Memorandum

April 28, 2022



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FROM: Christina Steinhoff, Principal Planning Analyst, NEEA

SUBJECT: Final 2021 Annual Natural Gas Savings Report

NEEA is an alliance of utilities and energy efficiency organizations that pools resources and shares risks to transform markets toward energy efficiency that benefits consumers in the Northwest. NEEA's role is to establish technology and market conditions that advance energy efficiency in markets in a sustainable way.

Energy savings are enabled by the alliance's market transformation programs, codes and standards work, and investment in tools, training, resources, data and research to support greater efficiency. The programs seek to affect sustainable changes in markets, which then result in energy savings.

As such, Cascade Natural Gas has asked NEEA to report savings based on an established agreement. Based on that agreement, NEEA provides annual tracking and reporting of savings resulting from long-term market transformation efforts.

This memo provides the final energy savings estimates for 2021. NEEA allocates the savings based on a combination of Cascade Natural Gas' funding share of its regional investment and service territory allocations. The savings are above NEEA's market transformation baseline and are net of savings claimed through regional utility programs. Details about baseline and technical assumptions are in the attached Excel spreadsheet.

Please contact Christina Steinhoff at csteinhoff@neea.org with any questions about this report.

2021 Savings Estimate Summary

NEEA estimates Cascade Natural Gas' 2021 annual natural gas energy savings associated with its initiatives is 27,914 Annual Therms¹ (Table 1). These savings are above the NEEA baseline² and exclude an estimate of savings that Cascade Natural Gas and other regional utilities claim through locally run programs. NEEA allocates energy savings based on funder share for voluntary programs and an estimate of service territory shares for codes and state standards (Appendix A). Appendix B provides more detail on Residential Codes savings calculation.

Table 1: 2021 Annual Report Net Market Effects Savings Estimates (Annual Therms)

	Gas Program Measures	
Program	(Net Market Effects)	
Residential Codes	26,538	
Commercial Codes	1,377	
Total Savings	27,914	

Net Market Effects = Total Regional Savings - Local Program Savings - Baseline Savings Values might not add up due to rounding.

Regional Gas Savings Portfolio

NEEA is in its third year of reporting natural gas savings. Annual gas savings will increase over time as programs in the portfolio advance into full-scale market development and as new programs are added. Table 2 lists NEEA's expectations for gas savings. The following section provides more detail about the progress toward meeting these goals.

Table 2: Savings Expectations

Program	Products	Year Expected for Reporting
Commercial Code	Specific proposals advanced in WA 2018 code	2021
Residential New Construction	Residential Codes	2021
	Above Code Homes	2020 Only
Efficient Rooftop Units	Efficient Rooftop Units	2022
Standards	Commercial Boilers, Commercial Kitchen Equipment	2022
High Performance Windows	Windows	2023
Efficient Gas Water Heater	Gas Heat Pump Water Heater	2025

¹ The term Annual Therms refers to the fact that NEEA reports first-year savings only in order to represent a sustained reduction in load.

² NEEA estimates Baseline as the savings that would have occurred without NEEA, utility, and the Energy Trust of Oregon's market intervention.

Commercial Codes

NEEA provides technical expertise and data to support adoption of codes. The 2021 savings come from work on WSEC-C 2018, which went into effect in February 2021. The savings analysis comes from NORESCO. The final report should be published in Q2 2022.

Residential New Construction

Code

Gas funding has been leveraged to influence code since 2014 code. WSEC 2018 code went into effect in February 2021. NEEA started counting savings in August 2021 to allow time to build under the new code. Appendix A explains the savings calculation in detail. NEEA is currently working on next code cycle for both Washington and Oregon. In addition, NEEA will complete two studies—the Washington Residential Post Code Adoption Market Research and the Washington Residential Code Evaluation. The studies will help the region better understand the effects of the new code on building practices, including fuel choice and the impact on home energy savings estimates. We will discuss the current research findings, assumptions and 2022 workplan in the upcoming Natural Gas Advisory Committee meeting in April.

