

**From:** Bob Eldredge  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2023 2:52 PM  
**To:** PUC: <puc@puc.nh.gov>  
**Subject:** Approve DE 23-068 | Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

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Hello NH PUC,

You need to approve the NHSaves Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan, 2024-2026 ASAP. This is critical and a benefit to all of NH, except the energy companies/suppliers.

I am founder and owner of ABC Energy Savers LLC, an NHSaves Qualified Contractor for Home Performance with Energy Star. I have over 12 years' experience working in the program and have helped 100s of NH residential homeowners reduce their purchases of oil, propane, natural gas and electricity. **The result is a significant amount of money (real \$\$\$) no longer leaving our State**, as most of this energy is imported into NH. I would think this is a priority for the NH government/NH PUC. I think NH spends about \$8 billion dollars a year now importing energy, and most of that money leaves the State of NH. NH Companies need to decrease their energy costs, as do many many homeowners. In addition, the homes are more comfortable, safer, and healthier (indoor air quality).

For example: my previous home in Bow NH, through the NHSaves program and more - the annual amount of oil needed for heating my home decreased from 1,400 gallons per year to just 800 gallons (did not add any other heat sources). That is a 600 gallon decrease and based on \$5 gallon oil, that results in \$3,000 less being spent annually on oil and \$\$\$ leaving our state. **This improves the NH economy (every year) and supports job growth** (and not just in the energy sector).

**With the increase in energy costs and cost of living, this program is even more critical for our economy.** For people on fixed income/low/middle income, they are doing whatever they can to decrease their money going out and energy costs took a significant increase over the past few years. Even those with a good income are seeking ways to spend less money on oil, propane, natural gas, and electricity. Weatherization is an excellent investment that saves people money year after year, and benefits many (except the energy companies).

In talks with many NH residents, many have no negative comments when I discuss the funding is from the System Benefits charge on electric bills. They support improving the NH economy for all.

Over the years due to the uncertainty of the NHSaves program, NH weatherization companies have NOT been growing and NOT investing in capital equipment and staff with the future so ambiguous. Including my own company. I was going to grow the company, but not knowing what 2024-2026 program will exist or not, and even if there is a program, I have no idea what it will be. I am horrified that the NH PUC has until Nov 30, 2023 to decide about a program for 2024 – 2026. **My preference is for a 5-year plan.** No wonder a lot of NH companies focus on working in the MassSaves program.

Note – NHSaves has excellent guidelines for ensuring a safe and healthy home after work is completed. I have seen a number of homes with work done outside the program, that there is now mold and other unhealthy/safe issues. Example, one finished attic room with about 12 recessed lights that were not rated to be covered with insulation, yet whoever covered the light cans with 12+ inches of

insulation – creating a potential fire hazard. Wet basement that a spray company applied foam to rim joists and walls with no regard to the existing water/moisture problem – they now have mold in the basement and living space. Companies like USA Insulation do incredibly poor work and have no regard for the health and safety of homeowner. Imagine seeing liquid foam pouring out from an electrical outlet.

I strongly support extending the 2023 program as the 2024-2026 program, and support even increasing the funding for NHSaves Home Performance with Energy Star. And suggest not waiting till the last minute to decide as it is rather hard for companies to ramp up with less than a one-month notice. Be more like 6 months to ramp up to meet the demand, especially after so little growth over the past few years.

**The program is a WIN-WIN-WIN for ALL.--**

Thanks,

*Bob*

Bob Eldredge  
Energy and Comfort Adviser

BPI Certified Professional

NHSaves Qualified Contractor