

Working Group Series for Participating Contractors and Industry Partners

Session #30 | September 10, 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 September 10th and posted to the Clean Heat webpage.*

Agenda

- Meeting Procedures
- Welcome
- Safety Message
- Joint Management Committee (JMC) Updates and Discussion
 - September 1, 2026 Program Manual
 - Weatherized Tier
 - Incentive Updates
 - Geothermal Topics and Project Sizing
 - Contractor Allocations
 - Con Edison Service Adequacy
 - Revised QA/QC Items and Badging Criteria
 - 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): 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.

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. The Program Administrators have implemented the Weatherized Tier starting on September 1, 2026.
- There are 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. Customers are only required to qualify through **one** of these three pathways to be eligible for the Weatherized Tier.
 - 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
 - Performance Pathway
 - Eligibility for homes that demonstrate that they are well-weatherized by having a building heating load per square foot (BHL/sq ft) below a defined standard. The Upstate Utilities¹ and Con Edison have different BHL/sq ft standards, which are detailed in the Program Manual.
- Both Con Edison and the Upstate Utilities are offering a grace period for legacy incentive rates.
 - For the Upstate Utilities, projects that were 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 received preapproval before 8/31 will receive the current incentive rates. Applications must be submitted by 10/31.
- **Incentive Rates**
 - Updated incentive tables are included in the presentation slides, which include rates for the new Weatherized Tier, HPWH Limited-Time Offers, and general updates.
- **Geothermal and Project Sizing Topics**
 - Open loop systems will now be considered for eligibility on a case-by-case basis in upstate service territories as of September 1, 2026. All new open loop systems will be selected for post-inspection. To submit a project for consideration, please inquire with your utility program administrator.
 - Con Edison has introduced an incentive rate for new construction geothermal projects
 - Projects that consist of multiple buildings where each unit is equipped with its own independent system are eligible to receive the single-family ground source new construction rate for each unit.
 - Residential projects in Categories 2b, 3, and 4 are no longer allowed to include electric resistance heating up to 10% of BHL. The Program now requires heat pump systems to be sized for the full load of the home.
- **Contractor Allocations**
 - Con Edison ASHP contractors will receive their Q4 allocations the week of September 14, 2026.

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

- National Grid now uses a contractor allocation system as well. Budget Allocation Requests must be submitted by September 25, 2026 and Participating Contractors will receive their Q4 allocations the week of September 28, 2026.
- Please reach out to your account manager to request additional funding beyond your allocation as needed.
- **Con Edison Service Adequacy**
 - Con Edison has begun to implement an additional service adequacy check, effective September 1, 2026, when confirming eligibility on conedelibility.com.
 - Some customers will be flagged as requiring additional review. For more details on what to do when working with customers who require additional review, please see the accompanying side deck.
- **Revised QA/QC Items**
 - National Grid Pre-Payment Inspection
 - Going forward, Provisional and Full status contractors will not be subject to pre-payment inspections. Probation and Paused status contractors will still be subject to pre-payment inspections.
 - Badging Criteria Updates
 - The Program Administrators have made updates to the contractor badging criteria in an effort to place more weight on post-inspection quality and compliance with best practice installation guidance, while also reducing administrative burden for contractors and the program.
 - The full details of these updates can be found in the accompanying slide deck.
- **NYS Clean Heat Training Opportunities**
 - There are several upcoming Clean Heat Overview sessions in September focused on the Upstate Service Territory. 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 and may have been edited for clarity. 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: Is PSEG Long Island requiring a similar weatherization structure?

Response: PSEG Long Island is not a Program Administrator in this NYS Clean Heat Program and was not included in the May 2025 Non-LMI EE/BE Order. Please contact PSEG Long Island for any updates on their weatherization and Clean Heat activities.

Question: Are there any updates on the inclusion of EmPower+ or the Weatherization Assistance Program in the Past Participation Pathway?

Response: EmPower+ is not currently an automatic qualifier for the Past Participation Pathway. The Program Administrators are currently engaged in discussions on this topic with NYS DPS and NYSEERDA.

Question: Can prior EmPower+ customers still qualify for the Past Participation Pathway while this matter is being finalized?

Response: No, prior EmPower+ customers do not qualify for the Past Participation Pathway at this time.

Question: How do I submit a final application for a Con Edison project that has been pre-approved before August 31?

Response: When submitting final applications for pre-approved projects, please go to the project in the OIT and complete the "Post-Install" form. The "Post-Install" form can be found under the Attention/Action Required project list.

Question: Are new construction projects included in the Post-2010 Build/Modern Home Pathway for all heat pump types in the Upstate service territories?

Response: The Clean Heat Program only offers incentives to new construction for geothermal and HPWH projects. New construction that uses Air-source heat pump (ASHP) for space heating are not eligible for Weatherized Tier or base incentives. For ground-source heat pumps (GSHP), new construction projects will automatically qualify for the Weatherized Tier incentive rate.

Question: Would a gut renovation of a home built before 2011 that is subject to today's energy code qualify through the Post-2010 Build/Modern Home Pathway?

Response: No. A gut renovation of a home built before 2011 would not qualify for the Post-2010 Build/Modern Home Pathway.

Question: Which programs would qualify a customer for the Past Participation Pathway?

Response: Please see slide 9 of the accompanying presentation or Section 2.1.4.2 of the Program Manual for the full list of programs that qualify for the Past Participation Pathway.

Question: If a project is confirmed eligible through the Past Participation Pathway or the Performance Pathway, how can a contractor be confident that the Program Administrators will not change approval for the Weatherized Tier after the payment is submitted?

Response: We encourage contractors to work with their account managers to understand what their customers are eligible for prior to beginning work on a customer project.

Question: Is there a pre-approval process for the Past Participation Pathway?

Response: The Upstate Utilities are looking for ways to streamline pre-approval. In the interim, contractors are encouraged to reach out to their account manager. Con Edison plans to integrate past participation checks into its eligibility screen (available at conedelibility.com) in Fall 2026.

Question: What customer information is needed to verify past participation and get pre-approval?

Response: Customer address and/or electric account number are needed to verify past participation.

Question: Given all the criteria are met, would customers doing weatherization and shell improvements in the same project as a heat pump installation be eligible for the Performance Pathway?

Response: Yes, if the project meets the BHL/sf standards in the Performance Pathway. The goal of the Weatherized Tier is to provide incentives to homes that install heat pumps that are well weatherized through air sealing, attic and wall insulation, etc.

Question: Will contractors be required to submit a photo template to qualify for the Past Participation Pathway?

Response: There is no photo template required to qualify for the Past Participation Pathway. The Program Administrators will have documentation confirming past participation in an eligible program.

Question: What will the ICF team be reviewing in each of the photos submitted for the Performance Pathway?

Response: For an attic photo, ICF would expect a wide-angle shot of the attic and a close-up photo that shows the depth of the insulation to confirm the R-value by inch by reviewing the insulation type. This R-value by inch will then be converted to a U-value used in the Manual J. For windows, the photo would be required to show whether the window is double-paned and confirm whether the windows meet any other requirements. ICF plans to post an example photo template shortly that would show what would be expected for each assembly type.

Question: How were the R- and U-values developed for the Manual J Load Guidance requirements?

Response: These values were developed in conjunction with the Utilities and NYSERDA and were based on what was previously call the “Clean Heat Load Guidance” document. As noted in the Performance Pathway Detailed Manual J Inputs Requirement document, values from the document should only be used when on-site conditions cannot be documented. On-site conditions should be documented when possible.

Question: Are customers who are participating in the Comfort Home program who have received the substitute \$2,000 from NYHEP eligible for the Weatherized Tier incentives?

Response: Yes. To get the \$2,000 bonus incentive for Con Edison Westchester customers through Comfort Home, the customer must have participated in Comfort Home, which is a qualifying program for the Weatherized Tier.

Question: Why are the requirements for the Performance Pathway stricter than the Past Participation Pathway?

Response: The Performance Pathway is for homes that did not pass through an eligible program but are proven to be well weatherized. Previously, the weatherization programs available have had various, non-standardized requirements over time, so the Program Administrators want to be fair to those who have met the requirements of a past program and have made meaningful updates to their home in the last few years.

[Heat Pump Water Heater Limited-Time Offer](#)

Question: What is the Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH) Limited-Time Offer for Con Edison?

Response: Con Edison is offering a \$1,500 customer incentive for both retail and midstream HPWH pathways from September 1-November 30, 2026. They are also offering \$300 distributor and \$200 installer incentives for that same timeframe. This has been published in the September 1, 2026 Clean Heat Program Manual and additional details can be found in that section.

Question: Are Participating Contractors eligible for the Con Edison Heat Pump Water Heater rebate?

Response: Con Edison HPWH incentives are offered through midstream (distributors) or retail outlets (e.g., Lowe's, Home Depot). If you have questions about where to purchase HPWH that have received incentives, please reach out to your account manager or Program Administrator.

Program Documents

Question: Where can I find a copy of the presentation?

Response: All materials will be posted on <https://nyscleanheat.com/> in the "Participating Contractor and Industry Partner Presentation and Announcement Archive" following the meeting.

Question: Will a new 2026 NYS Clean Heat Prescriptive Incentive Calculator be released soon?

Response: Yes, the latest version of the NYS Prescriptive Incentive Calculator is available on <https://nyscleanheat.com/> on the "Essential Program Documents and Contractor Resources" page.

Resources and Next Steps

- The next PC&IP meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 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.