Above Code

In 2021, NEEA increased its focus on code development, with a long-term vision to achieve Zero Energy Ready Homes energy code for single-family new construction homes by the year 2030. To help achieve this goal, NEEA will build on established relationships with the voluntary home certification programs and other new construction market actors to implement activities that increase adoption of technologies and practices outlined in its code roadmaps.

Efficient Rooftop Units

The Efficient Rooftop Units program is preparing to advance to the Market Development stage in Q4, 2022. NEEA expects program activities, including field studies, to contribute to co-created savings beginning in 2022. The program's technical potential is estimated at 33 to 69MM Therms. Short- and long-term savings forecasts will be provided after NEEA's proposed naturally occurring baseline is reviewed by third-party evaluators and prior to the vote for the program's advancement to Market Development.

Standards

NEEA expects to report electric and gas Net Market Effects from the Washington commercial equipment appliance standard in 2022 after completion of an influence evaluation. NEEA provided data and analysis throughout the state rule-making process.

High Performance Windows

The program goal is to stimulate national builder and consumer demand for high performance windows, and manufacturers meeting that demand with scaled production. NEEA will influence

ENERGY STAR specification to Thin Triple Window performance levels and include in building codes as the primary vehicles for rapid market diffusion to reach the long-term goal over 50% of windows sold in the NW at 0.20 U-value or less. NEEA is aiming for the program to be in Market Development in late 2022 or 2023.

Efficient Gas Water Heaters

The program is in early development and has a technical potential of over 200MM Therms. While there are still many unknowns, NEEA does expect product launch for a Gas Heat Pump Water Heater by 2025. This will likely be preceded by a large scale North American field study which will include the first units installed in the NW. NEEA will provide forecasted savings when a product launch timeline is more certain.

Appendix A: Methodology to Forecast Savings

Allocation Methodology

NEEA allocates code savings for gas measures using a service territory approach. The approach uses EIA residential consumer sales for Residential Codes and nonresidential volume for Commercial Codes (Table 3).

Table 3: State Code Savings Allocation Share

Sector	WA	OR	ID
Residential	15.84%	0.00%	0.00%
Commercial	17.02%	0.00%	0.00%

For voluntary programs, NEEA allocates regional savings (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) using shares of investment by funder (Table 4).

Table 4: Funder Shares Savings Allocation of Regional Savings for Cascade Natural Gas

Business Plan	Gas Funding Share	
2020-2024	9.22%	

Baseline, Local Programs and Technical Assumptions

This report follows NEEA's method of measuring gas energy savings from market transformation efforts. The baseline is an estimate of the market adoption without intervention by NEEA, Energy Trust of Oregon and utilities. Prior to reporting the savings above the baseline, NEEA removes the savings counted through the local programs. This effort helps funders avoid double counting energy savings.

The technical assumptions come from third-party research including NEEA contracted research and the Regional Technical Forum. Details are available within the spreadsheet accompanying this memo.

Appendix B: Residential Code Savings Calculation

Washington's new residential building code, Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) 2018, saves on average 16% more energy than WSEC 2015 and 45% more than WSEC 2006.³ NEEA, utilities and other regional partners have contributed to these savings through regional energy efficiency programs, research, data collection and direct support during the rule-making process. NEEA will use the results of the savings analysis to report natural gas savings in its *2021 Annual Savings Report*.

One barrier to the analysis is, however, the lack of information on how the code will change building practices, particularly fuel selection. This memo explains how NEEA accounts for this uncertainty in the 2021 Annal Savings Report and explains next steps to collect more data to limit uncertainty.

Background

NEEA completed its savings analysis for WSEC 2018 in February 2021—the same time the code became effective. The analysis aligned with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council by assuming that 83% of the new homes used natural gas.⁴ Better information was not available because builders had not begun building under the new code.

NEEA has since been collecting permit data as part of the ongoing Washington Residential Post Code Adoption Market Research study. The purpose of the study is to gather market data about the impact of code on new construction, single-family homes in Washington. The study looks at primary heating fuel selection, builders' selection of credits (options chosen), and other characteristics including envelope, heating and cooling, ventilation, and water heating choices. NEEA's contractor, TRC, is currently analyzing results from 178 permits pulled under WSEC 2018 and 26 builder surveys conducted in late 2021 and early 2022. The monthly data is representative at the state level. Results from the study will be available by June.

