

The intentions for this behavioral study were shared with the Natural Gas Advisory Committee, Dual-Fuel Product Workgroup, and the NEEA Board of Directors in June 2026. In addition, this FAQ was emailed to Regional Portfolio Advisory Committee and Residential Coordinating Committee members.

Results will be shared directly through the following NEEA forums: a Product Council, Natural Gas Advisory Committee, and Cost-Effectiveness and Evaluation Advisory Committee. Informational memos may also be included in meeting packets for the Regional Portfolio Advisory Committee and Residential Coordinating Committee.

Memorandum – *Informational item (Tier 2)*



September 2, 2026

TO: Natural Gas Advisory Committee (NGAC)

FROM: Emily Moore, Director, Market Strategy & Execution and Dave Hammond, Manager,
Program Management

SUBJECT: Program Expansion Update for Advanced Performance DOAS

Our Ask of You:

Please review the memo and bring any questions, recommendations, feedback, or concerns to the upcoming NGAC webinar, or contact NEEA staff listed below.

In Q2, NEEA staff shared an overview of program expansion opportunities and a proposed approach for stakeholder engagement in these instances. The Committee also heard more specifics about an upcoming opportunity to expand the Advanced Performance DOAS program to include DOAS units paired with gas heating systems.

As a reminder, in both the electric and natural gas portfolios, new opportunities are emerging that expand the scope of an existing program. Many of these opportunities cross fuels and may ultimately lead to dual-fuel funded programs. By definition, program expansions are the advancement of a technology or solution that is closely aligned with an existing NEEA program and can be effectively delivered by adapting that program's scope, intervention strategies, and market approach. Program expansions leverage established market knowledge, relationships, and infrastructure to reduce duplication, lower incremental risk, and accelerate entry into Market Development.

In Q4, NGAC will be reviewing the Program Advancement milestone to add Advanced Performance DOAS to the natural gas portfolio and begin co-investing in Market Development activities. With a successful vote, the program will track and report electric and gas savings and become dual-fuel funded. As discussed in Q2, this change will help accelerate the overall market transformation effort by engaging building owners and designers regardless of their fuel choice.

In parallel to bringing the program forward to NGAC and facilitating that committee's review and vote, NEEA staff will keep RPAC apprised and ensure the following is shared with RPAC for visibility and opportunity for feedback:

- Proposed changes to the program's scope and MT interventions
- Benefits and any potential risks from the current program perspective
- Methodology for the co-funding approach and funding share for the electric and gas portfolios

Please **contact Emily Moore (emoore@neea.org) or Dave Hammond (dhammond@neea.org)** if you have questions about the planned program expansion.

