

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ON EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST TRIENNIAL PLAN V (FISCAL YEARS 2023-2025)

1. Cover Letter (1 page maximum)

Briefly describe your organization or personal background (for individuals), including relevant qualifications.

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) is a non-profit membership association of the energy efficiency industry serving the Pacific Northwest. NEEC is a past partner with Efficiency Maine delivering workforce training to the building trades in Maine using the resources of the national Building Operator Certification (BOC) training and credential program.

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2. Response

Our comments address Question 6 in section 3.2., Efficiency Maine's efforts to support workforce development in energy efficiency.

We wish to thank Efficiency Maine for its long standing support of workforce education and training for Mainers. In past years, Efficiency Maine's professional training programs provided technical training in a variety of topics to key stakeholders such as architects, engineers, facility managers, tradespeople, water and wastewater operators and other technical professionals. We were pleased to be a partner with Efficiency Maine in delivering training and credentialing to the building trades through the nationally-recognized Building Operator Certification (BOC) program.

BOC offers a series of courses that train facility managers and building technicians to improve energy efficiency, reduce maintenance costs and enhance building occupant comfort and safety. In the time of COVID-19, courses emphasize best practices regarding HVAC operation to meet ventilation guidelines from ASHRAE, as well as Indoor Air Quality. Additionally, courses offer instruction in the use of advanced building equipment and controls to identify preventive maintenance opportunities and better management of systems and equipment. The sessions also provided a venue for participants to network and share energy efficiency success stories.

BOC certification requires demonstrated competence in all of the following areas: • Evaluating building energy consumption • Heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) energy inspection • Lighting surveys • Indoor air pollutant sources and pathway locations • Facility electrical distribution

Outcomes: Through our partnership with Efficiency Maine, over 400 facilities managers and building technicians completed BOC training and earned the BOC® credential in energy efficiency building operation. 20% of BOC attendees were responsible for of K–12 schools. The remaining 80% were from other sectors such as manufacturing, state government, town municipalities and health care.

There is demand for new BOC training. In recent years (since 2017), BOC courses have not been offered in Maine. In that time, demand for training has grown among employers in the K-12 and public sectors in Maine. Additionally, there is demand for continuing education from BOC credentialed operators who wish to fulfill maintenance requirements. In 2020, fifty individuals contacted NEEC to request notification for training opportunities. And additional 35 credentialed operators requested continuing education.

Recommendations: We recommend Efficiency Maine address growing demand by bringing BOC training and credentialing back into service in Maine in the 2023-25 Triennial Plan years. The elements of service would include the following:

1. BOC Level I and II courses:

Years 1 & 2 – Two BOC Level I courses per year

Year 3 – One BOC Level I and one Level II course per year

2. Continuing education for BOC credential maintenance:

Years 1 through 3: One 3 hour credential maintenance session per year

3. Load Management

Support Efficiency Maine's new demand response program by offering BOC training in load management. BOC has a fully developed one-day class titled Demand Reduction and Enhanced Automation which is available for delivery in Maine. Class description here:

<https://www.theboc.info/courses/boc-2014/>

Years 1-3: Two Demand Response classes per year serving 25 participants per class

4. Building Operations Fundamentals course for new personnel

This new course in Fundamental is a 3-day training targeted to facilities personnel new to building operations as well as staff members that are not directly involved in equipment maintenance, particularly in management / supervisory roles. Utilizing core Building Operator Certification (BOC) concepts, this training focuses on efficient operations and strengthens building optimization skills. The training is intended to complement other on-the-job training and experience and to provide a general awareness of building operations fundamentals from an energy efficiency perspective.

Years 1 & 3: One Fundamentals course per year serving 25 participants per course

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 or upload.

BOC Bulletin: A Newsletter for Graduates and their Employers –

Featuring Alethea Cariddi, Sustainability Coordinator, University of New England Biddeford & Portland, Maine. See page 3: <https://www.theboc.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/BOC-Bulletin-Summer-Fall-2015.pdf>

Featuring Paul Carron, Facilities Manager, Lewiston and Brunswick School Districts. See page 3: <https://www.theboc.info/pdf/BOC-Bulletin-SumFall-2012-web.pdf>

BOC Energy Savings FAQ: https://www.theboc.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-BOC-Energy-Savings-FAQ_1.0.pdf