

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ON BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION STUDY

The Efficiency Maine Trust (the Trust) seeks preliminary comments from interested parties wishing to inform a study regarding the barriers to beneficial electrification in the transportation and heating sectors in Maine. Interested parties will have another opportunity to submit comments on the draft report when it is released in December 2019.

SECTION 1 – INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

1.1 Designated Contact Person

Emily Cushman, Program Manager
Efficiency Maine Trust
168 Capitol Street, Suite 1
Augusta, ME 04330-6856
Phone: (207) 213-4160
Email: comments@efficiencymaine.com

1.2 Key Dates

RFI Release Date – August 28, 2019
Preliminary Comments Due – September 18, 2019

1.3 How to Submit a Response

Responses should be emailed to the designated contact person (see section 1.1) by the due date listed in section 1.2. Please find suggested guidelines below:

1. Cover Letter (1 page maximum)
Briefly describe your organization or personal background (for individuals), including relevant qualifications.
2. Response
Address one or more of the required study areas listed in Section 3.1.
3. Appendices
Where helpful, attach relevant reports, published within the past few years, related to topics covered in the response. Please provide URLs where the documents may be accessed online; where online access is not possible, please provide electronic copies in the response email.

SECTION 2 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 L.D. 1464

In the spring of 2019, the Maine Legislature enacted [L.D. 1464 – An Act To Support Electrification of Certain Technologies for the Benefit of Maine Consumers, Utility Systems and the Environment](#). The bill added the following definition to the Efficiency Maine Trust Act (Title 35-A, Section 10102):

3-A. Beneficial electrification. "Beneficial electrification" means electrification of a technology that results in reduction in the use of a fossil fuel, including electrification of a technology that would otherwise require energy from a fossil fuel, and that provides a benefit to a utility, a ratepayer or the environment, without causing harm to utilities, ratepayers or the environment, by improving the efficiency of the electricity grid or reducing consumer costs or emissions, including carbon emissions.

Section 4 of the bill requires the Trust, in consultation with stakeholders, to study barriers to beneficial electrification in the transportation and heating sectors in the state. It requires the Trust to develop a legislative report based on the study.

With respect to stakeholder input specifically, Section 4 of the bill says the following:

... At the request of the trust, the Public Utilities Commission shall order electric and natural gas utilities to provide information requested by the trust to carry out the study. The Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority shall provide information to the trust on potential barriers to beneficial electrification and solutions to overcome those barriers in areas under their jurisdiction. The trust may seek information regarding the study from other agencies or from private persons, organizations or interest groups. The trust shall provide public notice of the opportunity for the public to submit written information or comments to the trust before and after a draft of the study is completed.

2.2 Timeline

The staff of the Trust will conduct the study over the course of the fall, developing a report based on its research and initial stakeholder input. The Trust expects to publish a draft report in December 2019, at which point it will welcome additional written comments from the public. After comments have been considered, the Trust staff will present a final draft of the report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2020.

SECTION 3 – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

3.1 Beneficial Electrification Study Areas

Section 4 of L.D. 1464 requires that the Trust's beneficial electrification study identify social, technological, legal, regulatory and economic barriers to beneficial electrification for the transportation and heating sectors in the State. It lays out the following specific requirements:

The study must include information on potential roles for electric utilities, natural gas utilities and competitive markets in supporting beneficial electrification, including benefits and drawbacks of these potential roles and examples of specific activities that may be conducted and specific needs that may be best served by the electric utilities, natural gas utilities or competitive markets...

...The report must:

1. Identify barriers to beneficial electrification in the transportation and heating sectors of the State;
2. Identify additional information that the trust may require to make additional recommendations or analyses;
3. Consider potential roles of utilities in supporting beneficial electrification;
4. Identify areas or populations in the State less likely to benefit directly from beneficial electrification without additional policy development or utility intervention; and
5. Recommend opportunities for beneficial electrification.

At this time, the Trust invites interested parties to submit any written information, guidance, and/or comments relevant to the required study areas listed above.

3.2 Confidential Information

Respondents should be aware that information received in response to this RFI may be considered in the drafting of the beneficial electrification study and will be available to the public. Interested parties who claim that certain information is confidential must label relevant sections or pages as "Confidential Information" and request that the Board of Trustees consider such a designation. See <http://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/35-A/title35-Asec10106.html> for more information on confidential information.

3.3 Disclaimer

This RFI is not a Request for Proposals (RFP), Request for Qualifications (RFQ), or Program Opportunity Notice (PON). Information submitted in response to this RFI may be considered by the Trust for drafting the Beneficial Electrification Study. The Trust does not plan to issue a specific RFP, RFP, or PON based on or related to responses to this RFI.