

Working Group Series for Participating Contractors and Industry Partners

Session #29 | June 18, 2026, 9:00am-10:00am

Summary Report

**Note: This document is intended to be a supplement to the slide deck presented during the webinar on June 18th and posted to the Clean Heat webpage.*

Agenda

- Meeting Procedures
- Welcome
- Safety Message
- Joint Management Committee (JMC) Updates and Discussion
 - Weatherized Tier for September 1, 2026
 - Geothermal Topics
 - Upstate Utilities “Paused” Contractor Status
 - Con Edison Service Adequacy
 - Con Edison Update on Contractor Allocations
 - Upcoming Training Opportunities
- Stakeholder Topic(s)
- Clean Heat Resources and Next Steps

Program Representatives

- JMC Co-Chairs: Toby Hyde (Con Edison), Caroline Hazard (NYSERDA)
- JMC Members: Ray Cotto (Central Hudson), Ryan Bauer (National Grid), Joshua Sentiff (NYSEG/RG&E), Sean Dooley (NYSEG/RG&E), Chris Trenard (Orange & Rockland)
- Implementation Team (ICF): Kenn Latal, Tim Walsh, Matt Siano
- Working Group Support Team (Concentric Energy Advisors): Ben Davis, Clara-Ann Joyce, Sam Farrell

Introduction

- The intent of this Working Group Series is to create a forum for working meetings among participating contractors, industry partners, and other stakeholders with the NYS Clean Heat Program Administrators.
- The JMC wants to promote dialogue and discussion with a focus on transparency and communication. The intent is to drive toward solution development.
 - The emphasis here is on open communication within the industry. The JMC wants this to be a two-way process in terms of flagging and communicating issues.

JMC Updates – Key Takeaways

The following section provides a summary of key points from the content presented by the JMC.

- **Weatherized Tier for September 1, 2026**

- The Non-LMI EE/BE Order (May 2025) required NYS Clean Heat to begin offering a separate incentive for projects that meet a minimum weatherization level, a Weatherized Tier (Wx Tier). The Program Administrators will implement the Weatherized Tier starting on September 1, 2026.
- There will be three ways for customers to qualify for the Weatherized Tier: the Post-2010 Build/Modern Home Pathway, the Past Participation Pathway, and the Performance Pathway.
 - Post-2010 Build/Modern Home Pathway
 - Eligibility for homes that were built in 2011 and later
 - Past Participation Pathway
 - Eligibility for homes that participated in a qualifying utility or NYSEDA weatherization program with a contractor-led package of measures
 - A list of eligible weatherization programs can be found in the accompanying slide deck.
 - Further specifics regarding which measures and packages qualify customers for Weatherized Tier incentives will be outlined in the Implementation Plan and Program Manual.
 - Performance Pathway
 - Eligibility for homes that demonstrate that they are well-weatherized homes by having a building heating load per square foot (BHL/sq ft) below a defined standard. The standard will be different for the Upstate Utilities¹ and Con Edison.
 - More details on the standards for both the Upstate Utilities and Con Edison will be shared via email and other webinars throughout the summer.
 - A table illustrating these BHL/sq ft standards is included in the accompanying slide deck.
- Incentive tables for the new Weatherized Tier by incentive category can be found in the accompanying slide deck, with amounts listed for each utility
- For the Upstate Utilities, projects that are installed before 9/1 will receive the current incentive rates. Applications must be submitted no later than 60 days after installation.
 - For Con Edison, projects that receive preapproval before 8/31 will receive the current incentive rates. Applications must be submitted by 10/31.

- **Geothermal and Project Sizing Topics**

- Open Loop Systems
 - Open loop systems will be considered for eligibility on a case-by-case basis in upstate service territories starting September 1, 2026. To submit a project for consideration, please inquire with your utility program administrator.
- Buildings with Two Dwelling Units

¹ The Upstate Utilities consist of Central Hudson, National Grid, NYSEG, Orange & Rockland, and RG&E.

- Central Hudson, NYSEG, and RG&E have adjusted the incentive rates for buildings with two dwelling units to be equal to the incentives for single family homes.
 - Con Edison New Construction Incentive
 - Con Edison will introduce an incentive rate for new construction geothermal projects.
 - Bulk Developments/Townhomes
 - Projects that consist of multiple buildings where each unit is equipped with its own independent system will be eligible to receive the single-family ground source new construction rate for each unit.
 - Project Sizing
 - Residential projects in Categories 2b, 3, and 4 will no longer be allowed to include electric resistance heating up to 10% of BHL. The Program will now require heat pump systems to be sized for the full load of the home; electric resistance will be allowed only as backup outside of normal operations.
- **Non-Con Edison Contractor “Paused” Status**
 - For the Upstate Utilities, a new contractor status of “Paused” was introduced in the spring. Participating Contractors may be placed on Paused Status for accumulating five or more Corrective Action Reports (CARs) that remain unresolved for more than 30 days.
 - Only CARs issued on or after March 12, 2026 will count toward a contractor’s total number of outstanding CARs.
 - Paused status warnings began to go out on April 1, 2026.
- **Con Edison Service Adequacy**
 - Con Edison will implement an additional service adequacy check, effective September 1, 2026, when confirming eligibility on conedeligibility.com.
 - Some customers will be flagged as requiring additional review. For more details on what to do when working with customers that require additional review, please see the accompanying side deck.
 - Con Edison will hold a webinar on this topic in July
- **Con Edison Contractor Allocations**
 - Con Edison ASHP Contractors received their Q3 2026 allocations on June 9, 2026. Please reach out to your account manager to request additional funding beyond your allocation as needed.
- **NYS Clean Heat Training Opportunities**
 - There are several upcoming School of Clean Heat Trainings in June for both Avangrid/National Grid and Con Edison customers. Please see the presentation slides for dates and registration links.
 - School of Clean Heat Webinar recordings and Shorts are accessible anytime at the links provided in the presentation slides.

Q&A

Questions were asked and responses given both verbally and through the written Q&A function. In some cases, several similar questions were asked on the same topic; these are generally grouped below as a single Question and Response.

Weatherized Tier

Question: Does participation in NYSERDA's EmPower+ program provide eligibility for a customer for the Weatherized Tier Past Performance pathway?

Response: Clean Heat is a market-rate program. Low- to Moderate-Income customers should apply to EmPower+ for access to heat pump incentives. Further details on the Clean Heat Weatherized Tier Past Participation pathway criteria will be included in the Clean Heat Program Manual.

Question: Clarification is requested regarding the terms defining the Past Participation pathway and the Post-2010 Build/Modern Home pathway.

Response: The Post-2010/Modern Home pathway is for homes built in 2011 and after. The Performance pathway accommodates homes built in 2010 and earlier. The Past Participation pathway is for homes that have participated in a qualifying utility or NYSERDA weatherization program with a contractor-led package of measures.

Question: For the Upstate Utilities, if a rebate application is submitted on or after 9/1, but the project was installed before 9/1, will it qualify for the old incentive rate or only the new incentive rate?

Response: Projects installed prior to 9/1 with applications submitted within 60 days of installation will be eligible for the current incentive rate offered today.

Question: What are some suggestions on how contractors can verify that a home has previously participated in a qualifying weatherization program? Is there a database where this information can be found? It was noted that this may be important as many customers may not know what program they participated in.

Response: Customer data privacy issues prevent creating a database of projects that have previously participated in qualifying weatherization programs, but the utilities are working to provide this information where possible. Con Edison, for example, is trying to include that in the customer's extract profile as part of the existing eligibility check.

Question: What documentation would be needed to verify that a home has participated in a past weatherization program? Are there certain pathways within these programs that make a home eligible for the Past Participation pathway?

Response: Documentation needed to verify past participation in an eligible weatherization program will be further detailed in the Program Manual scheduled to be published on September 1, 2026.

