Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group

2020 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Proposed Energy Efficiency Ideas Template

Submitter Contact Information

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CIC is submitting eight idea area (see table of contents.)

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Idea #7: Combining incentive and financing programs.

Idea #8: Improve energy efficiency programs for non-owner occupied 1- and 2-unit homes.

Idea #1: Portfolio Applications.

Energy Efficiency Idea Questions

Check	Type of Energy Efficiency Idea
	New Measure or New Program Idea
\boxtimes	Proposed Program Approach
	Innovative Idea

Check	Illinois Utility Impacted by Energy Efficiency Idea
	Ameren Illinois
	ComEd
	Nicor Gas
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Portfolio Applications. Improve process for portfolios of similar buildings by allowing a portfolio application that reduces paperwork.

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

For both IEMS and Affordable New Construction Programs, a new intake pathway should streamline applications for portfolios of similar buildings in one customer's application.

3. **Background:** Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

Currently, a customer applying for the IEMS or affordable new construction program for three similar, adjacent three-flats, would have to complete individual applications for each building. Similarly, a project with multiple addresses in a complex (determined by individual utility accounts in a complex or larger property with multiple buildings) requires a burdensome number of individual incentive applications, is inconvenient for portfolio managers, and can slow down the process.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

New application procedure accounting for portfolios of buildings from one customer would decrease staff and applicant time, improve customer service, and greatly improve administrative efficiency. Potentially 50% of current annual IEMS customers could benefit from streamlined applications.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

Duration of the 4-year EE Plan

6. Estimated Budget: Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

To be determined. Potentially cost savings through reduced adminitrative effort.

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

Potentially 50% of current annual IEMS customers could benefit from streamline applications.

Sources

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Additional gas funding for joint, comprehensive upgrade programs. Additional funds from Nicor for joint ComEd/Nicor MF IQ program.

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

Nicor allocate additional funds to the joint IEMS program with ComEd.

3. **Background:** Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

The jointly implemented ComEd/Peoples/North Shore program is highly successful and impactful for IQ customers in those service territories. For Nicor, however, many fewer customers are served because of limited Nicor funding.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

A more robust Nicor/ComEd multifamily program would greatly enhance the service and savings for suburban and downstate customers.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

Duration of the 4-year EE Plan

6. Estimated Budget: Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

Ensure that at least the minimum percentage spend on IQ MF from the last portfolio's stipulation agreement is met and maintained (at least 30% of IQ budgets should be spent on IQ MF).

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

To be determined.

Sources

Idea #3: One-Stop-Shop marketing for all MF programs.

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One-Stop-Shop marketing for all MF programs. Ensure that IQ eligible participants are never routed to market rate programs. Market rate programs should screen out and refer IQ customers to the IQ programs.

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

Outreach efforts conducted by implementers for all multifamily programs should cross-refer customers to the program most beneficial to the customer.

3. **Background:** Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

This recommendation is based on the best practice of providing a "one-stop shop" for customers entering the utility energy efficiency programs. Currently, outreach and intake staff do not uniformly cross-refer customers to other programs. An income-qualified customer could receive outreach from the market rate MF program and miss out on the offerings designed for them.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

This would ensure that all eligible customers would have an opportunity to participate in the program designed for them and would correctly allocate program resources by customer type.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

Duration of the 4-year EE Plan

6. Estimated Budget: Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

To be determined. Modest additional outreach budget could be allocated to this area.

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

n/a

Sources

Idea #4: Enhance multifamily building owner customer outreach by targeted building owners.

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Enhance multifamily building owner customer outreach by targeted building owners.

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

Outreach efforts for multifamily programs should narrowly focus on building owners. This outreach may look different from other IQ outreach. Neighborhood owners groups, industry associations like Chicago Apartment Association and Chicago Association of Realtors, among other groups, are valuable venues to target owners and apartment managers. Creating partnerships with commercial lenders is another opportunity to interface with building owners.

3. **Background:** Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

This simple outreach idea would better target multifamily owners. Multifamily owners may gather online and in person at different events than single family owner occupants and neighborhood residents.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

Targeted building-owner outreach will increase the participation level of multifamily programs.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

6. Estimated Budget: Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

To be determined. Modest additional outreach budget could be allocated to this area.

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

n/a

Sources

Idea #5: Determine IQ eligibility using the qualification methodologies that are the least burdensome and time-consuming for building owners.

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<u>Questions to consider</u>: What issue will this proposed change resolve? Will the proposed change increase participation and result in increased energy savings? Will this reduce costs? Will this increase customer satisfaction? Will this help achieve statutory goals? Will this help increase program penetration?

Continue to determine IQ eligibility using the qualification methodologies that are the least burdensome and time-consuming for building owners and maximize the potential for and ease of participation in their Income Qualified multifamily Programs

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

This idea is currently standard procedure for the IQ programs, but it is essential to ensure access to the programs for all eligible customers.

3. **Background:** Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

This "least-burdensome" IQ eligibility determination has already been adopted in the Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual Version 2.0 and should be practiced in all future IQ programs.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

Determining IQ eligibility using the least burdensome income qualification methodology ensures that the programs reach their intended customers. This is essential to achieving savings and spending targets in this customer segment.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

Duration of the 4-year EE Plan or Pilot

6. Estimated Budget: Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

No additional budget required.

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

n/a

Sources

If any sources will be useful to Illinois utilities in reviewing ideas, please either provide links within this template or send attachment(s) to the SAG Facilitator with the Energy Efficiency Idea submittal.

Exhibit A Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual Version 2.0 4.3 Income Eligibility Verification Guidelines for Low Income Customers

Idea #6: Enable energy efficiency programs to incentivize bringing vacant/distressed units to above-code energy efficiency.

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Enable energy efficiency programs to incentivize bringing vacant/distressed units to abovecode energy efficiency.

9. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

Implementation may require a new path for the Affordable New Construction and Major Renovation and/or IEMS programs. Changes to eligibility and timing may be required to serve these customers.

 Background: Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

Rehabilitating vacant, distressed, and Class C apartments can be cost-prohibitive without incentive or subsidy; however, many buildings do not qualify for the IEMS program due to "free ridership" limitations. The Affordable Housing New Construction and Major Renovation program has had little participation for projects for "major renovation," and is difficult to achieve for otherwise unsubsidized projects.

11. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

Adjusting these programs could include a customer segment currently excluded from all energy efficiency programs. These properties are often either rehabilitated with no energy efficiency measures above code, or are lost to the housing market. PROPOSED ENERGY EFFICIENCY IDEA TEMPLATE – PAGE 5 12. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

Duration of the 4-year EE Plan or Pilot

13. Estimated Budget: Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

To be determined.

14. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

To be determined. Could reach several hundred additional units annually.

Sources

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CIC has more information on this customer type and is available for follow up.

CIC has more information on this customer type.

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<u>Questions to consider</u>: What issue will this proposed change resolve? Will the proposed change increase participation and result in increased energy savings? Will this reduce costs? Will this increase customer satisfaction? Will this help achieve statutory goals? Will this help increase program penetration?

Combining incentive and financing programs. Ensure that income qualified MF owners can combine IEMS with On Bill financing. And ensure that OBF is offered in conjunction with IQ programs. Program participants should always complete retrofits with eligible utility incentive before financing.

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

The OBF implementer should either qualify IQ eligibility themselves or should route all potential customers to an IQ implementer for eligibility. Once verified, the customer should first participate in the IQ program, and then be able to finance and remaining balance for a retrofit.

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<u>Questions to consider</u>: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

This recommendation is based on the best practice of providing a "one-stop shop" for customers entering the utility energy efficiency programs. An element of a one-stop shop is helping to connect IQ MF owners with available financing (wherever rebates aren't covering 100% of the cost of upgrades). It is important to always offer incentives/rebates first, and then use financing to help owners to fill any gaps. Financing should be available for IQ MF building owners only, any in-unit equipment should be fully covered and not the responsibility of IQ MF building tenants.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

There may be a relatively small number of participants that opt to layer financing with the incentive programs; however it ensures that no IQ customer is routed to a market-rate financing program over an IQ program they qualify for.

5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

Duration of the 4-year EE Plan or Pilot

6. Estimated Budget: Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

To be determined.

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

To be determined. See Idea Impact.

Sources

Idea #8: Improve energy efficiency programs for non-owner occupied 1- and 2-unit homes.

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Improve energy efficiency programs for non-owner occupied 1- and 2-unit homes. Continue new program research and design.

2. **Implementation:** How will this idea be delivered to the target market? Describe marketing strategies used to reach the target market and minimize market confusion.

Building on the market research complete for the Emerging Technologies project, "Energy Efficiency in 2 Unit Buildings" completed by Elevate Energy, program eligibility should be adjusted so that non-owner occupied one and two-unit are served.

3. **Background:** Describe where the idea originated from, including whether this idea has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. Provide specific background information that will help utilities and SAG participants understand the proposed idea.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: In what jurisdiction has this idea been successfully implemented? Do you have information on eligible customers, participation achieved, and/or savings achieved? Do you have access to reports describing the successful idea / program approach?

One and two-unit homes are currently served by a variety of utility-funded and braidedfunded programs including the Income-Eligible Single-Family and Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP). These programs are available exclusively to owner-occupants. However; in the ComEd service territory, an estimated 70% of units in two- to four-flat buildings are renter-occupied, while 30% are owner-occupied. The utilities should offer programs for renter-occupied buildings in this housing type.

4. **Idea Impact:** Provide additional information on the customer segment that will be targeted with the program idea, including how and why this idea will have a positive impact on customers participating in Illinois EE programs.

<u>Questions to consider</u>: What level of impact will this idea have on current EE programs? How much additional market share do you estimate this change will impact?

Based on the following housing statistics and the findings of the Call for Ideas report, "Two- to Four-Unit Buildings and Energy Efficiency" prepared by Elevate Energy in August 2019, a large number of two-unit buildings could be served with changes to utility programs.

- There are approximately 455,000 housing units located in two- to four-unit flats in ComEd territory.
- Approximately 70% of the two- to four-units in ComEd territory are renter-occupied.
- 81% (370,000) of two- to four-unit housing in ComEd territory is concentrated in Cook County.
- 56% of the 370,000 two- to four-units in Cook County are two-unit buildings.
- 5. **Duration:** Is this idea intended to be offered for the duration of the 4-year EE Plan or as a pilot measure or program?

Duration of the 4-year EE Plan or Pilot

6. Estimated Budget: Provide the total estimated budget for each program year (2022 – 2025).

To be determined. Modest additional outreach budget could be allocated to this area.

7. **Estimated Participation:** Provide participation totals for each program year (i.e. number of measures installed, number of customer participants, etc.)

See "Idea Impact." Potentially-eligible customers could be very significant.

Sources

If any sources will be useful to Illinois utilities in reviewing ideas, please either provide links within this template or send attachment(s) to the SAG Facilitator with the Energy Efficiency Idea submittal.

Report: "Two- to Four-Unit Buildings and Energy Efficiency" prepared by Elevate Energy for ComEd, August 2019.