Market Progress Quarterly Report

Residential



**Retail Products
Portfolio**



**Heat Pump Water
Heaters**



**Advanced Heat
Pumps**

Commercial and Industrial



High Performance HVAC



Extended Motor Products



Efficient Rooftop Units



Efficient Fans



**Luminaire Level Lighting
Controls**



**Advanced Commercial
Water Heating**

Infrastructure



BetterBricks

Residential

Initiative Name					
Manager		Fuel Type		Initiative Goal	
Consumer Products Product Group	Retail Products Portfolio (RPP)	Anne Brink	Electric	Leverage midstream incentives to influence retail stocking practices, ultimately driving manufacturing and standards for a portfolio of energy efficient products sold through the retail channel.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Advance heat pump dryer and refrigerator readiness for further market adoption in Cycle 7.	Initiate testing of refrigerators by Q2 2026. Produce initial insights on product updates for heat pump dryers by Q4 2026.	Complete one of the following activities: Initiate testing of refrigerators by Q2 2026. Produce initial insights related to product improvements for heat pump dryers by Q4 2026.	Heads up	Refrigerator testing of advanced adaptive controls was initiated early in Q2 and is on track for completion in 2027. Heat pump dryer research on consumer dissatisfiers will provide initial insights in Q1 2027.
	Develop an action plan to accelerate ENERGY STAR TV market share by Q2 2026. Add TV incentives to ESRPP by Q3 2026.	Develop an action plan to accelerate ENERGY STAR TV market share by Q2 2026. Add TV incentives to ESRPP by Q3 2026.	Develop an action plan to accelerate ENERGY STAR TV market share by Q2 2026.	Heads up	The team developed an accelerated TV action plan during Q2. Progress was also made on the TV voluntary agreement with signatories verbally agreeing to on-mode power levels in Q2. The team will work to gain support for ENERGY STAR TV's among current and potential ESRPP sponsors and work to include ENERGY STAR TV's in the ESRPP portfolio, though that is not likely to happen until 2028.
	Strengthen relationships with key partners to maintain and improve long term program success.	Identify one collaborative marketing sales effort with retailers by Q2 2026 to implement in 2027. Scope opportunity with Pro Channel and develop recommendations by Q3 2026.	Identify one collaborative marketing sales effort with retailers by Q2 2026 to implement in 2027.	On target	The RPP team is working with one major retailer to advance the sales of heat pump water heaters. This retailer is planning to update website content and sales associate selling tools to improve sales performance in this product category. Additional promotional activities are being explored by the retailer's program contacts and the merchant team. Pro Channel investigation is complete and the findings and recommendations will be reviewed internally in Q3.

Residential

Initiative Name					
Manager		Fuel Type		Initiative Goal	
Water Heating Product Group	Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWHs)	Emily Rosenbloom	Electric	Influence passage of a federal standard for all electric storage tanks > 45 gallons by 2025.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Deepen engagement with local stakeholders to accelerate adoption and impact.	Conduct at least four new collaborations with regional stakeholders to accelerate adoption of HPWH.	Conduct at least two new collaborations with regional stakeholders to accelerate adoption of HPWH.	Heads up	In Q2, the program continued convening the HPWH utility work group. The work group focused on prioritizing strategies identified by the group followed by in-depth discussions of the identified priority strategies. The work group is continuing to meet in Q3 to continue these discussions. The program continued the partnership with Energy Trust of Oregon to deliver targeted retail training at two Lowe's branches in Oregon in Q2, equipping store employees with key information and considerations for HPWH sales. The program is on track to meet the threshold of this goal.
	Leverage national engagement to increase extra-regional adoption of HPWHs to ease the transition to the upcoming standard change.	Collaborate with at least three extra-regional partners on an activity to increase the market share of HPWH by Q3 2026.	Collaborate with at least two extra-regional partners on an activity to increase the market share of HPWH by Q4 2026.	On target	In Q2, the program led a Regional Energy Efficiency Organization (REEO) roundtable call to share updates on HPWH efforts throughout the country. The program also met with Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) separately to share best practice experiences in engaging HPWH installers and regional stakeholders. The program is on track to meet the target of this goal.
	Ensure a broad range of high-performing products are available and well-supported by maintaining and updating product qualification standards, expanding technical resources, and showcasing innovation.	Complete lab testing and award Hot Water Innovation Prize by Q3 2026 Secure commitment from at least two entities to run demonstration projects with the winning product to bring awareness to the innovative solution.	Complete lab testing and award Hot Water Innovation Prize by Q3 2026.	On target	In Q2, the program completed lab testing for the Hot Water Innovation Prize and the winner was selected and notified. The winner will be announced in Q3 and an industry conference was secured to host the announcement. The program also identified a third demonstration project partner to build awareness of the winning product. The program is on track to meet the target of this goal.