In addition, NEEA is starting a Washington Residential Code Evaluation that will provide more data on fuel selection and compliance to the new code based on current building practices. This study will be completed in time for the 2022 Annual Savings Report. NEEA will update the 2020 savings estimate if the value is significantly different.

³ https://neea.org/resources/2018-washington-residential-code-energy-savings-analysis

⁴ RLW Analytics. 2007. *Single-Family Residential New Construction Characteristics and Practices*. Portland, OR: Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. AND RLW Analytics. 2007. *Multi-Family Residential New Construction Characteristics and Practices*. Portland, OR: Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

2021 Annual Report Adjustment

In the meantime, NEEA is reporting a conservative estimate of natural gas savings for 2021.⁵ Early results from the Post Code Adoption study indicate that the share of gas-fueled homes permitted under the WSEC 2018 could be as low as 12%. The value likely represents a low-bound because:

- 1. The market's response to the code change is still evolving, and homes built later in the code cycle may differ from those built early in the cycle. For example, some builders may be shifting toward electric heating as an easy way to meet the new code initially, but they may develop new ways to include natural gas and meet the code without significant incremental cost. NEEA staff also expect distributors and manufacturers will work with builders to swing the percentage back toward more natural gas homes.
- 2. Data from above code builders suggest that they are still including natural gas in new homes. Approximately 74% of the homes certified in August-December 2021 used gas space heating.⁶
- 3. If home buyers demand natural gas, NEEA expects fuel selection numbers to change over time.

As a conservative approach, NEEA adjusted the 2021 savings downward using the equation below.

⁵ Note: NEEA will not make any adjustments to its electric savings report until it finalizes its analysis on fuel selection. This approach means the electric savings that NEEA reports are likely on the low end.

⁶ NEEA. March 2022. AXIS Database. Dataset includes Utility Performance Path and RESNET HERS.

Equation 1: WSEC 2018 Natural Gas Savings

Savings = UES * Homes * Compliance * %Natural Gas

Term	Assumption	Source	Commentary
UES (Unit Energy Savings)	125 Therms/Gas-fueled Home	SEEM analysis. 2019-2020 Washington Residential New Construction Code Study. ⁵	Analysis completed by Ecotope in February 2021.
Homes	12,234 Units	Department of Housing and Urban Development. ⁷	NEEA assumes a 6-month lag from permit to construction complete.
Compliance	91.1%	CLEAResult. 2020.	This assumption will be updated in NEEA's 2022 Annual Report.
%Natural Gas	12%	Washington Residential Post Code Adoption Market Research Study. 2022.	The gas rate can be as high as 74% based on data NEEA collected through the homes certification program.

NEEA allocates the state-level savings to each funder using a service-territory approach, which is based on EIA residential customer accounts.

⁷ SOCDS Building Permits Database (huduser.gov).



2021 Annual Report for Cascade Natural Gas

INTRODUCTION

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA or "the alliance") is a nonprofit organization working in collaboration with Cascade Natural Gas and more than 140 other Northwest utilities and energy efficiency organizations to accelerate the innovation and adoption of efficient products, services and practices throughout the region. With funding and engagement from Cascade Natural Gas and these other entities, the alliance intervenes in the market to create lasting change by removing barriers and leveraging opportunities to accelerate the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency.

For additional information about alliance programs and activities, the 2021 Operations Plan is available on neea.org.

PRIMARY BUSINESS PLAN STRATEGY: EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

To ensure the continued availability of energy-efficient products, services and practices to Northwest consumers, the alliance identifies emerging energy efficiency opportunities and works with manufacturers and the market to test and validate product performance and energy savings. These efforts are coordinated through the Regional Emerging Technology Advisory Committee (RETAC), and the Natural Gas Advisory Committee (NGAC) which are facilitated by NEEA staff.

In 2021, the alliance continued to maintain the region's only shared energy efficiency emerging technology database. The database, which is housed on ConduitNW.org, increases regional visibility into emerging technology activities across organizations and reduces development costs by avoiding redundancies. In 2021, more than 25 regional emerging technology projects and products were added to the database.

