

**Efficiency Maine Trust
Board Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2026**

The January meeting of the Board was conducted in person at the EMT's office at 151 Capitol Street in Augusta, Maine. The option to participate by phone and online video conferencing was also available.

Trustees

- Dan Brennan
- Dan Burgess
- Ken Colburn, Treasurer
- Heather Furth
- Mark Isaacson, Vice Chair
- Suzanne MacDonald
- Glenn Poole, Chair
- Joan Welsh, Secretary

Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) Staff

- Ian Burnes
- Marie Caspard
- Emily Cushman
- Hogan Dwyer
- Peter Eglinton
- Becca Ferguson
- Greg Leclair
- Daniel Maxton
- Sheldon Perkins
- Lauren Scott
- Michael Stoddard

Other Attendees:

- Ross Anthony, Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
- David Batchelder, Lowe's Corporate
- William Bowden
- Richard Burbank, Evergreen Home Performance
- Emma Cost, DOER
- Darleen DeRosa, Bidgely
- Jianing Fan, Voltus
- Sophia Gosselin-Smoske, PowerOptions
- Stephen Johnston, Versant Power
- John Karyczak, The JPI Group
- Cameron Kinney, DNV
- Jack Shapiro, Natural Resources Council of Maine
- Amalia Siegel, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
- Tabettha Young, Hometown Heat Pumps
- David Zachow, Sierra Club Maine

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Poole called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. APPROVE Agenda and Minutes

a) November 2025 Minutes

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Colburn) and seconded (Mr. Isaacson), the Board voted to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2025 Board Meeting.

b) December 2025 Minutes and January 2026 Agenda

Mr. Brennan requested that the MaineHousing Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) State Plan Presentation be removed from this month's agenda and moved to the next scheduled meeting of the Board. Ms. Furth requested that her name be added to the attendee list of December's Board meeting minutes.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Isaacson) and seconded (Ms. MacDonald), the Board voted to approve the agenda and the Minutes of the December 17, 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:

- Incentive applications for the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Custom Program have increased in recent months. The application pipeline now totals \$1,115,000 in incentives.
- Just under 5,000 residential whole home heat pump systems were installed with EMT incentives in the first half of FY2026. Mr. Poole asked if EMT tracks heat pumps installed without EMT rebates. Mr. Stoddard responded that EMT has a rough estimate of those installations, but more exact data is difficult to come by.
- Several public electric vehicle (EV) chargers that were awarded EMT grants were commissioned in the past month, including a fast-charging project at Miss Portland Diner in Portland.
- Interest in EV rebates has been low following the expiration of the federal EV tax credit on September 30, 2025. EMT has responded by increasing rebate amounts, including generous rebates for commercial electric vans.
- EMT will be announcing a new small battery program very soon. Mr. Colburn requested more detail on the program, especially about who will control the batteries to discharge them during events. Mr. Burnes replied that aggregators, not battery owners, will activate batteries to discharge. Mr. Poole suggested that EMT look at the impact of utility-scale batteries that have recently begun operating.
- EMT just released its Assessment of Heat Pumps in Maine Homes. The report shows that savings and fuel displacement per residential heat pump rebated by EMT have increased significantly with the shift from supplemental to whole-home program design. Ms. Welsh observed that fuel prices have been changing significantly to the detriment of heat pump cost savings. Mr. Stoddard affirmed that oil prices recently have dropped while electricity prices have increased, which does impact customer savings. Mr. Burgess noted that heating oil prices are still relatively high by historical standards. Mr. Burnes added that this report shows whole home heat pump systems have a much lower impact on winter peak than ISO-NE has been projecting. The Board discussed EMT potentially hosting a webinar on the report.

- Mr. Stoddard read aloud a letter recognizing the contributions of retiring EMT Senior Program Manager Rick Meinking. Mr. Meinking offered his own reflections on his tenure at EMT.

5. **Planned Business**

a) **Monthly Financial Reports**

Mr. Leclair reported that EMT is drawing down federal funds for public EV charging projects as well as Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP) funds. EMT has received the first payment of federal Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funds and recently began spending those funds for the Retail and Distributor Initiatives program.

b) **Mid-Year Program/Budget Update and Forecast**

Mr. Eglinton provided an overview of EMT program highlights, challenges, and spending through the end of December. Most EMT programs have had lower participation in FY2026 versus FY2025. Mr. Burgess noted that there is significant opportunity for energy efficiency improvements in schools, which EMT is addressing with school retrofit funding opportunities. Mr. Burnes noted that Retail and Distributor Initiatives has been very successful but still requires constant adjustments to continue that success. Mr. Poole asked about the timeline for potentially launching a multizone heat pump incentive. Mr. Burnes said that EMT is studying multizone heat pump systems this winter to gather more performance data. If the study results are positive, EMT could launch a multizone heat pump incentive in FY2027. Mr. Poole asked about the “bidder fatigue” cited as a challenge to expanding public EV charging. Mr. Stoddard explained that recent growth in demand for new public EV charging across the country is stretching the capacity of companies that bid on public EV charging solicitations and their suppliers. Ms. Furth asked about the status of previously awarded public EV charging projects. Mr. Stoddard responded that EMT staff will share that information directly with the Board after the meeting. There are several projects that were canceled post-award. Mr. Colburn asked about the project costs of public EV fast charging projects. Mr. Stoddard responded that these projects can cost as much as \$1 million per site. Mr. Burgess asked why Emporia is the only eligible manufacturer for the off-peak charger discount program. Mr. Burnes explained that only Emporia sells chargers that are programmed to start an off-peak charging schedule automatically once connected to the Internet. Mr. Eglinton noted that most of the funds that EMT staff expects to carry forward into FY2027 are electric procurement funds. Mr. Stoddard explained that the forecast for spending in Triennial Plan VI has been revised downward in light of program activity year-to-date that is below forecast. This means EMT will request less electric procurement funding in FY2027 and FY2028 than projected in the Triennial Plan. As a result, EMT’s electric procurement funding requests are expected to be less than (i.e., will not exceed) the current statutory cap.

c) **FY2026 Budget Adjustment – Approve**

Mr. Eglinton described the funding changes in Mr. Leclair’s January 28, 2026 memorandum. The first is to add \$70,000 of Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (EERLF) funds to EMT’s FY2026 expenditure budget for C&I Prescriptive Initiatives to support energy audit grants. The second is to shift approximately \$100,000 of MJRP funds from the EMT

Administration budget to the C&I Prescriptive Initiatives to support project incentives. The third is to add \$45,000 to the call center budget to cover shipping and postage costs that are outpacing initial expectations for FY2026.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Ms. Welsh) and seconded (Mr. Brennan), the Board voted to adjust the FY2026 source of funding and expenditure budgets as described in the memorandum, resulting in no change to the total FY2026 source of funding budget and an amended expenditure budget of \$248,740,030.

6. New Business

None.

7. Next Meeting Agenda and Scheduling

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026.

8. Adjourn

ACTION: Without objection, the board adjourned the Board meeting at 11:43 AM.

Efficiency Maine Board of Trustees – Roll Call Sheet
Board Meeting Date: 1/28/2026

Trustee	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3	Vote 4
<i>Agenda Item</i>	2a) Approve November Minutes	2b) Approve January Agenda and December Minutes	5c) FY2026 Budget Adjustment	8. Adjourn
<i>Motion, Second</i>	<i>Mr. Colburn, Mr. Isaacson</i>	<i>Mr. Isaacson, Ms. MacDonald</i>	<i>Ms. Welsh, Mr. Brennan</i>	No Objections
Brennan, Daniel	Y	Y	Y	
Burgess, Daniel	Y	Y	Y	
Colburn, Kenneth	Y	Y	Y	
Furth, Heather	Y	Y	Y	
Isaacson, Mark	Y	Y	Y	
MacDonald, Suzanne	Y	Y	A	
Poole, Glenn	Y	Y	Y	
Rauscher, Christopher	A	A	A	
Welsh, Joan	Y	Y	Y	

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