Residential

Initiative Name		Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
HVAC Product Group	Advanced Heat Pumps	Suzi Asmus	Electric	Develop program to lock in heat pump efficiency that is 30 percent more efficient than current standards via a series of improvements to the federal test procedure and minimum standard, driving transition from all electric heating to VSHP across all applications and optimizing performance with connected controls.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Build alignment with priority partners and manufacturers on products, standards, codes, specifications, and metrics that include advanced heat pump improvements.	Conduct targeted outreach to each of the program’s priority partners and manufacturers to achieve strategic alignment, resulting in individualized strategic plans with at least six partners by Q4 2026.	Conduct targeted outreach to each of the program’s priority partners and manufacturers to achieve strategic alignment, resulting in individualized strategic plans with at least three partners by Q4 2026.	On target	NEEA has begun development of strategic plans for a total of eight priority partners, including four manufacturers and four efficiency organization partners. Two manufacturers and two national laboratories are co-funding connected commissioning certification testing with NEEA. Six additional manufacturers are co-developing with NEEA a new connected commissioning certification requirement. NEEA’s work with Regional Technical Forum and other regional energy efficiency stakeholders has resulted in significant alignment on a strategy to minimize use of electric resistance heat through utility program measures.
	Refine improvement specifications and savings rate confidence.	Launch current practice field research and start 3-5 field demonstrations in Q3 2026.	Launch current practice field research and initiate contracting for 3-5 field demonstrations in Q4 2026.	On target	NEEA is working with Driftless Energy to conduct the heat pump field study on current practices for heat pump installations. Participant recruitment is anticipated to start in September. NEEA completed two field demonstrations of embedded commissioning capabilities in the Daikin and Trane systems. Three additional field demonstrations are in development for completion in September and October, positioning the program well to meet the goal for the year.
	Effectively communicate value proposition to key market stakeholders and strategic partners.	Develop and deploy 3-5 high value communications pieces (e.g. videos, infographics, case studies, testimonials) by Q4 2026.	Develop and deploy two high value communications pieces by Q4 2026.	On target	Foundational program collateral is now in place with a photo library, new program-related content on BetterBuiltNW.com, and conference-ready materials (banner, tabletop signage, 1-pagers, and a "recipe card" for Advanced Heat pumps). The program's first field demonstrations of Daikin's and Trane's embedded commissioning capabilities informed two summary communications shared with utilities for discussion in the Consortium for Energy Efficiency forum. Additional pieces are in development for completion in 2026.

Commercial and Industrial

Commercial and Industrial					
Initiative Name		Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
HVAC Product Group	High-Performance HVAC / Very High Efficiency Dedicated Outside Air Systems (VHE DOAS)	Dave Hammond	Electric	Accelerate the adoption of high efficiency HVAC systems and components, and support commercial code advancement that requires the very high efficiency DOAS approach or equivalent efficiency by 2035.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Promote system approach and highlight full value proposition (including non-energy benefits) throughout the supply chain.	Conduct at least 10 awareness or educational efforts targeting supply chain audiences.	Conduct at least 7 awareness or educational efforts targeting supply chain audiences.	On target	The Advanced Performance DOAS program conducted five additional presentations/educational events in Q2, highlighted by an opportunity to discuss DOAS benefits at a Seattle building tour event and multiple presentations on the recent ERV/HRV testing procedure analysis results to national leaders focused on commercial codes & standards. This brings the total educational efforts to eight for the year, well on track to exceed the target of ten efforts for the year.
	Expand program engagement strategy and technical resources to include focus on efficient hydronic heating and cooling systems (e.g. air-to-water heat pumps).	Develop and publish at least five technical resources and/or case studies focused on very high efficiency DOAS and hydronic heating and cooling to BetterBricks.	Develop and publish at least three technical resources and/or case studies focused on very high efficiency DOAS and hydronic heating and cooling to BetterBricks.	On target	The program team continued to review and update core program documents in Q2 to ensure hydronic system specifications are clearly defined. External facing updates to two core program resources are planned to be completed by Q3. Additional existing materials will be updated in Q4 as well as the creation of new resources. The program team is on track to meet or exceed the target of five hydronic-focused technical resources and/or case studies.
	Build support for NEEA's proposed code changes for ASHRAE and IECC.	ASHRAE technical committee accepts new ERV/HRV testing procedure using components of the CSA SP18 testing procedure.	Submit proposed change to ASHRAE committee overseeing ERV/HRV testing procedures using components of the CSA SP18 testing procedure.	Action required	The testing of the CSA SP18 testing procedure was completed in Q2 with the accompanying report planned for publication and presentations in Q3. Prior to moving forward with the submission of an American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) code proposal, the program team now plans to build support for this proposal through engagement with the Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) and the key manufacturers participating with AHRI. This was identified as a critical step in order to gain ASHRAE support for new testing procedure proposals. This will likely delay the timing of this strike zone target & threshold, pushing the ASHRAE proposal to 2027.

Commercial and Industrial

Initiative Name		Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
HVAC Product Group	Efficient Rooftop Units (Efficient RTUs)	Jason Jones	Gas	Increase the efficiency of rooftop units through product differentiation and ultimately an updated federal standard by 2034 that requires at least 20 percent more efficient RTUs than the 2020 market average.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Deepen and expand manufacturer relationships to support and accelerate their product development efforts on efficient RTUs for the light commercial market.	Engage with a minimum of three new, code-level manufacturers (e.g., Trane, Lennox, Carrier, etc.) to develop plans for producing new eligible equipment.	"Achieve one of the following outcomes: Two manufacturers (new or existing) producing new eligible equipment. Two new price points introduced. Two expanded product lines serving the light commercial market."	On target	The program team is currently engaging with Carrier, Trane, and York (Bosch) about adding AP RTU features in new designs. Additionally, as part of CEE's RTU Project team, NEEA staff are working with industry partners (manufacturers) to finalize new CEE efficiency tiers that will include additional features (low leakage dampers, etc.).
	Continue to create and increase partnerships and support for already-qualified efficient RTUs among market actors (manufacturers, manufacturer reps, distributors, contractors) and utilities across the U.S. and Canada.	Recruit six new manufacturers/ distributors/ manufacturer representatives to provide efficient RTU sales data by Q2 2026.	Recruit four new manufacturers/ distributors/ manufacturer representatives to provide sales data by Q4 2026.	Heads up	The program has a project order in place with one manufacturer rep to collect sales data, and is working with 4 additional partners to get agreements in place. Currently, the program is on track to meet the goal threshold.
	Build market actor awareness to ensure a clear, cohesive set of value propositions for efficient RTUs throughout the supply chain.	Deliver four high-impact engagements (e.g., in-person trainings or presentations) utilizing four new marketing assets tailored to supply chain groups such as installers, contractors or facility organizations by Q3 2026.	Develop four new marketing assets (e.g., trainings, flyers, case studies, etc.) by Q4 2026.	Heads up	Marketing team has created multiple marketing assets for Advance Performance RTUs, resulting in increased traffic to the RTU page on BetterBricks. Program is not on pace to meet the goal target goal of delivering four engagements by end of Q3 but is expecting to have at least four by the end of 2026 and exceeding the goal threshold goal.