In addition, NEEA staff scanned the market in 2021 to identify promising new energy-efficient products, services and practices. NEEA staff conducted activities related to the following natural gas opportunities in 2021:

1. High-Performance Windows: This product is a primary window with three panes of glass (or film or rigid plastic), two of which are standard thickness and the third of which is a center thin pane of glass (or film). The overall thickness and weight are similar to standard double pane windows so they can be hung in a standard window frame. In 2021, NEEA staff developed a dual-fuel Market Transformation program concept for High-Performance Windows, positioning the product as an accessible strategy for new homes by working with leading production

¹ As a dual-fuel organization, the alliance manages a portfolio of natural gas and electric Market Transformation initiatives.

- builders and window manufacturers to increase production and product availability. The program concept was approved for advancement in Q3 2021.
- 2. Combination Hot Water and Space Heat: This product is an integrated system that provides both space and water heating. It can be used in both electric and natural gas applications. In 2021, the alliance published testing results from its Combi System Field Study. The study sought to demonstrate the performance of combi systems in cold Northwest climates and identify barriers to market adoption of the product. Findings from the study showed increased savings and participant satisfaction with the units over the course of the field trial. The full study can be found on neea.org.
- 3. Machine Learning Systems for Building Control: NEEA staff are investigating a new group of products with potential applicability to both electric and natural gas efficiency. Using machine learning and controls, the products optimize interactions between building systems that typically operate autonomously. These products track everything that's happening in a building, and the systems operate and then optimize the interactions in a way that humans can't. In 2021, NEEA staff coordinated with the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab to select two field test site locations in Seattle. The field testing will provide product performance data and insights on real-world functionality of the technology.
- 4. Paired Washer-Dryer: In 2021, NEEA staff conducted testing to measure the total energy required to wash and dry the same "real-world" load of laundry in matched washers and dryers, including compact washers with heat pump dryers, and front- and top-load washers with electric and natural gas heated dryers. This testing leveraged previous NEEA work on both clothes washers and dryers. Findings revealed that the manufacturer-reported U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) ratings generally underestimate the energy use of the washer and dryer pairs when tested under more realistic conditions and that the pairings use significantly more electricity and natural gas than estimated. In addition, the current U.S. DOE test procedures for dryers greatly underestimate the energy consumption under realistic conditions. Finally, there are significant cycle and energy-use differences between washer and dryer technologies, suggesting an opportunity for an ENERGY STAR matched pair specification to support the most efficient matched washer-dryer sets. The final report can be found on neea.org.

Conducting Product Research: In 2021, the alliance commissioned and published two reports examining emerging natural gas technologies, which are available on neea.org:

- Non-Powered Damper Gas Storage Water Heater Lab Testing
- Combi System Field Study

PRIMARY BUSINESS PLAN STRATEGY: EFFECTIVE PORTFOLIO **EXECUTION (NATURAL GAS)**

In 2021, NEEA operated a portfolio of Natural Gas Market Transformation programs that included two gas-only programs; Efficient Gas Water Heaters and Efficient Rooftop Units, and one dual fuel program: Residential New Construction. In addition, NEEA staff developed a dual-fuel Market Transformation program concept for High-Performance Windows that was added to the portfolio in Q3 2021. 2021 activities for the alliance's Natural Gas initiatives are listed below:

Efficient Rooftop Units - The Efficient Rooftop Unit (RTU) program aims to increase the efficiency of RTUs through product differentiation and, ultimately Federal Standards. In 2021, the alliance continued its work as part of a bi-national, cross-industry committee to revise the CSA Group's P.8 standard for Thermal Efficiencies of Industrial and Commercial Gas-Fired Package Furnaces. The revision sought to represent a more accurate, holistic view of the overall energy consumption of an entire commercial gasfired packaged unit and was informed by field and lab testing conducted by the alliance. The updated standard is in the final stages of publishing. And, based on the extensive research conducted for P.8, the alliance developed and published a specification that enable tiers of efficiency performance in a variety of applications. The specification outlines the best practices and approach to delivering efficient gas RTUs that reliably deliver heating energy savings in Northern climates and are easy to install as a direct replacement for existing RTUs. Finally, the program continued to conduct research to understand how market actors in the supply chain value the efficient RTU technology to identify barriers to product adoption.

Residential New Construction – The alliance's dual-fuel Residential New Construction (RNC) program focuses on removing barriers to the adoption of above-code efficiency measures in new construction and collecting market evidence that supports future code advancement. To accelerate market adoption, the RNC program influences builders and key subcontractors to adopt above-code technologies and best practices. In 2021, nearly 6,500 above-code homes were green label certified, or in the process of being certified, throughout the Northwest. Green label certifications indicate the homes were designed to be at least 10% more efficient than homes built to code, resulting in increased savings for homeowners in Washington and throughout the region. Also in 2021, the BetterBuiltNW website – a regional resource designed to support and promote energy-efficient home building in the Northwest – published 12 newsletters and seven new fact sheets and case studies to provide builders with information about more energy-efficient measures. In addition, 15 on-demand trainings were posted on the website and 14 live webinars were delivered throughout the year reaching more than 1,200 attendees throughout the Northwest, including participants from Washington. Please note: The RNC program will no longer be a stand-alone Market Transformation program and has been incorporated into the alliance's codes and standards program as of Q4 2021. This consolidation allows streamlined market engagement since there is significant overlap between above-code and at-code market activities. This change also leverages NEEA's state-by-state code training and market engagement approaches. Activities from the RNC program will continue in 2022, including maintenance and extension of the BetterBuiltNW website to use for residential code materials and training.

Efficient Gas Water Heaters - The Efficient Gas Water Heater (EGWH) program is devloping the market for efficient gas water heating products and bringing a natural gas heat pump water heater (GHPWH) to market, with the ultimate goal of influencing the passage of a Federal Standard by 2030. In 2021, the program continued to co-fund a North American GHPWH field demonstration in coordination with energy efficiency organizations, a major manufacturer, and multiple utilities across North America. The goals of this forthcoming demonstration project are to verify cold climate product performance of GHPWHs, inform utility program development, prepare for market entry of the first commercialized product and pave the way for near-term energy savings once the product is launched. GHPWH launch is now anticipated in 2025 due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which delayed technology developers and manufacturers product advancement and testing. The program also continued its leadership in the North American Gas Heat Pump Collaborative, which launched in 2020 and includes utilities representing over 35% of households using natural gas in the U.S. and Canada. The Collaborative's mission is to develop and implement activities to accelerate the adoption of gas

heat pump technologies in North America. Participation in the Collaborative enables the program to leverage the collective market reach in its work with market partners and more easily engage cofunding for projects in the GHPWH initiative. Lastly, to increase awareness of currently available and cost-effective measures for the GHPWH technology, the alliance worked with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Regional Technical Form to support and inform the development of Residential Gas Water Heater measures using research and data gathered through the alliance EGWH program activities.

PRIMARY BUSINESS PLAN STRATEGY: CODES AND STANDARDS

In 2021, NEEA continued to influence the development and successful implementation of energy codes, appliance and equipment standards, and test procedures to materially improve efficiency outcomes. The Codes and Standards program relies on and closely coordinates with the strategies and activities of the alliance's Market Transformation programs.

Codes – NEEA provides training and technical assistance on both current and upcoming commercial and residential Washington energy codes. In 2021, the alliance delivered more than 40 webinars on topics related to the 2018 WSEC-R with a total of 2,500 attendees and posted 15 different Washington specific on-demand trainings and videos that had more than 1,600 views over the course of the year. Also in 2021, the Washington State Energy Code Commercial (WSEC-C) proposal process opened, providing opportunity to comment on existing codes and support the inclusion of more energy-efficient codes. To leverage this opportunity, NEEA staff convened a working group with code experts to develop and submit more than 60 proposals to the State Building Code Council. NEEA staff also convened a working group of experts and conducted several rounds of brainstorming sessions in support of the 2021 WSEC residential code cycle. Finally, NEEA staff convened a working group and submitted proposals for the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) commercial and residential provisions. These combined efforts will help to lock in energy savings through progressively effective energy codes. Both the Washington and IECC code processes will continue in 2022.

Standards - In 2021, the U.S. DOE issued multiple Requests for Information (RFIs) and Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPRs), initiating appliance and equipment standard rulemaking for over 60 products. NEEA staff collaborated with partners to submit more than 40 comment letters. These responses included regional sales data, lab testing results, field validation data and other technical data to support recommendations for enhanced test procedures and improved efficiency levels.

PRIMARY BUSINESS PLAN STRATEGY: MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Market Intelligence activities are conducted by the Market Research and Evaluation, Data, Planning and Analytics and Energy-use Studies teams. Together, these teams comprise NEEA's Analytics, Research and Evaluation Division. In 2021, this division focused on building capacity for in-house data management and analysis, growing quality data sets and insights to share with regional partners, and increasing visibility to Market Transformation outcomes and market progress indicators in addition to energy savings.

Market Research and Evaluation – Market Research and Evaluation (MRE) provides actionable insights for Market Transformation programs throughout their lifecycles and conducts formal evaluations of programs in market development. These research and evaluation efforts provide data and analytical services for the benefit of Cascade Natural Gas customers. In 2021, the alliance

delivered more than 20 market research or evaluation reports to support both electric and natural gas programs, all of which are publicly available at neea.org.

Stock Assessments - In 2021, the alliance began recruitment for its upcoming Residential Building Stock Assessment (RBSA), a comprehensive study of equipment in and characteristics of single-family buildings, and multi-family units and buildings. NEEA staff held three webinars over the course of the year to present information to stakeholders, including Cascade Natural Gas, that included the study's revised recruiting approach to adapt to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the timeline for RBSA is subject to change due to uncertainties related to COVID-19, data collection is anticipated to be complete by the end of this year, with data and reports anticipated to be published in early 2023. The RBSA is a comprehensive inventory of existing Northwest buildings managed by NEEA staff approximately every five years. Cascade Natural Gas is a participating member of the RBSA 2022 working group.

PRIMARY BUSINESS PLAN STRATEGY: CONVENE AND COLLABORATE

The alliance's Convene and Collaborate strategy is carried out by NEEA's Stakeholder Relations, Corporate Strategy and Communications Division.

Efficiency Exchange – Hosted in collaboration with Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, the alliance held its 2021 annual Efficiency Exchange conference virtually in May 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference hosted 16 sessions and focused on a range of topics, such as equity in energy efficiency, next generation heat pump technology, expanding lighting controls to HVAC, an update on the Northwest End Use Load Research project, large scale heat pump water heating and more. More than 300 energy professionals in the Northwest and across the nation participated across three days of the conference to convene, trade ideas and share best practices. More information on the virtual conference can be found on neea.org.

ConduitNW.org - Developed in partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration, the Conduit website facilitates information-sharing and collaboration among energy efficiency stakeholders in the Northwest. In 2021, the website continued its core functionality and activities that have been identified as critical to regional Market Transformation efforts. These include the RETAC Database and the file sharing functionality for regional working groups.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Alliance programs are coordinated through regional working groups and committees, whose membership includes representatives from Cascade Natural Gas staff. NEEA staff formally solicits input from the Natural Gas Advisory Committee (NGAC), the body responsible for overseeing the alliance's Market Transformation portfolio, at critical program decision-points. NEEA staff are grateful for the time and energy Cascade Natural Gas staff dedicate to participating in these forums and on NEEA's Board of Directors, including:

Board of Directors: Monica Cowlishaw

Natural Gas Advisory Committee: Monica Cowlishaw

Natural Gas Board Committee: Monica Cowlishaw

Cost Effectiveness Advisory Committee: Phillip Hensyel

Regional Building Stock Assessment Working Group: Kris Forck; Kary Burin

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, NEEA's 2021 Quarterly Performance Reports, newsletters and the 2020 Annual Report are available online at neea.org.

NEEA staff encourage stakeholder participation and appreciate input at all NEEA board meetings, committee meetings and energy efficiency events around the region. The next NEEA Board of Directors meeting will be held on June 21-22, 2022. Meeting details will be posted on neea.org in advance.

Please direct questions or comments about this report to info@neea.org.