



Memorandum

July 23, 2025

To: Board of Trustees

From: Peter Eglinton, Deputy Director

Re: 2026 Membership Renewals

Proposed Motion

Move to authorize the Executive Director to establish or extend EMT's membership in certain organizations for FY2026 in the amount of \$68,500 or less.

Background

In July 2021, the Board suggested that Staff consolidate, in a single annual request, proposals for approval of group memberships in certain trade organizations whose work is directly related to energy efficiency. For FY2026, Staff proposes to renew six existing memberships that continue to bring value to our programs and staff and to establish three new memberships. Following are summaries of each:

- **Renewal – The Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE)** is a nonprofit trade association of energy efficiency program administrators like Efficiency Maine. CEE develops initiatives for its North American members to promote the manufacture and purchase of energy-efficient products and services. CEE prepares national studies, delivers workshops, and conducts analyses to help energy efficiency program administrators perform their duties and improve their performance. CEE's goal is to induce lasting structural and behavioral changes in the marketplace, resulting in the increased adoption of energy-efficient technologies. CEE members, including Efficiency Maine Trust, are eligible to participate in committees and workshops as part of their membership.

Efficiency Maine has been a CEE member for more than 14 years. Staff regularly attends workshops and reviews reports that provide valuable information about program results from other jurisdictions and lessons learned about best practices in program administration. Membership dues for EMT for calendar year 2025 are \$27,098, which is based primarily on the number of electric and natural gas customers in the state. We expect the next invoice early in calendar year 2026.

- **Renewal – The Association of Energy Services Providers (AESP)** is a nonprofit, membership-based association of individuals and organizations interested in the delivery and implementation of energy efficiency, demand-side management, distributed energy resources and demand response programs. Examples of members include utilities (investor-owned, municipal and cooperatives); energy marketers; consultants; manufacturers and suppliers; federal and state

government officials; public benefits agencies; and end-users. AESP members gain access to discounted or free courses and workshops; participation on topic committees and with regional chapters; a library of energy-related resources and “best practices”; and opportunities to post job announcements and network with others in the energy field.

FY2022 was the first year the Trust joined as a group member. We continue to see the membership as a way to provide professional development opportunities for the staff as well as a forum for interacting with our peers and associated service providers. Membership for FY2026 will be \$3,125.

- Renewal – The Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) is a non-profit organization that has been working to share information about energy efficiency in the northeast for decades. Its mission is to “Accelerate regional collaboration to promote advanced energy efficiency and related solutions in homes, buildings, industry, and communities.”

EMT has participated in select NEEP initiatives in the past where there is a value-added opportunity to the Trust, its mission, and programs. This opportunity is present where discussions are being held about new technologies, research, market trends, or policies that will have implications for the EMT programs. The NEEP Allies Program supplements EMT’s other channels as a way to keep informed about regional efficiency trends and important topics and to participate in events with a regional network of efficiency leaders and stakeholders. Membership for FY2026 is \$2,500, which is the same as last year.

- Renewal – The Maine Real Estate & Development Association (MEREDA) is a non-profit entity whose mission is to promote an environment for responsible development and ownership of real estate throughout the state of Maine. MEREDA accomplishes its mission through legislative advocacy, regulatory oversight, sponsorship of programs and conferences, and by serving as a unified and proactive representative for real estate and economic development interests. MEREDA members are eligible to participate in conferences and events as a part of their membership. Before MEREDA began requiring their conference participants and sponsors to be members, Efficiency Maine regularly attended MEREDA events. MEREDA’s annual membership dues for Municipal/Governmental organizations are \$300.
- Renewal – Environmental & Energy Technology Council of Maine (E2Tech) is a member-based organization comprised of individuals, businesses, and organizations that seek to build Maine's environmental and energy technology economy. They hold events to share knowledge and foster connections and support a portfolio of research, development, and demonstration projects. The Trust’s executive director sits on the E2Tech Board, and Staff routinely helps organize and present at E2Tech events where we feel it will advance understanding of and participation in EMT programs. The dues for a “Non-profit or Education-Large (25+ employees)” organization is \$250.

- **Renewal** – US Green Bank 50 is a trade organization of green banks across the country. The organization shares resources, raises capital, and performs other functions to support Green Banks (see <https://www.usgreenbanks.org/>). The membership fee is expected to be \$2,000 for the year.
- **New** – A subscription to the NEEP Heating Electrification Initiative provides enhanced access to NEEP’s Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump (ccASHP) database. The database has information not provided by the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) or CEE and not easily found on manufacturers’ websites. Of particular interest to the Trust is the minimum and maximum capacities at various temperatures, particularly those below 0°F, that are critical for properly designing whole-home heat pump systems. An annual subscription would allow us to create a custom, automatically updated qualified products list (QPL) with makes and models appropriate for Maine’s climate and compliant with our programs. We could host that QPL on our website for easy contractor access to critical design data that is difficult to find elsewhere. This would be an invaluable tool for Residential Registered Vendors (RRVs) and Qualified Partners (QPs), and it would reduce QPL maintenance costs. NEEP bills by calendar year, and the subscription is \$22,500 in 2025 for program administrators with program budgets greater than \$100 million.
- **New** – PLMA (originally Peak Load Management Alliance) is the leading association for load management experts, specialists, and vendors to share best practices, hands-on experiences, technology advances, training, leadership opportunities, and mentorship, all with a focus on demand response, distributed energy resources (DERs), and managed charging. They provide forums, reports, and contacts to enable Efficiency Maine to learn best practices and network with peers. This is a new and rapidly changing field (grids, devices [EVs, batteries, solar, etc.], technologies [smart meters, Internet of Things, etc.], programs, etc.) and learning from others can accelerate the evolution of our programs. Staff proposes to join at the Advisory Level (\$2,700/year), which includes two member passes to PLMA conferences and education classes.
- **New** – American Green Bank Network is managed by the Coalition for Green Capital (CGC) and deals with the alignment of green banks to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The Trust is contractually obligated to participate as a subawardee to CGC’s application. See <https://coalitionforgreencapital.com/about-us/our-network/> for more information on the network. The membership fee expected is to be \$6,000.

In addition to these memberships, we may encounter opportunities to weigh in on and present at conferences that require memberships with non-partisan trade associations in Maine. Staff proposes to include approximately \$2,000 of unallocated authorization in the proposed motion below to allow a limited number of such situations, as well as to provide a modest buffer in case actual renewal amounts for the memberships exceed last year’s costs.