

**Efficiency Maine Trust
Board Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2025**

The May meeting of the Board was conducted in person at the Trust's office at 168 Capitol Street in Augusta, Maine. The option to participate by phone and online video conferencing was also available.

Trustees

- Dan Burgess
- Ken Colburn, Treasurer
- Heather Furth
- Mark Isaacson, Vice Chair
- Suzanne MacDonald
- Chris Rauscher

Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) Staff

- Emily Cushman
- Hogan Dwyer
- Peter Eglinton
- Becca Ferguson
- Monte Haynes
- Hope Kohtala
- Greg Leclair
- Sheldon Perkins
- Kate Rankin
- Lauren Scott
- Michael Stoddard

Other Attendees:

- Ross Anthony, Governor's Energy Office (GEO)
- Bill Bell, Maine Pellet Fuels Association
- David Batchelder, Lowe's Corporate
- Richard Burbank, Evergreen Home Performance
- Avery Caldwell, Maine Home Registry
- Lori Choi, Hometown Heat Pumps
- Emma Cost, GEO
- Steve Fennell, LaPlante Electric
- Matthew Fournier, Mattra Inc.
- David Matero, David Matero Architecture
- Charlene Mccoy
- Beck Meisenheimer, Ridgeline Analytics
- Candis Pfertsh-Rogers, Heritage Home Service
- Jeff Quigley, Virtual Peaker
- Tim Seymour, Darlings
- Tabitha Young, Hometown Heat Pumps

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Isaacson called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. APPROVE Agenda and Minutes

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Colburn) and seconded (Ms. Furth), the Board voted to approve the agenda and the Minutes of the April 23, 2025 Board Meeting.

3. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

- None.

4. **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Stoddard summarized the Executive Director's monthly update to the Board. Following are several items highlighted during his presentation:

- The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved the final Settlement for approval in the Triennial Plan VI (TPVI) case.
- EMT has provided feedback on various PUC and legislative proposals to reform Maine's net energy billing policies. Staff's input has related primarily to cost-benefit analysis methodology and assumptions, as well as impacts on electricity rates.
- EMT received approval from the Office of Clean Energy Demonstration at the US Department of Energy to proceed with deploying federal grant funds in the Manufactured (Mobile) Home Initiative.
- EMT's federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund award remains tied up in court.
- EMT has rebated over 5,000 whole-home heat pump projects for low- and moderate-income homes in FY2025 through the end of April.
- EMT issued the request for proposals (RFP) for Rural Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers (Phase 4 - Round 3), which uses funds from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP) and New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) settlement.
- The Demand Management Program's managed EV charging and small battery initiatives have not scaled up to the level EMT had hoped. EMT has paused these measures for this year while it works on developing improvements to the program design to be ready for a relaunch next year. Mr. Colburn noted that he hopes EMT will not respond to implementation challenges by lowering goals for these measures. Mr. Isaacson noted that the incentives for these measures seem too low to achieve broad participation.
- Mr. Stoddard expressed concerns about consumer confidence and economic uncertainty impacting consumer uptake in the year ahead for the measures promoted by EMT programs.

5. **Planned Business**

a) **Monthly Financial Reports – Review**

Mr. Leclair thanked Mr. Burgess for his help facilitating payments to EMT for the NECEC settlement. Also, Mr. Leclair reported that he has lowered his estimates slightly for future Forward Capacity Market (FCM) revenues.

b) **Triennial Plan VI Operating Budgets – Approve**

Mr. Eglinton explained that, for the first time, Staff is requesting Board approval for a "Base" operating budget for *all three* years of the triennial plan (as opposed to waiting for each successive year to approve an operating budget for that year). He explained this approach will help provide insight into longer term funding expectations and expenditure plans as described in the Plan. He provided an overview of the Staff's proposed Base budgets for FY2026, FY2027, and FY2028, as presented in Mr. Leclair's May 22, 2025 memorandum. He explained that, in addition to what was approved in TPVI, the budget tables also reflect itemized planned administrative costs; revenues and costs associated with loan funds; available State, Federal, and settlement funds previously set aside for future years; and

estimates of FY2025 carryforward. The budget for FY2026 is significantly larger than the budgets for FY2027 and FY2028 because it includes carryforward while the others do not. Mr. Eglinton shared the estimated FY2025 carryforward for all fund sources by program.

Mr. Burgess asked for additional explanation of the estimated FY2025 carryforward and how programs are maximizing the opportunity of these dollars. Mr. Burnes noted that this carryforward reflects a healthy buffer across program budgets so that program managers do not have to pull back on expenditures towards the end of the fiscal year. Ms. MacDonald suggested that this information be shared as part of the mid-year fiscal year update to the Board. Mr. Colburn noted that he is pleased with the Demand Management Program budget. Mr. Burgess asked that EMT offer more clarity on goals or performance metrics for FY2025. Ms. MacDonald agreed that the budget memo would benefit from adding the context of goals and impacts, but suggested the Board still vote today and allow EMT staff to add this context later. Mr. Isaacson and Mr. Burgess agreed that the vote on the Base budgets should not be delayed. Mr. Stoddard responded that Staff will include an additional table in future memos to show how the budgets align with EMT goals.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Ms. MacDonald) and seconded (Mr. Colburn), the Board voted to adopt the Base Budgets for Revenues and Expenditures in accordance with each year of the sixth Triennial Plan (FY2026-2028) as presented in Mr. Leclair's May 22, 2025 memorandum.

c) Authorize Disclosure of Confidential Information to Comply with Federal Reporting Requirements – Approve

Mr. Eglinton explained that, as a condition of some of its federal grants, EMT must provide federal agencies with certain program participant information that is considered “confidential records” per Maine statute. The statute prohibits disclosure of this information, but allows the EMT Board to authorize exceptions under certain circumstances, including where necessary to comply with “any agreement pertaining to financial assistance” (35-A MRS §10106(3)). Mr. Stoddard noted that the original motion in the memo mentions specific federal grants; Staff requests an amendment to provide blanket authorization for all federal grants so that it does not need to return to the Board again. Mr. Isaacson expressed a preference that the motion also specify the types confidential information to be disclosed.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Isaacson) and seconded (Mr. Colburn), the Board voted to authorize EMT to disclose confidential program participant information (including name, contact information, address, utility and energy usage information, income details, and household size) to the U.S. government to comply with reporting requirements associated with federal funding awards.

d) Maine Legislative Session – Update

Mr. Stoddard provided an overview of the First Session of the 132nd State Legislature, highlighting key bills either directly or indirectly related to EMT's work. He noted that a bill elevating GEO to a new, cabinet-level Maine Department of Energy passed out of committee. Mr. Burgess noted that this change solidifies some of GEO's programs in statute and gives the office more durability. The most significant change is that GEO will begin to administer certain energy procurements, which currently happens at the PUC. Mr. Stoddard

also highlighted a clean energy supply bill that would modify the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). He then noted the many competing bills relating to net energy billing. He explained that EMT is concerned about high electricity costs suppressing the adoption of beneficial electrification measures. He added that the uncertain future of federal tax credits adds to the challenge of modifying net energy billing. EMT has been helping in a limited capacity with analysis of the cost and benefits of various proposals.

e) Newly Effective Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes – Updates

Mr. Stoddard explained that the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) was updated last month. He invited Mr. Matero to this meeting to provide an overview of the associated changes. Mr. Matero serves on the MUBEC Board with Mr. Stoddard. Mr. Stoddard explained that building codes serve as the baseline for EMT's benefit-cost analysis. Mr. Matero shared that responsibility for MUBEC has moved frequently between state agencies and will move again soon to the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA). He explained that certain MUBEC standards that are applicable in Aroostook County are different than the rest of the state because the County is a different climate zone. He reported that MUBEC is effective for all construction in all municipalities, but noted that only municipalities having at least 4,000 residents must enforce the code. Mr. Matero shared the information that homebuilders need to track and share with code enforcement under the new codes. This includes a Permanent Certificate that describes the energy efficiency of a home. There are several methods for homebuilders to comply with MUBEC, but most homes comply via the Prescriptive Compliance Option. MUBEC is mostly consistent with the IBC 2021, but the MUBEC Board approved a discrete number of exceptions or variances.

6. New Business

None.

7. Next Meeting Agenda and Scheduling

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2025.

8. Adjourn

ACTION: Without objection, the board adjourned the Board meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Efficiency Maine Board of Trustees – Roll Call Sheet
Board Meeting Date: 5/28/2025

Trustee	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3	Vote 4
<i>Agenda Item</i>	2. Approve Agenda and Minutes	b) Approve Triennial Plan VI Operating Budgets	c) Authorize Disclosure of Confidential Information to Comply with Federal Reporting Requirements	8. Adjourn
<i>Motion, Second</i>	Mr. Colburn, Ms. Furth	Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Colburn	Mr. Isaacson, Mr. Colburn	No Objections
Brennan, Daniel	A	A	A	
Burgess, Dan	Y	Y	Y	
Colburn, Kenneth	Y	Y	Y	
Furth, Heather	Y	Y	Y	
Isaacson, Mark	Y	Y	Y	
MacDonald, Suzanne	Y	Y	Y	
Poole, Glenn	A	A	A	
Rauscher, Christopher	Y	Y	Y	
Welsh, Joan	A	A	A	

Y= Yes, N = No, A = Absent, R = Recused