Energy Efficiency Advisory Council



2024 Annual Report

Prepared by the DNREC State Energy Office

December 5, 2025

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Energy Efficiency Advisory Council

2024 Annual Report

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This report was prepared by the staff of the DNREC State Energy Office, located within the Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy.

For more information on the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council and other resources, visit the DNREC State Energy Office at https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/energy-office/ or call 302-735-3480.

Introduction

Since 2014, the Delaware Energy Efficiency Advisory Council ("EEAC" or "Council) has been working as a collaborative panel of representatives to support the development of energy efficiency programs that increase energy efficiency, reduce energy usage and lower consumer energy costs across the state. One of the Council's primary tasks is to assist Delaware's electric and natural gas utilities and program administrators with developing and deploying energy efficiency programs that are cost-effective, reliable and achievable. The 2024 EEAC Annual Report highlights the actions of the Council and participating program administrators over the past year and documents the state's progress toward the implementation of energy efficiency programs for all Delawareans.

Council Mission Statement

The EEAC's mission is to assist affected energy providers in the development of energy efficiency, energy conservation, peak demand reduction and emission-reducing fuel switching programs for all customer classes. These programs and financing mechanisms aim to be cost-effective, reliable and feasible, and include evaluation, measurement and verification of energy savings. The Council strives to collaborate with Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Public Advocate to recommend candidate programs for three-year portfolios to be approved by the PSC or the appropriate governing body. For more information and to follow the work of the Council, visit de.gov/eeac.

2024 Program Summary

Energy Efficiency Performance Outcomes

2024 energy efficiency savings were equivalent to:

- Approximately 3,453 homes powered for a year through electric savings
- More than 4,840 homes heated for a year through gas savings
- Almost 21,463 metric tons of carbon dioxide avoided each year, the equivalent of taking 4,666 cars off the road.

Progress Toward Energy Savings Targets

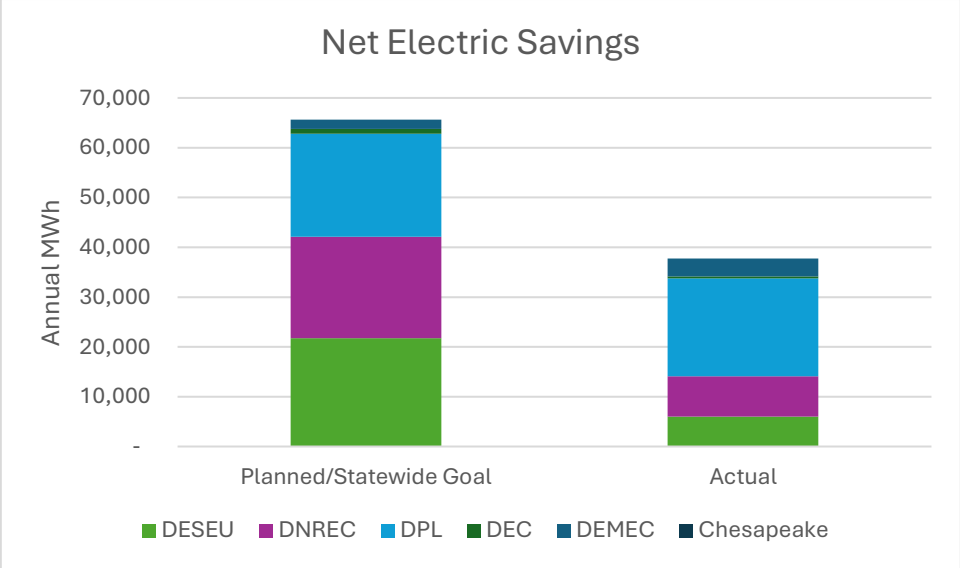
Beginning in 2017, the EEAC has sought to establish three-year non-binding energy savings targets. In 2022, during the last year of the previous three-year planning cycle, the regulated utilities still had open dockets with the Public Service Commission for review of their proposed plans. Given the uncertainty around the timing of final orders

and approved programs, the EEAC did not establish statewide three-year goals for 2023-2025. Rather, the EEAC tracked achieved savings against planned savings in each year for individual program administrators.

