



Date: December 12, 2018

To: Luly Massaro, Clerk, Public Utilities Commission

From: Kai Salem, Program Associate, kai@greenenergyconsumers.org

Comments on Docket 4894 – 2019 Pascoag Demand Side Management Program

Dear Ms. Massaro,

Green Energy Consumers Alliance is a Providence- and Boston-based nonprofit dedicated to speeding the transition to a low-carbon energy system in New England. We help our members make sustainable energy choices, and we advocate for ambitious clean energy policy in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Energy efficiency and demand side management are a vital part of the services that an electric utility offers its ratepayers. Strong utility energy efficiency and demand side management programs lower customers' electric bills, help utilities engage with customers, and increase the overall quality of electric service.

Although the 2019 Pascoag Utility District's Demand Side Management Program Plan does not propose comprehensive energy efficiency programs, it demonstrates a step up from past plans and will lead to stronger efficiency programs in the future. As such, Green Energy Consumers supports the approval of Pascoag Utility District's Demand Side Management Program Plan.

The Plan presents a few notable components that will serve state and local environmental goals, reduce customer bills, and help Pascoag move towards the advanced distribution system of the future. The Plan will continue to support customer education on electric vehicles through the community events and outreach/education program budget. It also vastly increases the number of home energy audits, which should drive more demand of efficiency programs overall.

Several of the most important measures included in the Plan will help build capacity for a stronger program in subsequent years. These include a plan to address the landlord/renter split incentive for the 2020 DSM Plan, the contracting of an energy efficiency consultant, and funding for a URI energy fellow. Green Energy Consumers recommends that Pascoag utilize the additional capacity to identify a funding source that can sustain the increased numbers of home energy audits, higher efficient appliance rebates, and other measures, even if funding from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is not available in the future.

Green Energy Consumers hopes that Pascoag's 2019 Plan will result in stronger Demand Side Management Plans in the future. We believe that this Plan is a step in the right direction and support its implementation in 2019.

Sincerely,

Kai Salem

Program Associate

kai@greenenergyconsumers.org

greenenergyconsumers.org

Boston: 284 Amory Street, Boston, MA 02130 | Phone: 800-287-3950
Providence: 2 Regency Plaza, Suite 8, Providence, RI 02903 | Phone: 401-861-6111



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