Principles for Leveraging New Energy Efficiency Program Funds

1. Prioritize "stacking" and "braiding" of IRA, BIL, WAP, IIJA and other new funds ("new funds") on top of existing programs to supplement existing program funds where those program objectives have E3 goals as their priority.
   1. Utilize existing program structures and infrastructure, where possible and not detrimental to Equity in Energy Efficiency (“E3”) goals.
   2. Be open to piloting new programs to fulfill the objectives of E3 and Justice40 to ensure that all eligible Connecticut persons and businesses benefit from the federal funds.
2. Offer funds through a "one stop shop" approach
   1. Simplify consumer accessibility by bringing new funds into existing access points
   2. When possible, align program eligibility requirements with identified customer needs to ensure that all eligible funds are made available to qualifying customers
   3. Develop tools for program vendors and contractors to utilize in identifying all available programs and funds based upon a customer’s financial situations and demographics
   4. Enhance existing customer qualification tools with features that allow access to all new funds
   5. Examine existing program designs to determine whether the current model should be maintained for maximum impact or whether new program designs or revisions should be considered
   6. Consider a program design that provides vendors with timely reimbursement to allow for inclusive vendor participation, including vendors which may not be able to support a long reimbursement process (i.e., from the time of installation to reimbursement).
3. Integrate equity goals in all relevant program changes and enhancements
   1. Align with E3 and Justice40 goals
   2. Coordinate with local communities and groups with an energy justice perspective
   3. Consider equity and use of new funds for small and micro businesses, especially those that serve distressed communities and populations, in addition to residential customers
   4. Alignment with other state processes (e.g., GC3, DEEP equity proceeding)
4. Ensure program sustainability
   1. Embed sustainable program design and future impacts after depletion of new funding sources
   2. Develop transition plans to sustainable funding sources for programs and workforce after the federal funds are no longer available
5. CT Coordination - Coordinate with utilities, contractors, state agencies, program administrators, the Green Bank, and other stakeholders in program planning
   1. Leverage existing programs and relationships in developing the most effective approaches to access and administer the new funds
   2. Ensure robust and inclusive public input and considerations in the planning process
   3. Ensure equity in the engagement process, including historically underserved communities, including BIPOC, communities of color, renters, moderate income, and language isolated
   4. Consider small and micro businesses in the process
6. Outside of CT Coordination - Coordinate with other states, programs, and the Federal government to ensure effective programs
   1. As DOE, HUD, and EPA develop program guidance, programs and states should help ensure that the guidelines are as flexible and effective as possible by sharing information and suggestions
   2. Before and after coordination with states
   3. Consider certain small and micro business eligibility as well as residential customers
7. Savings attribution
   1. Programs should consider the impact that increased program funding will influence performance and adjust program goals accordingly to ensure performance is set at a reasonable level
   2. Coordinate program impact planning with evaluation administrators
8. Consumer marketing should include information on the household and societal benefits of decarbonization