Over 2024, the EEAC engaged in detailed discussions regarding the allocation of savings to programs offered by Program Administrators. The goal of these discussions was to establish a clear and equitable framework for allocating energy savings that minimizes overlap and duplication for program savings. A key focus was to ensure that savings attributed to one program did not overlap with savings claimed by other programs for the same project. To achieve this, the EEAC has been working to refine guidelines that support accurate and transparent savings attributes, while also continuing to foster collaboration among the Program Administrators. These discussions continued into 2025 with a consensus to allocate savings proportionally based on funding contributions, though more work will be done in 2026 to refine this methodology.

Figure 1 shows the electric program savings in 2024 compared to planned savings and the statewide target for the year. These savings represent preliminary (unevaluated) results.

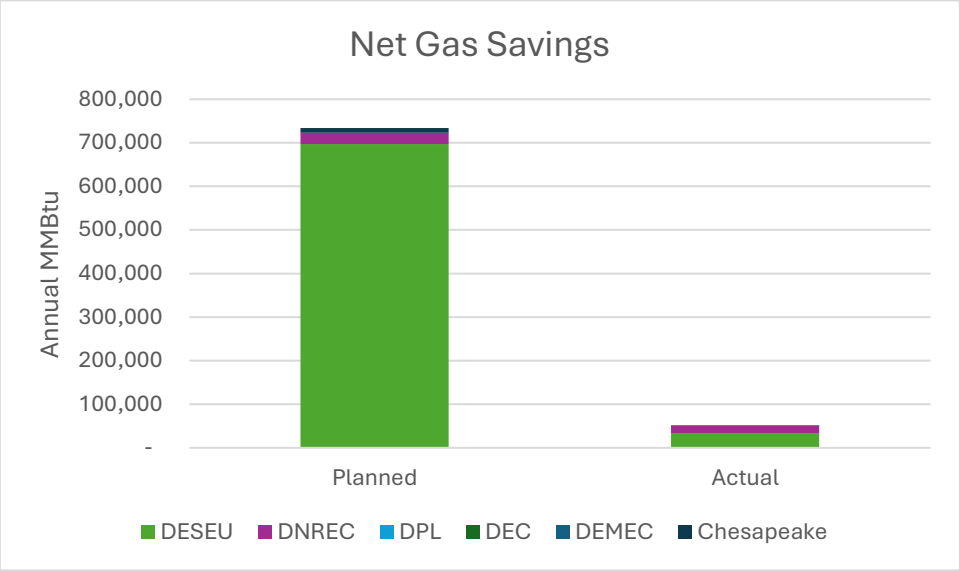
Figure 1. 2024 Net Electric Savings*



**For preliminary results, net savings were calculated using statewide net-to-gross ratios as approved by the EEAC EM&V Committee*

Figure 2 presents similar information from gas program savings.

Figure 2. 2024 Net Gas Savings*



**For preliminary results, net savings were calculated using statewide net-to-gross ratios as approved by the EEAC EM&V Committee*

Program Results and Updates

DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal, & Energy

The DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal, & Energy (DCCE) supports energy efficiency and conservation programs that help reduce energy use and impact on the state's environment and public health. In 2024, the Division's energy efficiency efforts included the Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). These programs contributed to reducing the production of harmful greenhouse gases, lowered energy costs and improved the value and comfort of homes and businesses in Delaware. The table below presents preliminary results of DNREC's progress toward achieving its energy savings targets.

Table 1. 2024 DNREC Performance Metrics

Annual Electric Energy Savings (MWh)	8,144
Annual Electric Demand Savings (kW)	1,594
Annual Natural Gas Savings (MMBtu)	18,886
Annual Other Fuel Savings (MMBtu)	1,068
Program Spending (Millions)	$9.1

Energy Efficiency Investment Fund

Program Description

EEIF provides financial incentives to Delaware businesses, local governments and non-profits to make building technology upgrades that result in energy, peak demand and operating cost savings. The program includes both prescriptive incentives and a custom incentives pathway that supports more complex and comprehensive projects. EEIF is primarily funded by the Delaware Public Utility Tax. Results in the table below represent projects completed in 2024. In recent years, the EEIF program has focused on supporting projects for small businesses.

Table 2. 2024 EEIF Performance Metrics

Annual Electric Energy Savings (MWh)	7,848
Annual Electric Demand Savings (kW)	1,507
Annual Natural Gas Savings (MMBtu)	17,419
Program Spending (Millions)	$3.2
Participants (# of businesses)	196

DNREC highlights from the EEIF program include:

- Increased program activity significantly in 2024, with applications up 97% year-over-year (232 vs. 118) and paid rebates increasing 155% (196 vs. 77).
- Enhanced incentives and funding opportunities, including raising the rebate cap from 30% to 60% of project cost (benefiting 20% of projects) and introducing a Fuel Switch Bonus to promote electrification and greenhouse gas reduction.
- Expanded contractor engagement, adding 7 new contractors to the Participating Contractors Network to improve customer access to qualified professionals.
- Improved customer experience, streamlining the online application portal and updating the DNREC EEIF webpage and resources for easier navigation and faster access to program information.

Weatherization Assistance Program

Program Description

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created to reduce energy costs for low-income Delaware households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes. In Delaware, WAP has been available to low-income residents since 1976. The current program is administered by DNREC's Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy and implemented by a third party subgrantee. The program provides energy efficiency, weatherization, ventilation and other health and safety measures to eligible residents. DNREC administers its WAP as a grantee of the U.S. Department of Energy's WAP.

Other sources of funding include the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is run by Delaware's Department of Health and Human Services, RGGI proceeds and contributions from Delmarva Power and Light.

Table 3. 2024 WAP Performance Metrics

Annual Electric Energy Savings (MWh)	296
Annual Electric Demand Savings (kW)	87
Annual Natural Gas Savings (MMBtu)	1,467
Annual Other Fuel Savings (MMBtu)	1,068
Program Spending (Millions)	$5.8
Participants (# of households)	402

DNREC highlights from the WAP program include:

- Served more than 400 Delaware households, delivering energy efficiency improvements that reduced energy use and enhanced comfort.
- Successfully secured DOE Annual Allocation Grant, including full drafting, review, and submission to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility

The Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU) was created in 2007 to foster a sustainable energy future. The DESEU serves as a one-stop resource for residents and businesses by offering numerous programs through its Energize Delaware initiative. In 2024, the DESEU helped nearly 5,000 Delaware utility customers save money through energy efficiency. The DESEU is primarily funded through the Regional Green House Gas Initiative (RGGI) but leverages multiple sources of funding such as tax-exempt bonds and leases, fees and interest on financing, and fees for services.

Table 4. 2024 DESEU Performance Metrics

Annual Electric Energy Savings (MWh)	5,985
Annual Electric Demand Savings (kW)	-
Annual Natural Gas Savings (MMBtu)	32,221
Annual Other Fuel Savings (MMBtu)	26,551
Program Spending (Millions)	$15.7
Participants (# businesses, organizations or households)	4,952

Home Performance with Energy Star

Program Description

The SEU's flagship Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® (HPwES) program, which is going into its 10th year, offers a whole house approach to improving comfort and safety in the home, and it provides homeowners significant savings on their utility costs. The program begins with a low-cost home energy assessment, during which up to $250

in energy-saving products are installed at no extra charge. Based on the assessment, participants work with certified contractors to implement recommended upgrades, such as air sealing, insulation, and high-efficiency HVAC systems, eligible for substantial rebates and financing options. These improvements typically deliver utility bill savings of 20% or more, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance home durability. The program also includes quality assurance inspections and provides special incentives for income-qualified households, making energy efficiency accessible and impactful statewide.

HPwES is a cost sharing partnership program. In addition to Energize Delaware's program funding, Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC) funded 562 energy audits and home energy upgrades in the amount of $36,113 which resulted in 194 MWh of electric and 5 MMBtu of gas savings. Funding provided by DEC and the associated savings are counted in Table 6 of the DEC section of this report. Similarly, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (Chesapeake) utilized $7,078 to fund 15 energy audits and home energy upgrades, resulting in total savings of 107.15 MMBtu. Additional information about Chesapeake's 2024 programs, funding, and savings are included in Table 9 of this report.

Additional 2024 Results and Program Changes

Savings results from DESEU's numerous other programs in 2024 are listed in Table 5 below. Note, numbers in the table may not precisely add up due to rounding.

