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# **Climate Compliance Plan**

NE Restructuring Roundtable

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## Massachusetts Household Heating by Fuel (2023)



The gas network must play a crucial role in the energy transition to meet customer energy needs in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner.



# What is the Climate Compliance Plan?

CCPs are strategic plans or a "roadmap" to how LDCs will align with and contribute to the States' decarbonization goals, where the focus is reducing greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas.

#### **Regulatory Background**

Legislated as part of 2022 Clean Energy Act and required by the D.P.U. 20-80-B Order. Each LDC must submit a CCP every 5 years.

## What are key components of the CCP?



Strategic Plans to advance multiple strategies enabling decarbonization



**Performance Metrics:** LDCs developed and agreed upon metrics to report every five years with their CCPs



**Regulatory and Policy Enablers:** Progress against this strategic roadmap requires new policy and policy changes to enable the energy transition



**Equity & Affordability:** Action plans emphasize the importance of cost-effectiveness, learning-by-doing, and expanding internal capabilities

What are we seeking approval for in the CCP?

 The Strategic Roadmap
NPA Framework
CCP Tariff

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## **CCP Strategic Plans**

## Non-Pipeline Alternatives (NPAs)

#### Strategies to assess alternatives to traditional gas infrastructure.

## Integrated Energy Planning (IEP)

Coordination of gas and electric capital planning for optimal resource allocation.

### Customer Connections

Policies encouraging electrification over new gas connections.

## Networked Geothermal

Development of networked geothermal as a scalable, emissions-free heating solution and NPA.

#### **Low Carbon Fuels**

Exploration of RNG and hydrogen to support hard-to-electrify customers.

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# **NPA Framework**

- DPU's 20-80-B Order states that gas utilities must consider NPAs for all new gas investments
  - NPAs could include electrification, networked geothermal, demand response, behavior change, market transformation, and targeted energy efficiency
- The proposed NPA analysis framework principles (consistent with DPU orders 20-80-B and C):
  - Safeguarding ratepayer interests and maintaining affordability for customers;
  - Ensuring safe, reliable, and cost-effective natural gas service;
  - Ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations;
  - Minimizing the burden on low- and moderate-income households as the transition proceeds; and
  - Facilitating a just workforce and energy infrastructure transition.
- With a consultant, the joint LDCs developed an NPA Working Group to solicit input from stakeholders on the NPA framework
- The NPA framework is a "gated" process that evaluates every capital investment against specifically defined requirements.



# **Integrated Energy Planning**





# Key Ingredients for IEP Success

**Community and Customer Partnership:** Ensure strong, ongoing collaboration with customers and communities while acknowledging the boundaries of IEP and reinforcing the importance of preserving customer choice

**Robust Data Sharing:** Establish comprehensive, transparent data-sharing practices to support informed decision-making.

**Regulatory Alignment:** Evolve regulatory frameworks to enable and incentivize coordinated, cross-sector planning.

**Coordinated, Cross-Sector Planning:** Address historical fragmentation through collaboration across affiliated companies and planning teams, while improving visibility between gas and electric planning through aligned standards and shared objectives.

**Sustainable Funding Mechanisms:** Develop and implement funding models that support long-term, integrated infrastructure investments.

**Unified Tools & Skillsets:** Align planning tools and processes across teams to support shared capabilities and consistent outcomes.

## **Targeted Electrification Demonstration Program**



National Grid's **Targeted Electrification Demonstration Program** (approval pending) will target 118 customers across 14 segments of leak-prone pipeline in Leominster and Winthrop, Massachusetts, with a focus on EJCs



Targeted electrification pilot will provide "**learning-by-doing**" for customer acceptance, practical challenges of localized and universal electrification and surface unknowns from real-world deployment that need to be addressed for successful NPAs and IEP (e.g., regulatory, process)

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## **CCP Factor Tariff**

The CCP factor tariff is designed to recover incremental costs associated with the development and implementation of National Grid's CCP. This includes costs related to NPAs and other climate compliance initiatives.

#### **Incremental Costs**

Costs incurred that are additional to current investment projects and not recovered through base distribution or other rates

#### **Project Specific Costs**

- Development and evaluation of NPAs
- Customer outreach and education costs
- Costs for decommissioning mains and services
- Administrative expenses

#### Allowed Operational & Maintenance Expenses

- Incremental O&M directly attributable to the CCP
- Costs for new hires and internal transfers for CCP-related roles
- Excludes pension and postretirement benefits

# **Conclusion & Next Steps**

While we execute on our CCP over the coming years, we recognize key regulatory enablers necessary to support the implementation of our strategic plans and enable the energy transition at scale.

## Key Policy and Regulatory Enablers for a Successful Energy Transition



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