Question: To qualify for the Performance pathway, will additional documentation need to be submitted for homes built before 2011?

Response: Firm details are still to be determined, and the Program Administrators are working to provide that information. Blower door tests are not required, though they are encouraged.

Question: Is it correct that to qualify for the Past Participation pathway, a customer must have participated in an eligible program within a certain timespan? If such participation did not occur in the required timespan, would the customer have to qualify through a different Weatherized Tier pathway?

Response: At this time, there is no requirement regarding timespan, as the applicable programs were all introduced within recent years.

Question: How will these new Weatherized Tier eligibility pathways impact the work of contractors?

Response: The Clean Heat program will still require contractors to submit Manual Js to document home heating and cooling requirements. Homes and systems that qualify for eligibility criteria for the Weatherized Tier will qualify for Weatherized Tier incentives. Homes that do not meet these criteria will be eligible for base incentives.

Geothermal and Project Sizing Topics

Question: Is a duplex considered two apartments? Duplexes are fairly common in some service territories, and each side can be the size of a single-family house relatively speaking. Some are 5,000 square feet per side.

Response: A building with one dwelling unit that shares at least one wall with another residential building is considered an attached single-family home and would receive the single-family incentive rate if the dwelling unit is >1,000 sq ft. The Program Administrators will further define and clarify building types and delineations within the Program Manual.

Question: Is it true that a “double” – a single building with two flats – will be treated as two apartments and be eligible only for the same total incentives as a single-family home?

Response: This is correct. On a sizing basis, the program has seen that buildings with two apartments are usually the size of one single-family home. Projects of this size also come through the program in limited volume.

Question: Is the new project sizing information only applicable to geothermal projects or is this also for air-source projects?

Response: This requirement will apply to all projects. Historically, the use of limited electric resistance heating (up to 10%) has been primarily associated with GSHP system designs and has not been commonly used for ASHP projects. Projects submitted on or after September 1, 2026 will be required to size heat pump systems to meet 100%-120% of the building heating load (BHL) without reliance on electric resistance.

Question: Please provide more information on what contractors would need to provide to the utilities for open-loop projects to be approved.

Response: Any additional details on this topic will be included in the next release of the Program Manual.

Question: How are buildings with two dwelling units (*e.g.*, doubles, duplexes) classified and treated for incentives?

Response: If a project electrifies individual apartments (dwelling units) in a building with two or more apartments, the project will be eligible for incentives equal to the number of apartments multiplied by the relevant per-apartment rate, up to four apartments.

Service Adequacy

Question: With Con Edison's service adequacy requirement, will there be a cost to the customer if their service adequacy is determined to be too low and in need of an upgrade?

Response: In most cases, the cost of upgrading the service is the responsibility of Con Edison. Customers who select alternate designs other than the one proposed by Con Edison may incur additional costs. Customers are also responsible for customer-side costs to accommodate a new service.

Question: If a customer's service is determined to be inadequate through Con Edison's service adequacy requirement, would the solution be an upgrade to the customer's electric service panel, or would there be something on Con Edison's end?

Response: In most cases, the cost of upgrading the service is the responsibility of Con Edison. Customers are responsible for customer-side costs to accommodate a new service, including a new panel, if necessary.

Question: National Grid recently added a field in the Online Intake Portal (OIT) to ask if a service upgrade was performed as part of the project. Does National Grid plan to implement a service adequacy check similar to Con Edison?

Response: All utilities have started tracking this information. National Grid does not plan to add a service adequacy check at this time.

General and Administrative

Question: How can someone sign up to receive email updates?

Response: Please send a request to nyscleanheat@ceadvisors.com.

Resources and Next Steps

- The next PC&IP meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th (9:00-10:00am)
 - All program-related inquiries can be submitted to nyscleanheat@ceadvisors.com
 - All project-specific inquiries can be submitted to nyscleanheat@icf.com or (844) 212-7823
- Links to additional program resources are included in the presentation slides

The JMC thanks all attendees for their participation and engagement.