Table 5. 2024 DESEU Savings by Program

Program	Annual Electric Energy Savings (MWh)	Annual Natural Gas Savings (MMBtu)*	Annual Other Fuel Savings (MMBtu)
Residential	**1,896**	**17,743**	**23,999**
Affordable Multifamily Housing	588	(46)	2,331
HEC2	22	396	74
Home Performance with Energy Star	1,122	16,831	21,593
Lights On Program	-	-	-
Online Marketplace	164	563	-
Commercial & Industrial/Non-profit	**4,089**	**14,478**	**2,552**
Delaware C-PACE	-	-	-
Performance Contracting	3,680	13,385	-
Revolving Loan Fund	56	-	249
Farm Efficiency Program	-	-	2,290
Energy Assessments for Non-profits	348	1,094	9
Other	**3**	**-**	**-**
Empowerment Grant	2	-	4

** Note: Negative savings numbers due to fuel switching.*

DESEU highlights from these programs include:

- Energy Efficient Earth, a contractor in the Home Performance program, was recognized by the Department of Energy (DOE) as the #1 Home Energy Score contractor in the nation, having completed over 1,000 projects.
- Assessments in the Home Energy Check-up and Counseling (HEC2) Program increased by 270% from the previous year. Total energy savings from the HEC2 Program increased by 93%.
- The Existing Building Initiative in the Affordable Multifamily Housing Program developed a new per-unit incentive cap to ensure more equitable distribution of resources between units of varying sizes.

Delaware Electric Cooperative

DEC is a member-owned electric distribution company serving 105,000 members in Kent and Sussex counties Delaware. DEC implements several efficiency programs for residential, commercial and agricultural customers. The programs typically provide prescriptive incentives for a short list of qualifying measures and equipment types. In 2024 DEC offered several energy efficiency programs, including roadway area lighting, heat pump water heaters and C&I lighting, as well as the Home Performance with Energy Star program, offered in partnership with the SEU. DEC also offers demand response programs. Through the Electric Vehicle (EV) program, EV owners can receive a one-time $200 billing credit and an additional $5 monthly billing credit for not using their EV chargers during Beat the Peak alerts. DEC also partners with NEST's Rush Hour Rewards program to provide incentives for allowing DEC to adjust participating customers' NEST thermostats a few degrees during summer Beat the Peak alerts. Customers who sign up for the program receive a $100 credit on their electric bills. Customers can also receive a $5 monthly billing credit from June through September.

Table 6. 2024 DEC Performance Metrics

Annual Electric Energy Savings (MWh)	398
Annual Electric Demand Savings (kW)	5,591
Annual Natural Gas Savings (MMBtu)	5
Program Spending (Millions)	$1.6
Participants (# of businesses, residents, or units)	5,751

Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation

The Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC) was incorporated in 1979 as a public corporation constituted as a Joint Action Agency and a wholesale electric utility. DEMEC represents and serves the eight municipal electric distribution utilities located in Delaware. Collectively, they serve more than 99,000 residents and businesses in their

communities. DEMEC's Efficiency Smart program was initially launched in 2018. The program offers several options to help participating communities and their residential and business customers use less energy and save money through energy education, plug load meter reports, technical assistance and financial incentives. Among other successes, the number of small businesses completing a project through DEMEC's program increased 84% over 2022.

DEMEC also works with residential and commercial electric customers to reduce energy consumption during peak energy usage times through the Power Savers demand response program. On days that large increases in electric usage are expected, DEMEC will encourage customers to avoid activities that will increase their use by issuing "Power Saver Alerts." DEMEC uses a combination of municipal notification systems, contractor support and website and social media to issue alerts and notify customers.

Table 7. 2024 DEMEC Performance Metrics

Annual Electric Energy Savings (MWh)	3,602
Annual Electric Demand Savings (kW)	552
Annual Natural Gas Savings (MMBtu)	-
Program Spending (Millions)	$2.7
Participants (# of unique account holders or locations)	653

DEMEC highlights from these programs include:

- Increases in marketing and product offerings more than tripled the participation and savings over the previous year for the Home Energy Rebates program.
- Offering the Appliance Recycling Rewards program for the entire 3-month promotion period in 2024 led to a 5-times increase in savings and participation over the prior year.

