Triennial Plan VII
(FY 2029- FY 2031)
Legal Framework and Process Overview

Board Meeting
October 28, 2026

Legal Framework

Scope of the Triennial Plan

- All programs administered by EMT for
  - energy efficiency & conservation,
  - alternative energy, and
  - beneficial electrification

35-A MRS Sec. 10104(4)

Functions of the Triennial Plan

- Provides integrated planning, program design and implementation strategies
- Authorizes and governs implementation of EMT programs
- Establishes the “standard” required by statute for energy savings and budget for:
  - Electric energy efficiency, demand management & beneficial electrification
  - Natural gas energy efficiency

35-A MRS Sec. 10104(4)

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The “MACE” Standard for electricity resources and natural gas resources

- For programs that will be implemented pursuant to the Electric Efficiency Fund and Natural Gas Conservation Fund, the Plan must:
  - Identify the “maximum achievable cost-effective” (“MACE”) energy efficiency savings
  - Identify programs to achieve MACE savings
  - Describe the costs and benefits of such programs
  - Provide the basis and support for the costs and benefits

35-A MRS Sec. 10104(4)

Statutory Goals for the Triennial Plan (1 of 2)

The Plan should design, coordinate, and integrate programs that advance the following long-term goals:

Generally:

1. Reducing energy costs;
2. MACE peak-load demand reductions;
3. MACE electricity and natural gas program savings;
4. Creating stable private sector jobs;
5. Contributing to reducing GHG emissions consistent with the State's GHG reduction requirements and the State's climate action plan

35-A MRS Sec. 10104(4)(F)

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Statutory Goals for the Triennial Plan (2 of 2)

Specifically:

- Weatherizing 35,000 homes and businesses from 2020 to 2030,
  - at least 10,000 of in low-income households through the combined efforts of the Trust and the MaineHousing;
- Promoting the installation of heat pumps to meet the goal, by 2030, of at least:
  - 115,000 households wholly heated by heat pumps and
  - 130,000 households partially heated by heat pumps; and
- Promoting the purchase of EVs in Maine to meet the goal, by 2030, of 150,000 electric vehicles registered in the State.

35-A MRS Sec. 10104(4)(F)

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Major Program Funds

Fund	Statute	Revenue Source(s)
Electric Efficiency and Conservation Fund	35-A MRS Sec. 10110	Electric Efficiency Procurement
Natural Gas Conservation Fund	35-A MRSA Sec. 10111	Natural Gas Efficiency Procurement
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Trust Fund	35-A MRSA Sec. 10109	RGGI auction proceeds
Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund	35-A MRSA Sec. 10119	Forward Capacity Market (FCM) Federal & Settlements
Electric Vehicle (EV) Fund and EV Charging Infrastructure Fund	35-A MRSA Sec. 10125 35-A MRSA Sec. 10126	Federal, Electric Procurement & Settlements
Thermal Energy Investment Fund	35-A MRS §10128	Alt. compliance payments from electricity suppliers in lieu of Thermal RECs

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Electric Efficiency and Conservation Fund – Uses (1 of 2)

- **"Conservation Programs"** means programs developed by the Trust designed to reduce inefficient electricity use or to increase the efficiency with which electricity is used.
- **Goal:** Help reduce energy costs for electricity consumers by the maximum amount possible.
- **Objectives:**
  - Increase consumer awareness of cost-effective options;
  - Create favorable market conditions for increased use of energy efficiency;
  - Promote sustainable economic development and reduce environmental damage;
  - Reduce the price of electricity over time for all consumers by reducing or shifting demand for electricity or balancing load, including by the implementation of beneficial electrification and energy storage systems; …

35-A MRS Sec. 10110(2)

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Electric Efficiency and Conservation Fund – Uses (2 of 2)

…***Objectives*** *continued*:

- Reduce total energy costs for electricity consumers by increasing the efficiency with which electricity is consumed; and
- Seek to implement delivery of programs in all regions of the state on an equitable basis and to citizens at all income levels.*
  - Target to **low-income** residential customers the greater of **$2.6M or 10%** of electricity funding.
  - Target to **small business customers** the greater of **$2.6M or 10%** of electricity funding.
  - Apportion the remaining electricity conservation funds among customer groups and geographic areas in a manner that "allows all other customers to have a reasonable opportunity to participate" in programs.

35-A MRS Sec. 10110(2)

*Customers receiving service at transmission and subtransmission voltage levels are not eligible for conservation programs and are not required to pay electric assessment. – 35-A MRS Sec. 10110(6)

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Electric Efficiency and Conservation Fund – MACE Funding

- PUC shall ensure that the **maximum achievable cost-effective** electric energy efficiency and conservation resources shall be procured.
  - But may not require the inclusion in rates under this subsection more than **4%** of total retail electricity and transmission and distribution sales in the State as determined by the PUC.
- When determining the electric MACE resources to be procured, the PUC shall:
  - Consider energy efficiency resources that are reasonably foreseeable to be acquired by the Trust using all other sources of revenue.
  - Apply the discount rate adopted by the Trust and ensure that the calculations of avoided energy costs are consistent with rules adopted by the Trust and are supported by evidence in the record.
  - Maximize total electricity savings for all ratepayers; and
  - *Include all beneficial electrification measures that are cost-effective and reliably reduce electricity rates over the life of the measures.*

35-A MRS Sec. 10110(4-A)

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Natural Gas Conservation Fund – Uses

- Establish a cost-effective conservation program to promote the efficient use of natural gas.

- Apportion funds such that:
  - Reasonable percentage is directed to low-income residential customers;
  - Reasonable percentage is directed to small business customers; and
  - Remaining funds “allow all other consumers to have a reasonable opportunity to participate” in programs.

35-A MRSA Sec. 10111(1)

Natural Gas Conservation Fund – MACE Funding

PUC shall ensure that the **maximum achievable cost-effective** natural gas energy efficiency and conservation resources shall be procured.

Exceptions:

- Wholesale electricity generators, 3 MW or more, are exempt from paying assessments and ineligible to participate in programs.
- For a large-volume user engaged in manufacturing or commercial growing or harvesting of plants or aquaculture, utilities shall collect the assessment only on the first 1,000,000 ccf of natural gas used annually.

35-A MRSA Sec. 10111(2)

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Fund

- Supports the goals and implementation of the RGGI program.
- Use of funds:
  - Funds are held in trust; trustees have a fiduciary duty to electric utility customers;
  - Commercial and industrial projects that:
    - reduce electricity consumption, lower peak demand, increase energy efficiency, or reduce GHG emissions, and
    - lower energy costs;
  - Residential projects may include, but are not limited to, those that that will reduce residential energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions through:
    - energy efficiency improvements to residential buildings,
    - energy storage systems, or
    - upgrades to efficient heating systems
  - Admin
    - max. $800,000 allowed for EMT Admin
    - PUC oversight + DEP's RGGI costs

35-A MRSA Sec. 10109

Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund

- May receive funds from assessments on heating fuels, federal funds, bonds, public or private sources in support of the purpose of this section
- Funds may be used for programs that provide cost-effective energy efficiency, weatherization and heat pumps
- Programs may include incentives, financing, training, audits

35-A MRSA Sec. 10119(2)

EV Fund and EV Charging Infrastructure Fund

- Established to -
  - transform markets toward the adoption of EVs and to support the purchase of EVs and
  - increase availability and effectiveness of EV charging infrastructure
- The Trust may deposit federal funds or any other funds from public or private sources received in support of the purposes for which the funds are established.
- Specific to promoting EVs, the funds may be used to:
  - Provide rebates for the purchase or lease of EVs; and
  - The Trust may establish different rebate amounts for the purpose of providing reasonable opportunity for participation in the program across different customer groups and geographic areas.

35-A MRSA Secs. 10125-10126

Process Overview

Triennial Plan – Process Requirements (1)

- Develop the plan in consultation with
  - Board of Trustees; and
  - Entities and agencies involved in delivering energy efficiency;
- Offer to provide briefing and take input from Legislature's Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee (EUT);
- Secure adoption by 2/3 vote of Board; and
- Seek review and approval by the Maine PUC (process open to the public).

35-A MRS Sec. 10104(4)

Triennial Plan – Process Requirements (2)

The PUC shall:

- Review the plan:
  - Will it capture MACE energy efficiency savings for electric efficiency, demand management and beneficial electrification?
  - Will it capture MACE efficiency savings for NG?
- Defer to EMT's MACE calculations provided they are:
  - conducted consistent with EMT's rules,
  - supported by evidence in the record, and
  - developed through a reasonable and transparent process to make the technical determinations necessary to make those calculations.
- Issue the appropriate orders to transmission and distribution utilities and natural gas utilities for the procurement of MACE.

Title 35-A, Sec. 10104(4)

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Draft Timeline

