

Maine Climate Council Energy Working Group: Demand Management – Draft text

<p>Recommendation: Develop and implement demand management and innovative load flexibility strategies and technologies to support energy reliability and resiliency, reduce electricity peaks and overall system costs, accelerate beneficial electrification, and reduce emissions.</p>	
<p>Actions:</p>	<p>Supporting Information:</p>
<p>Support the adoption of software and technologies that enable signals based on electricity grid conditions to manage demand and supply.</p>	<p>Essential software and technologies should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS) for a program administrator • Automated network sensing, management, and communications systems for distribution circuits, and cost-effective and timely interconnection of distributed resources based on their expected operating characteristics. Such systems and data should be made available to allow multiple different actors market access and the ability to innovate and play a role in meeting grid needs • Incentivize smart vehicle charging, grid-integrated devices (such as hot water heaters), and other consumer technologies to avoid creating lost opportunities • Robust data privacy and consumer protections
<p>Support the adoption of policy, programs, mechanisms, markets, and a regulatory environment that facilitate customer participation and choice in demand management and related strategies.</p>	<p>Specific areas of focus should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaling up demonstration projects • Rate designs that create customer savings by aligning customer costs with electricity system costs (such as minimizing peak demands on distribution and transmission infrastructure and maximizing demand under low-load and high-renewable conditions) • Open access opportunities that utilize standardized data and enable pay-for-performance incentives • Opportunities for aggregation and automation
<p>Ensure equitable access to programs/pilots as well as equitable distribution of benefits.</p>	<p>There are different components to considering the impact of demand management activities on low and moderate-income customers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing demand successfully reduces overall system costs, which translates to lower costs, or avoided costs, for everyone, which is particularly important for Maine’s most vulnerable customers. • Different initiatives will target different types of customers (based on customer class, etc.). Careful attention to the distribution of benefits and burdens of all programs is warranted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs targeting households should strive to be designed to be as inclusive as possible with diverse customers and include effective education and outreach to support beneficial participation.
<p>Undertake education and communication around the opportunities and benefits of demand management initiatives with consumers, communities, policymakers, and regulators.</p>	<p>Effective communication of programs is critical to achieve program objectives and goals. Several entities with different audiences will play a role in robust communications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate priority outreach needs include encouraging EV owners to participate in flexible charging.

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