



August 15, 2025

Via Electronic Filing

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RE: Implementation of Act 129 of 2008 - Phase V Energy Efficiency and
Conservation Plan Template
Docket No. M-2025-3052826**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

On July 24, 2025, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) issued a Secretarial Letter seeking comment on the Act 129 Phase V Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan Template (“template”). The following comments are jointly submitted for consideration by the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA).

KEEA is Pennsylvania’s trade association for the energy efficiency industry. With our sister organization the Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey, we represent 70 business members across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Our mission is to champion efficiency as the foundation of a clean, just, and resilient energy economy.

We provide the following comments in response to the Commission’s proposed template for Phase V Act 129 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans. We appreciate the level of detail that the template calls for and support the high level of transparency that is outlined in the Commission’s proposal. Comprehensive and accurate presentation of the Electric Distribution Companies’ (EDC’s) plans will lead to better public and stakeholder understanding of their strengths and shortcomings and will allow for meaningful input through public comments and formal litigation. It will also help to facilitate meaningful input from utility stakeholders. We offer the following specific comments for the Commission’s consideration to further strengthen the template and improve upon the clarity and transparency of the EDC’s plans.

1. Overview of Plan

1.2 Summary description of process used to develop the EE&C plan and key assumptions used in preparing the plan. Provide the basis for key assumptions and discuss sources of uncertainty that may affect the plan. This summary should include a description of the EDC's process for stakeholder engagement.

We commend the Commission for including language to require EDC's to describe their process for stakeholder engagement. We urge the Commission to more clearly define "stakeholder engagement," and further recommend that the EDC's be required to specifically address how they responded to stakeholder concerns. Recent actions to stifle stakeholder engagement, such as limiting engagement with the data sharing working group despite broad stakeholder support, prompts us to be both cautious and steadfast in ensuring there is a clear understanding across all groups as to the level of engagement stakeholders will be granted.

We note that the Commission has an opportunity through its own Act 129 web pages to guide utilities to more robustly, transparently and publicly post stakeholder sessions and presentations or recordings on the PUC web site itself. In the neighboring state of New Jersey, the Board of Public Utilities itself convenes a series of joint utilities "big tent" stakeholder sessions that have proven helpful to all, in addition to the utility-specific stakeholder sessions.

1.8 Summary description of EDC's data management, quality assurance and evaluation processes; include how EE&C programs will be updated and refined based on evaluation results.

We recommend that the Commission broaden this section to include data sharing. The proposed template does not require EDC's to describe their plans for data sharing within their proposed EE&C plans. At the same time, the Commission has recognized the importance of data sharing across program administrators and established a working group to develop recommendations regarding data sharing. PUC should take steps now to anticipate the recommendations of the data sharing working group and require EDC's to describe their plans for data sharing.

3. Program Descriptions

3.1.5 Confirm that the plan includes high-efficiency heat pump and heat pump water heater measures available to HEAR and other non-Act 129 program participants. (2025 IO at 174)

Describe how program delivery will target these bundled, or interwoven, funding opportunities for measures that encourage fuel switching from fossil fuels to electricity. Summarize how efficiency requirements or qualified product lists for heat pumps and heat pump water heaters will be aligned with non-Act 129 programs.

We support the Commission's requirement that EDC's specify how they will target interwoven funding opportunities for high-efficiency heat pump and heat pump water heater installations under the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) and other non-Act 129 programs. We encourage the Commission to expand these requirements to include the Inflation Reduction Act's Home Efficiency Rebate (HER) program, Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP), Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) home repair programs, remaining or future Whole Home Repair programs, and electrification initiatives.

We encourage the Commission to expand this concept to require EDCs to consider and note how they will explore or engage in coordinating funding and/or services across multiple programs, even with simple measures such as regular coordination calls, standardized intake procedures, enhanced layering of funding for basic weatherization for income-qualified residents, and uniform requirements for contractor training and qualifications.

3.1.6 Describe any front-of-the-meter (FTM) measure(s) included in the EE&C plan and the expected contribution to portfolio annual and lifecycle MWh and MW savings. Note that the contribution of FTM measures is limited to ten percent of total plan savings. (2025 IO at 78)

We recommend that the Commission require EDCs to describe how each FTM measure is funded, including the portion of funding that is expected to come from Act 129 budgets, if any. The Commission has recognized in the past that FTM investments are part of operating the distribution system rather than an EE&C Plan component. We are concerned that allowing 10 percent of total plan savings to be calculated using FTM measures will allow EDC's to put Act 129 funds towards normal operating costs, rather than contributing meaningfully towards EE&C goals.

