



EAAC Definitions Subcommittee: Looking Back



https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,9535,7-395-93307_93312_93320_94834-558075--,00.html

HELLO AGAIN!

GROUND RULES, ETTIQUETTE, & GUIDING VALUES!



REMINDER OF OUR CHARGE



Establish **common definition of energy security/self-sufficiency** – begin with proposed definition by MEAP Workgroup Subcommittee 2.



Develop proposal for an **energy affordability standard** and how the standard can be integrated into the regulatory environment.



Draft suggested requirements for consistent **energy affordability-related information** for utilities to submit to appropriate dockets: rate cases, IRPs, EWR cases.



TODAY'S AGENDA

1. Review where we have been
2. Discuss next steps including stakeholder input
3. Discuss meeting cadence

A hiker in a dark jacket and beanie stands on a rocky mountain ridge, holding a trekking pole. They are looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range with many layers of peaks receding into the distance. The foreground shows dry grass and rocks.

**Our progress
so far...**

Possible Definitions



- 📍 Surveyed this subcommittee regarding preference for 1 of 7 definitions.
 - 9 respondents, 11 choices
- 📍 Narrowed down the definitions to 5
- 📍 Plan B: get feedback on components of the definition

Survey Responses (6)



Able to be Afforded

- How would you qualify energy as “able to be afforded?”
 - A household has the resources to meet their home energy needs...
40.00% 2
 - A household’s home energy needs are being met....
60.00% 3

Qualifying Uses

- In defining energy affordability, would you qualify home energy uses as “for heating, cooling, and other uses?”
 - Yes 100.00% 6

Survey Responses



Energy Efficiency

📍 In addressing the manner in which energy is used, which phrasing do you prefer?

- ...while promoting energy efficiency... 33.33% 2
- ...in an energy efficient manner... 66.67% 4

Survey Responses

- What is your preference for phrasing that qualifies the manner in which energy affordability is achieved?
 - ...that promotes health and well-being... 33.33% 2
 - ...in a healthy and sustainable manner 66.67% 4



Survey Responses

Cost of Energy

📍 In defining energy affordability, how would you qualify “having a cost that is not too high?”

- ...with cost efficient energy pricing... 16.67% 1
- ...without compromising the household's ability to meet other basic needs... 33.33% 2
- Neither of these phrases. I would leave this concept out of the definition. 50.00% 3



Definition Options

Energy is Affordable if...

- A. A household's home energy needs for heating, cooling and other uses (6/6) are being met (3/5) in a healthy, sustainable (4/6) and energy efficient manner (4/6) *(no reference to cost 3/6)*.
- B. A household's home energy needs for heating, cooling and other uses are being met in a healthy, sustainable and energy efficient manner *without compromising a household's ability to meet other basic needs (2/6)*.
- C. A household's home energy needs for heating, cooling and other uses are being met in a healthy, sustainable and energy efficient manner *with cost efficient pricing (1/6)*.



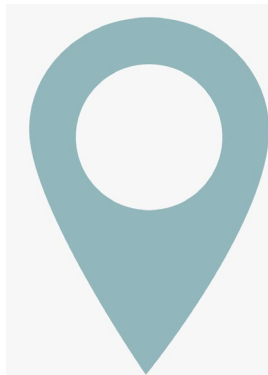
QUESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND

Will this definition, as refined, help us to develop an energy affordability standard and measure success?

Does this definition point us to data that will be useful to consistently collect in rate cases?



Taking Definitions on the Road



Discussion

In what ways can we build consensus around a definition?

- How might we broaden input into the definition beyond this small group?
- How might we gain input from additional stakeholders including low- and middle-income utility customers?

Goal: to discuss, hear each other, and work toward consensus.



Suggestions from our last stop



- 📍 Small focus groups with targeted, specific questions:
- “Energy is affordable if...”

Survey

- 📍 Energy assistance applicants at intake
- 📍 Energy assistance intake staff
- 📍 A broader group
 - 2-3 definitions choices



Suggestions from our last stop



- 📍 Obtain input from EAAC following community group input
- 📍 Allow constituents to help flesh out the concepts in the definition:
 - health, costs, efficiency...

Additional thoughts and suggestions?

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Goal: to discuss,
hear each other,
and work toward
consensus.





Where do we go from here?

Propose Questions To Outreach and Education

Goal: to discuss,
hear each other,
and work toward
consensus.



- What are we trying to learn?
- What elements can additional stakeholders help to inform?
- Where do we lack consensus?

Follow-up Meeting



Goal: to discuss, hear each other, and work toward consensus.

- Receive and discuss feedback from stakeholders
- Determine any additional steps
- Recommend one or more possible definitions

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- “Develop a proposal for an energy affordability standard and how the standard can be integrated into the regulatory environment.”
- Transition into discussions about an energy affordability standard.