

# McElroy & Donaldson

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May 17, 2022

Luly E. Massaro, