**Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group:**

**Policy Manual Subcommittee Plan**

**Version 3.0 Update Process**

**Final Draft for Review (7/26/22)**

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of the SAG Policy Manual Subcommittee is to discuss proposed Illinois energy efficiency policies and reach agreement on Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual Version 3.0. If there are proposed policies that may belong in the Illinois TRM Policy Document, it will also be updated through the Policy Manual Subcommittee process.

1. **Background**

Creating an energy efficiency “policy manual” in Illinois was a directive from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to SAG in 2014. The Policy Manual “provides guiding principles for procurement, oversight, evaluation and operation of the electric and gas Energy Efficiency Programs authorized under Sections 8-103B and 8-104 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act (Act). The principles and policies articulated in the Policy Manual were derived from Commission orders, policies and procedures developed by the SAG, as well as Best Practices from state Energy Efficiency Programs delivered throughout the nation.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

The first version of the Policy Manual was approved by the ICC in December 2015. Policy Manual Version 1.1 was updated in spring 2017 with minor corrections needed as a result of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA). Version 1.1 was approved by the ICC in October 2017. Policy Manual Version 2.0 was developed from September 2018 to September 2019, to incorporate various new policies and policy updates proposed by interested participants. Version 2.0 was approved by the ICC in December 2019. Policy Manual Version 2.1 was updated in fall 2021, to incorporate minor corrections needed due to passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. Version 2.1 was approved by the Commission in March 2022.

The Policy Manual references an annual review, with updates as needed.[[2]](#footnote-2) Due to the time and effort of SAG participants involved in updating the Policy Manual, the SAG has convened the Policy Manual update process approximately every 3-4 years. Additional information about the Policy Manual, including prior versions, can be found on the Policy Manual page of the SAG website: <http://www.ilsag.info/illinois-ee-policy-manual.html>.

The Policy Manual Version 3.0 update process will include discussion of proposed policies submitted to SAG for consideration, and policies discussed by SAG between 2019 and 2021 that may be appropriate to include in the Policy Manual. The 2022-2025 Energy Efficiency Plan stipulated agreements between individual utilities (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas) and non-financially interested stakeholders reference discussion of several topics within the Policy Manual Subcommittee Version 3.0 update process. Policy topics referenced in stipulated agreements were submitted by interested participants through the Proposed Policy process. Policy Small Groups will be established throughout this process as needed, to further develop policy language from submitted policy proposals and bring it back to the larger Policy Manual Subcommittee.

1. **Participation**

Participation in the Policy Manual Subcommittee is open to all interested SAG and Income Qualified (IQ) EE Leadership Team and Committee participants, including proposing policies for consideration and discussing proposed policies. Final consensus agreement on Illinois policy documents before submittal to the ICC for approval is open to utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders.

1. **SAG Guiding Principles**

All SAG Policy Manual Subcommittee participants are encouraged to follow the SAG guiding principles to support collaborative discussion that are described in the [SAG Process Guidance](https://ilsag.s3.amazonaws.com/SAG_Process_Guidance_2022_Update_FINAL-3-10-2022.pdf), including:

1. ***Build trust and collaboration.*** SAG meetings are intended to build trust and collaborative working relationships among participants.
2. ***Educate and inform.*** SAG meetings are intended to educate and inform participants on specific topics. Parties are encouraged to ask questions and request follow-up if additional information would be informative to the group.
3. ***Offer constructive approaches and solutions.*** Parties are encouraged to raise issues and voice concerns when they don’t support specific initiatives discussed at the SAG, including offering constructive approaches and solutions where possible.
4. ***Focus on the merits.*** SAG discussions should focus on the merits of an issue, rather than assertions of prior litigation positions that have already been resolved, unless there is a compelling reason/rationale to revisit the issue.
5. ***Ensure all interests are represented.*** Participation in SAG is open to all interested participants to encourage the discussion of a broad variety of interests, unless a topic presents a financial conflict of interest.
6. ***Participate in consensus discussions in good faith.*** Topics addressed in SAG may involve consensus decision-making. SAG participants will participate in consensus discussions in good faith, by engaging in respectful dialogue and listening to differing opinions of various parties.
7. **Meeting Materials**

For transparency and ease of review, agendas, notes and draft policy documents will be posted on the [Policy Manual Subcommittee webpage](https://www.ilsag.info/meetings/subcommittees/policy-manual-version-3-0-subcommittee/) throughout the Policy Manual update process

After updated policy documents are approved by the ICC, draft materials will be removed from the SAG website. Agendas and meeting materials will also be circulated to the Policy Manual distribution list. The SAG Facilitator will request materials be provided in advance of each meeting, to allow participants time to review materials. Agendas will be organized by topic area.

1. **Financial Conflict of Interest**

The SAG Financial Conflict of Interest policy is described in the [SAG Process Guidance](https://ilsag.s3.amazonaws.com/SAG_Process_Guidance_2022_Update_FINAL-3-10-2022.pdf):

**Definitions:** A non-financially interested stakeholder participant does not have a financial interest in Illinois utility energy efficiency portfolios, or a financial interest with Illinois utilities. A “financially interested party” means any person or entity, or employee of an entity, that engages in the purchase, sale, marketing or implementation of energy efficiency products, services, programs, pilots or research. A “financially interested party” may also engage in other work with utilities outside of energy efficiency.

**Policy:** A financial conflict of interest may be present when a SAG participant, in the judgment of the SAG Facilitator, may have a financial stake in a SAG discussion topic and participation by the financially interested party could have adverse consequences, such as hindering complete and frank discussions, or the participant may gain an undue advantage or benefit by participating. SAG participants that may have a financial conflict of interest in specific meetings topics must recuse themselves from participating in those meetings or portions of those meetings for relevant topics. Notwithstanding this restriction, the designated agent(s) of a participating utility shall not be considered to have a financial conflict of interest for purposes of participating in SAG discussions. 8 Conflicts may change from time to time.

Topics that may present a financial conflict of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Discussion of proprietary and/or confidential information (e.g., current and prospective program implementers, contractors, and product representatives);
2. Current and past program performance (e.g., current program implementers and contractors);
3. Future bids (e.g., current and prospective program implementers, potential bidders, and contractors);
4. Evaluation performance and proposed changes (e.g., current and prospective independent evaluation contractors); and/or
5. Final negotiations on portfolio planning for utility Energy Efficiency Plans.

Prior to the discussion of confidential topic(s), SAG participants may be asked by a utility or utilities to sign a non-disclosure, or confidentiality agreement.

1. **Proposed Policies**

SAG participants and IQ Committee Leadership Team participants interested in proposing a policy for inclusion in Policy Manual Version 3.0 were invited to complete a Proposed Policy Template and submit it to the SAG Facilitator. Completed templates were due June 17, 2022. Proposed policies are posted on the [Policy Manual Subcommittee webpage](https://www.ilsag.info/meetings/subcommittees/policy-manual-version-3-0-subcommittee/). Policy proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered, unless there is consensus with the Subcommittee on adding a new policy proposal to the discussion list.

1. **Writing Committee**

Following Policy Manual Version 3.0 negotiations, the SAG Facilitator will convene interested attorneys representing Policy Manual utility and stakeholder participants in a small group Writing Committee. The purpose of the Writing Committee is for attorneys to review final policy language for the updated Policy Manual and updated IL-TRM Policy Document, if applicable, prior to submitting policy documents to the ICC for approval. The Writing Committee will review final draft policy language so that updated policy documents have a consistent voice, “look and feel”, and content. Attorneys will seek to preserve the substance of any policies they edit. If a substantive edit is needed, the SAG Facilitator will document the rationale for the edit and an update will be shared with Policy Manual negotiating parties.

1. **Final Consensus**

Consensus agreement on final policy documents before submittal to the ICC will be between utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders.

Agreement will include:

1. Conceptual agreement on which policies will be included in the Policy Manual and/or IL-TRM Policy Document
2. Final policy language
3. Effective date for the Manual and/or specific policy effective dates. For example:
   1. Option 1: The start of the next Program Year, following Policy Manual approval by the Commission
   2. Option 2: The start of the next EE Plan (January 1, 2026)
   3. Option 3: A combination of the two above, depending on the policy

If agreement is reached: ICC Staff will file the Policy Manual with the ICC, requesting a docket be opened for approval.

If agreement cannot be reached:

* SAG Facilitator will prepare a comparison exhibit documenting the non-consensus issues
* Interested parties will have an opportunity to review and propose edits before the comparison exhibit is finalized
* ICC Staff will file the Policy Manual with the ICC, requesting a docket be opened to address the non-consensus policy issues

1. **Final Review**

Policy Manual Subcommittee participants will have an opportunity for ‘almost final’ review of updated policy documents following the Writing Committee review process, to identify any errors prior to submittal to the ICC for approval. Redline and clean versions of the ‘almost final’ Policy Manual will be circulated to the Policy Manual Subcommittee.

The final version of the Policy Manual will be circulated to the SAG distribution list for informational purposes only, prior to the submission of the Policy Manual to the ICC for approval.

1. **Schedule**

The table below describes the Policy Manual Subcommittee schedule for 2022 and 2023. The agenda topics described in this table are tentative. Final agendas will be circulated to the Policy Manual Subcommittee in advance. Key deliverables are identified in green highlight.

| **Meeting Date / Time** | **Agenda Topics** |
| --- | --- |
| **Thurs. June 23, 2022 Policy Manual Meeting #1** 10:30 am - 3:30 pm Teleconference | Kick-off Part 1: Introduce policy proposals; identify questions and/or initial feedback |
| **Wed. August 3, 2022 Policy Manual Meeting #2** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Teleconference | Kick-off Part 2: Introduce income qualified / income eligible policy proposals; identify questions and/or initial feedback  Request feedback from Subcommittee participants on policies that may not be appropriate for the Policy Manual or may belong in another forum; request final feedback on Subcommittee Plan and Schedule |
| **Wed. August 31, 2022 Policy Manual Meeting #3** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  Teleconference | Follow-up discussion on policy proposal feedback  IQ Policy Proposals:  --Net-to-Gross Policy for Disadvantaged Areas (Ameren Illinois Policy Proposal)  --Single Family IQ Eligibility Verification Guidelines (Ameren Illinois Policy Proposal) |
| **Wed. Sept. 21, 2022 Policy Manual Meeting #4** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Teleconference | Guest presenters – energy equity metrics: --University of Michigan Energy Equity Project (Justin Schott) --ACEEE Leading with Equity Initiative (Amanda Dewey, ACEEE)  Discuss Program Administration policy proposals |
| **Wed. Oct. 19, 2022 Policy Manual Meeting #5** 10:30 am – 3:30 pm In-Person with Teleconference Option | Follow-up Discussion on Equity Metrics – Stakeholders Propose Policy Metrics  Discuss IQ Reporting Proposals  Discuss IQ Policy Proposals  Discuss Electrification Policy Proposals |
| **Wed. Nov. 9, 2022 Policy Manual Meeting #6** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Teleconference | Discuss Evaluation Policy Proposals  Follow-up on Program Administration Policy Proposals, if needed |
| **Wed. Dec. 14, 2022 Policy Manual Meeting #7** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Teleconference | Follow-up on IQ Policy Proposals and Electrification Policy Proposals  Discuss Independence Policy Proposals |
| **Wed. Jan. 18, 2023 Policy Manual Meeting #8** 10:30 am – 3:30 pm In-Person with Teleconference Option | Discuss proposed policies (agenda TBD) |
| **Wed. Feb. 15, 2023 Policy Manual Meeting #9** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Teleconference | Discuss proposed policies (agenda TBD) |
| **Wed. March 15, 2023 Policy Manual Meeting #10** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Teleconference | Discuss proposed policies (agenda TBD) |
| **Wed. April 19, 2023 Policy Manual Negotiation Meeting** 10:30 am - 3:30 pm In-person (Springfield) with Teleconference Option | Negotiation Meeting: Utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders  Goal for this meeting is to reach conceptual agreement on Policy Manual Version 3.0 |
| **Wed. April 26, 2023** **Follow-up Negotiation Meeting** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Teleconference | Follow-up Negotiation Meeting: Utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders (if needed)  Discuss final language edits to follow-up on April 19 meeting |
| **Deliverable: By Friday, May 5, 2023 SAG Facilitator to send 'cleaned up' Policy Manual Version 3.0 to negotiating parties and Writing Committee** | |
| **May, 2023: Writing Committee Meetings** | Policy Manual Writing Committee meetings to review final edits |
| **Deliverable: By June 1, 2023, SAG Facilitator to circulate clean final copy of Policy Manual Version 3.0 to Policy Manual Subcommittee, for "nits and errors" review (no substantive edits) - 10 Business Days** | |
| **Deliverable: By Friday, June 16, 2023 - Comments on errors due** | |
| **Deliverable: By Friday, June 30, 2023 - ICC Staff to file Policy Manual Version 3.0 with ICC** | |

1. See Policy Manual Version 2.1, Section 2.1, Background [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Policy Manual Version 2.1, Section 2.4, Updates to this Policy Manual: “This Policy Manual will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)