Commercial and Industrial

Commercial and Industrial					
Initiative Name		Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
HVAC Product Group	Dual-Fuel Residential HVAC	Deborah Sunada	Gas	Build awareness and communicate the value proposition of optimally designed and installed dual fuel systems while supporting the market in developing and specifying the best performing systems, including grid-enabled controls benefits.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Validate dual fuel system product performance and energy savings through demonstration projects.	Complete 2 demonstration projects showcasing dual fuel configuration technology or demand response capabilities with final reports published.	Complete one demonstration project and initiate second demonstration project showcasing dual fuel product performance and energy savings.	Heads up	This goal is ongoing with one demonstration project completed and a second field research project underway. Completed project report is expected to be published in Q3 2026. Second field study is expected to collect data through 2026-2027 heating season.
	Understand current market conditions in Residential HVAC and implications/motivators for adoption across the supply chain and consumers.	Complete Market Characterization study and issue final report.	Complete Market Characterization study with initial findings	On target	This goal is on target with the Market Characterization study ongoing and final report expected in Q4 2026.
	Identify and refine program barriers, leverage points, and interventions.	Develop preliminary logic model including barriers, leverage points, and interventions using Market Characterization findings.	Develop preliminary logic model.	On target	This goal is on target with preliminary logic model developed in Q3 2026 and Market Characterization findings that will be incorporated in Q4 2026.
	Refine target market, baseline conditions and near-term gas savings	Refine Program Development target market, baseline and validate gas savings over baseline.	Refine Program Development target market and baseline.	Heads up	The work to refine the target market and baseline is ongoing as part of program development. Independent validation of gas savings over baseline will be conducted in Q1/Q2 2027.

Commercial and Industrial

Initiative Name					Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
Lighting Product Group	Luminaire Level Lighting Controls (LLLC)		Anne Curran		Electric		Develop best practice specifications for luminaire level lighting controls, aiming to have the technology adopted as standard industry practice.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones		Target		Threshold		Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Strengthen focus and promotion of LLLC by key manufacturer sales channels to motivate more sales professionals to champion LLLC to their customers.		Collaborate on strategic events with 14 manufacturer representatives who have not previously featured LLLC.		Collaborate on strategic events with 10 manufacturer representatives who have not previously featured LLLC.		On target	The program team supported Idaho Power on two trade ally lighting trainings in Q2, featuring eight lighting manufacturer representatives who had not previously worked with the LLLC program to promote LLLC. These events serve the dual purpose of featuring LLLC to this lighting installer audience and also strengthening the capacity and commitment of these manufacturer representatives to champion LLLC to their clients in the future. The program is well positioned to meet its goal in 2026.
	Influence leading lighting designers, engineers and installers to include LLLC in their ongoing business practices.		Conduct 10 educational events, with at least four featuring a presentation by a lighting designer, engineer or installer.		Conduct eight educational events, with at least three featuring a presentation by a lighting designer, engineer or installer.		On target	The program team collaborated in Q2 with Energy Trust of Oregon to deliver two trainings for LLLC. The first was featured at Energy Trust of Oregon 2026 Technical Forum, and a second was featured Energy Trust of Oregon Existing Buildings Trade Ally Trainings in Portland, Bend and Medford. Additionally, the program delivered a hands-on LLLC training to staff at Platt Electric, a lighting distributor. The program is well positioned to meet its goal for 2026.
Increase visibility and demand for LLLC through strategic national engagements to build scale.		Strengthen strategic alignment and collaboration with IES, DLC and ASHRAE.		Strengthen strategic alignment and collaboration with at least two of the three following organizations – IES, DLC or ASHRAE.		On target	Design Lights Consortium (DLC) which administers the national technical specification and qualified product list (QPL) for LLLC, updated its specifications v5.2 to include the capture of information about connectivity of LLLC to HVAC via a thermostat, influenced by NEEA's work on this emerging capability. The DLC v5.2 update also includes system configuration reporting aligned with industry standards, which NEEA supported. NEEA staff is representing Lighting on ASHRAE's board for the new Center of Excellence for Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ). The new IEQ education rolled out in Q2 positions LLLC as a key solution to meet recommended capabilities. These developments in Q2 with both DLC and ASHRAE position the program well to meet its 2026 goal.	

Commercial and Industrial

Commercial and Industrial					
Initiative Name		Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
Motors Product Group	Extended Motors Products (XMP)	Warren Fish	Electric	Working midstream with distributors and manufacturers, drive awareness, stocking and sales of highly efficient pumps and circulators, and influence Federal standards over time.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Motivate participating manufacturer representative firms to preferentially stock and increase sales of smart pumps and smart circulators.	Reach market share of 25% for smart pumps and smart circulators, excluding sales in the submersible turbine category.	Reach market share of 20% for smart pumps and smart circulators, excluding sales in the submersible turbine category.	On target	Smart pumps reached 26% market share in Q2 and smart circulators reached 47% market share in Q2, reflecting outstanding efforts by participating rep firms to convince customers of the value of high efficiency pumps and circulators.
	Raise awareness of the value of efficient pump products and increase the use of the ER label in identifying smart pumps.	Complete 15+ high-impact awareness building activities: HI progress toward smart pump registry, smart pump promotion resources, case studies, lunch & learn events, and "Industry Voices" videos.	Complete 10+ high-impact awareness building activities: HI progress toward smart pump registry, smart pump promotion resources, case studies, lunch & learn events, and "Industry Voices" videos.	On target	The program is on track to meet this goal, with multiple awareness building highlights from the first half of the year: Hydraulic Institute (HI) has wireframes and smart pump content drafted for HI Smart Pump Database the Alliance is supporting; five lunch & learn and distributor events completed; and Smart Pump case study analysis complete and progressing toward publication.
	Accelerate program participation by growing the number of participating manufacturer representative firms, and by expanding the program scope into additional markets.	Recruit manufacturer representative firms to support and participate in program activities, resulting in a total of at least 12 firms by Q4 2026.	Recruit manufacturer representative firms to support and participate in program activities, resulting in a total of at least 10 firms by Q4 2026.	On target	Have ten active participants and are currently developing agreements with two additional pump company participants, one in industrial and one in irrigation/well pumping.

Commercial and Industrial

Initiative Name		Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
Motors Product Group	Efficient Fans	Alexis Muench	Electric	Develop program to accelerate the adoption of efficient fans and fan system components.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Complete critical program development activities, finalize the Market Transformation theory and logic model, and gather additional market data to support program advancement to Market Development in 2026.	Finalize Market Transformation theory and key intervention strategies by Q3 2026.	Finalize Market Transformation theory and key intervention strategies by Q4 2026.	On target	Finalized the Market Transformation theory and logic model, completed critical program development activities, and gathered additional market data before Q3—supporting the program’s planned advancement to Market Development in 2026.
	Leverage findings from recent market research on specifiers and manufacturer representatives to refine messaging, test market responses, and better understand communication channels that influence purchasing decisions.	Develop 2+ resources by the end of Q3 that further define target audiences and their intervention points based on market research, manufacturer and rep engagement, events, and conversations with industry leaders.	Develop 2+ resources by end of Q4 that further define target audiences and their intervention points based on market research, manufacturer and rep engagement, events, and conversations with industry leaders.	On target	Developed and circulated three audience and market-engagement resources before Q3. Informed by partner engagement, industry events, market research, and conversations with market leaders.
	"Build on the program’s relationship with the Air Movement and Controls Association (AMCA) to strengthen FEI awareness across the market and collaborating on a potential data collection effort involving multiple fan manufacturers."	Finalize a renewed AMCA partnership agreement and execute 3+ strategic initiatives that measurably expand FEI visibility, strengthen industry alignment, and support manufacturer engagement.	Execute strategic collaboration with AMCA through 2 initiatives, including conferences, communications, or joint initiatives that expand FEI visibility.	On target	This goal was met as the program finalized the renewed AMCA partnership agreement, participated in an AMCA subcommittee, presented at an industry conference, and completed FEI education initiatives to increase FEI visibility, strengthen industry alignment, and support manufacturer engagement.

Commercial and Industrial

Commercial and Industrial					
Initiative Name		Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
Water Heating Group	Advanced Commercial Water Heating		Gas	The program will transform the commercial and multifamily water heating retrofit and new construction market to increase the adoption of gas heat pump (GHP) water heating systems, resulting in reduced gas consumption and carbon emissions in these sectors.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Validate advanced commercial water heating systems' performance and savings via continued field and lab testing	Complete and share interim field test findings with stakeholders and identify and scope opportunity to validate performance in additional target application.	Complete field test interim report and identify opportunity to validate performance in additional target application	Heads up	One field demonstration is in progress and another is expected to begin in Q3. The program has also selected a lab to test configurations for commercial applications that we have not been able to conduct in the field, specifically lodging, and testing will commence in Q3. For the field demonstration currently in progress, the system continues to be monitored and is achieving system COPs over 2. Metering and monitoring will begin in Q3 at the second demonstration site. The field test interim draft report is expected at the end of Q3.
	Complete the market characterization and integrate learnings into the program's Market Transformation theory and intervention strategy.	Integrate learnings from market characterization and internal synthesis session to update MT Theory and Logic Model.	Complete study and hold internal synthesis session	On target	The Market Characterization of Commercial Water Heating Systems in Select North American Regions has been completed in partnership with the North American Gas Heat Pump Collaborative, with a team synthesis session planned for Q3. The findings will be integrated into the program's Market Transformation theory and Logic Model, as well as overall program strategy. The program has also launched a Limited RFP for the Commercial Dual Fuel & Electric Water Heating Market Characterization Study, targeting work to begin in Q4 2026.
	Engage manufacturers and key stakeholders to refine channel development interventions.	Initiate manufacturer and key stakeholder engagement plans by end of Q3.	Finalize manufacturer and key stakeholder engagement plans by end of Q3	Heads up	The program awarded the Program Engagement Support work in Q2, which will formalize engagement strategy with upstream and midstream market actors, strengthen relationships, and seek to identify opportunities to support commercial water heating advancement in the Northwest. Manufacturer and Key Stakeholder Engagement Plans are on track to be finalized by the end of Q3. Engagement Plan facilitation will not initiate until Q4.

Infrastructure

Initiative Name		Manager	Fuel Type	Initiative Goal	
Infrastructure Programs	BetterBricks	Josh Pelham	Electric	To support the alliance’s commercial and industrial programs by fostering market relationships and providing tools and resources to help raise market awareness and capability for energy-efficient products, services and practices.	
	2026 Operations Plan Milestones	Target	Threshold	Status as of 8/24/2026	Comment
	Increase BetterBricks brand awareness and audience reach.	Increase website traffic by 12% year-over-year.	Increase website traffic by 8% year-over-year.	On target	Due to a big increase in BetterBricks events and the initial launch of a regional HVAC campaign in Q2, the BetterBricks website saw a 24.1% increase in traffic compared to Q2 2025. The team expects this number to continue to grow in Q3 as in-market activities and the HVAC campaign continue to ramp up.
	Influence commercial building industry perspectives and practices.	Engage in 15 market events, including hosting or cohosting at least two. Publish 12 pieces of original content."	Engage in 10 market events, including hosting or cohosting at least one. Publish eight pieces of original content"	On target	BetterBricks and NEEA's commercial programs participated in 13 industry events in Q2, including: - Three events with regional IFMA organizations (IFMA OR & SW WA and IFMA Seattle), including two expo-style events and one lunch and learn spotlighting advanced performance DOAS. - Attendance and a lighting presentation at the Northwest Facilities Expo in Portland, OR. - Attendance and sponsorship at two Seattle 2030 events: the Vision Awards and Energy Week, including co-hosting a building tour at the Metropole building in Seattle with University of Washington's Integrated Design Lab. - Hosting a booth at NEEA's regional Efficiency Exchange conference in Boise, ID. An additional 10 events are currently being planned for in Q3. Four new resources were added to betterbricks.com in Q2, including: - One video and print case study featuring luminaire level lighting controls at a K-12 school in Vancouver, WA. - One new BetterBricks Industry Voices article featuring a lighting expert discussing the community impacts of lighting upgrades. - Two fact sheets, including one covering multi-pump booster systems and another discussing code compliance requirements of the Fan Energy Index (FEI).