3.2/3.2.1 In order to ensure effective program development and management, we would encourage the Commission to consider the following::

- Describe whether and how each program will coordinate with other programs, including specific discussion of coordination with gas and utility companies, as well as local, state, and/or federal efficiency, weatherization, and home repair programs.
- Require EDC's to specifically address whether and how they will target different types of residential housing, including single family, multifamily, and manufactured housing. Multifamily buildings in particular offer great potential for energy efficiency improvements, but have not participated in Act 129 programming at the same rates as single family and commercial buildings.

- We would express great caution and concern allowing for any rebate deadline to extend past 180 days. There is a mutual expectation between the EDCs and the associated Conservation Service Providers, program implementors and customers engaging in EE&C programming, to receive timely rebates for the up-front investments they make in energy efficiency. Anything exceeding a 6-month timeline threatens the integrity of this mutual relationship as well as the financial stability of those making investments to execute the work on behalf of the utilities. We would encourage the Commission to not create a path that would allow for anything exceeding 6 months for rebates and set clear guidance for EDCs to adhere to, along with scrupulous oversight of this element of programs, which has often been a sticking point for contractors.

3.5 Government/Nonprofit/Institutional Sector (as defined by 66 Pa. C.S. § 2806.1) – Qualitatively describe how the Government/Nonprofit/Institutional Sector will be served.

We recommend that the Commission require the EDC's to separately describe how they are serving the Government, Nonprofit, and Institutional Sectors. While there are some similarities in the three areas, each has unique challenges that should be clearly addressed. Unlike private sector residential, commercial, and industrial customers, which are able to exercise broad liberties in investing funding into energy efficiency, the Government, Nonprofit, and Institutional Sectors all adhere to a differing array of local statutes, donor limitations, and other financial stipulations that may impact their ability to engage in various Act 129 programming, so we would request clear delineation as to how EDCs plan to work with these entities and their associated nuances.

4. Program Management and Implementation Strategies

4.1.6 Provide a brief overview of how stakeholders will be engaged throughout Phase V. Describe how low-income communities and other marginalized populations will be represented in stakeholder engagement.

We again recommend that the Commission more clearly define stakeholder engagement per our comments above. It is imperative that community residents have a clear opportunity to provide feedback to utilities, particularly in income-qualified programs, and across all ratepayer segments as well.

4.3.2 List any selected CSP's, describe their qualifications and basis for selection (include contracts in Appendix). If the EDC plans to forego the competitive bidding process for any CSP, describe the rationale. Confirm that the contract value of CSP contracts that are not bid competitively is less than 1% of the total plan budget. (2025 IO at 226)

We recommend also requiring that the information regarding the selected CSP for each component of each utility's program be made public on the PUC web site and the individual utility web site, along with its posted implementation plan.

4.4.4 Describe plans to address health and safety issues that arise in the delivery of Act 129 services. Discuss any plans to refer Act 129 participants that could not be treated due to health and safety issues to other program administrators.

We support the Commission's efforts to address Act 129 impacts on health and safety. Beyond the provisions for electrical safety and upgrades to electrical service or knob and tube wiring, we encourage the Commission to guide utilities to capture information about the residential dwellings they serve. Energy auditors are poised to gauge the standard HUD safety list and the Building Performance Institute Healthy Home Evaluator criteria that address carbon monoxide and gas leaks (both associated with combustion appliances rather than electric ones), trip and fall hazards, moisture and mold-like substances. With Pennsylvania's aging housing stock, program deferrals due to these issues is an ongoing concern. Effectively bridging the gap between those deferred from energy efficiency programming to resources such as the newly proposed Pennsylvania Home Preservation Program, creates an opportunity to address these issues and would ensure more equitable access to Act 129 weatherization programming. We would encourage the Commission to require EDCs to provide detailed reporting on deferrals including the reason for program deferral, actions that could be taken to become eligible for Act 129 programming, and other programs customers could participate in to assist in making these repairs (such as the Pennsylvania Home Preservation Program). We would also encourage the Commission to explore data sharing between the EDCs and other deferral program administrators so that those administrators have the opportunity to be proactive in outreach to deferred customers to boost program participation.

9. Plan Compliance Information and Other Key Issues

9.1.3 Provide a statement delineating the way the EE&C plan will achieve the requirements of the program under 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 2806.1(c) & (d).

We again urge the Commission to require EDC's to describe how they will further integrate funding and/or services across multiple programs, per our comment above. Doing so would minimize lost opportunities while maximizing the efficient delivery of services.

9.1.4 Describe how the EDC will ensure that no more than two percent of funds available to implement the plan shall be allocated for experimental equipment or devices. Describe any planned pilot programs in Phase V.

Pilot programs may not all be determined at the start of a phase. We request that the Commission allow additional pilot programs over the course of the Phase and/or adjustments to a pilot based on initial performance. Pilot programs may not all be determined at the start of a phase, and permitting EDC's to implement new programs or alter existing ones will encourage innovation and flexibility.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin L. Carpenter", written over a horizontal line.

Justin L. Carpenter, Esq.

Policy Counsel

Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance