

Policy

TITLE: Distributed energy resources – energy efficiency funding policy

Version #: 1.1

Original effective date: 03/30/2017 Next review date: 09/30/2023

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Purpose:

Through energy efficiency programs, Platte River and its owner communities proactively engage with retail customers to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their energy use. Efficiency programs not only reduce the energy costs for participating customers, but also provide Platte River with an opportunity to manage revenues, costs and risks.

There are a number of differing program focuses encompassed under the umbrella of distributed energy resources, among which efficiency programs are the most mature both nationally and at Platte River.¹ Due to the maturity of efficiency programs and the increasing expenditures anticipated for this activity, it is appropriate to formulate a policy that governs how goals and funding levels for efficiency programs are determined and how programs are evaluated.

Policy:

It is the policy of Platte River to make prudent investments in energy efficiency programs. Prudent investment in efficiency programs requires a means by which:

- overall goals and funding levels for efficiency programs are established, taking into consideration the balance of costs and benefits from the perspective of both participants and the utility system (including non-participants);
- individual programs that are capable of meeting the overall goals within the available budgets are identified for implementation;
- performance of programs is measured on an ongoing basis and subjected to regular periodic evaluation.

To carry out this policy, the general manager/CEO will direct staff to develop and maintain a set of appropriate planning and evaluation guidelines and to document these guidelines in a Distributed Energy Resource—Energy Efficiency Funding Reference Document. At minimum, this document will address the following:

1) The method used to develop an overarching goal and funding level for efficiency that ensures efficiency is a cost-effective resource compared to the long-run marginal cost of providing electricity.

¹ This policy is not intended to address funding or goals for other types of distributed energy resource programs, such as those aimed at promoting demand response, distributed generation, distributed storage or beneficial electrification. Investment in such programs is just beginning and tends to be at a much lower level. As investments in these areas increase, this funding policy may be expanded to encompass these technologies and programs, or additional policies may be developed. The board encourages continued cooperation between Platte River and the owner communities, but this policy does not specifically address the owner communities' investment in their own efficiency programs, or their investment in Common Programs. The owner communities may provide additional funding to Platte River to increase Common Program budgets or for Platte River to offer additional programs on their behalf. This is described in the Intergovernmental Agreement for Demand Side Management and Distributed Energy Resource Program Partnership.



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- 2) The factors considered when setting goals and funding levels for individual efficiency programs that can support the overarching goal.
- 3) The methods used by staff to evaluate efficiency program performance relative to goals and relative to projected cost, as well as the factors considered to determine when an independent third-party should be retained to evaluate programs.

Implementing parties and assigned responsibilities:

The energy solutions manager will have primary responsibility for implementation and will oversee development and documentation of any necessary procedures.

Associated items (if applicable):

Board Resolution No. 04 - 17

Intergovernmental Agreement for Demand Side Management and Distributed Energy Resource Program Partnership, January 9, 2020

Purchasing Policy and related Purchasing Manual

Distributed Energy Resource—Energy Efficiency Funding Reference Document

Definitions (if applicable):



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Version	Date	Action	Author	Change Tracking (new, review, revision)
1.0	03/30/2017	Original Policy by Board Resolution No. 04 - 17	Paul Davis	New
1.1	09/08/2020	Review and revision to outdated language and references	Energy solutions manager	Revision