Delmarva Power & Light

Delmarva Power & Light (DPL), a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation, provides electricity and natural gas to customers in Delaware. Delmarva reached an agreement with the PSC in 2023 for their program plan for 2024-2026. In 2024, Delmarva Power (DPL) ran their approved programs, including ENERGY STAR® for New Home Construction and a behavioral program, and partnered with the SEU to support Home Energy Counseling and Checkup in Delmarva's service territory. These programs saved over 20,000 MWh of electric energy savings in 2024.

Table 8. 2024 DPL Performance Metrics

Annual Electric Energy Savings (MWh)	19,611
Annual Electric Demand Savings (kW)	6,175
Program Spending (Millions)	$1.4
Participants (# of customers or homes)	177,505

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation

Chesapeake Utilities distributes natural gas in Delaware and Maryland to an estimated 108,000 residents and businesses. Chesapeake Utilities filed its first proposed plan for their Energy Efficiency portfolio with the PSC in September 2023, which is the first gas-focused plan by a regulated utility in Delaware. Funding for the Home Energy Counseling and Checkup, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, and Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR programs, were approved in April 2024 with implementation in partnership with the SEU starting in October 2024.

Table 9. 2024 Chesapeake Performance Metrics

Annual Savings (MMBtu)	130
Program Spending	$7,357
Participants (# of customers or homes)	29

Council Background and Activities

Legislative Background

Title 29 §8059 of the Delaware Code enables all of Delaware's energy providers to offer cost-effective energy efficiency programs to their customers in collaboration with the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility. The legislation specified that programs should utilize private financing and allowance proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as the preferred sources of program financing prior to funds recovered from ratepayers. It also requires that regulations be promulgated, specifying how energy savings should be measured and verified. The legislation also created the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC), which is composed of a variety of energy efficiency stakeholders appointed by the Cabinet Secretary of DNREC.

EM&V Committee Update

The Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) Committee works to address aspects of planning, managing, overseeing and reporting of all EM&V activities in Delaware. In addition to ensuring that public spending on efficiency is prudent and cost-effective, EM&V also informs program design improvements and guides future investment decisions. Committee participants include energy efficiency program administrators, Council members, and community stakeholders. In 2024, the committee

reviewed bi-annual snapshot reports from all program administrators with active energy efficiency programs and updated the snapshot reporting template to capture all fuel impacts from electrification projects. The Committee also discussed potential updates to Delaware's EM&V regulations and the Delaware Technical Reference Manual (TRM) as well as options for a reporting allocation framework where more than one program administrator is involved in administering a program or funding a project.

In 2025, the EM&V Committee focused on updating inputs the three-year planning process including net-to-gross ratios and avoided costs to support three-year planning efforts. As previously, the EEAC will continue to develop and refine guidelines to ensure transparent, proportional allocation of energy savings among Program Administrators, minimizing overlap and fostering collaboration.

Looking Forward

Since its establishment, the Delaware Energy Advisory Council has played a vital role in advancing cost-effective energy efficiency programs, reducing energy consumption, and supporting statewide climate goals. Through collaboration with the Program Administrators and stakeholders, the EEAC has helped drive measurable savings for Delaware households and businesses while strengthening the state's clean energy future. The EEAC will continue to explore innovative program designs and strategies, consistent with the state's Energy and Climate Action plans, to ensure energy efficiency benefits reach more Delawareans in 2025 and beyond.

2024 Council Members

Rob Underwood (Chairperson)
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Maya Krasker
Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation
Program Administrator
Cassandra T. Marshall
Quaker Hill Neighborhood Association
Residential Sector
Ric Moore
Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility
Kevin Yingling
Delaware Electric Cooperative
Program Administrator
Derrick Craig
Chesapeake Utilities
Program Administrator
Christian Fuess
Delaware Energy Users Group
Manufacturing sector
Harris B. McDowell, III*
Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility
Clem Dinsmore
Delaware Nature Society
Environmental
Kelly McKeown
Commercial Sector
Vacant
Delmarva Power & Light
Program Administrator
Vacant
Low-income sector
Vacant
Agricultural Sector

**Drew Slater, the Executive Director of DESEU, has been given the proxy of one of the DESEU Council members on an "as needed" basis. Drew was a key contributor to the EEAC in 2024.*


DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL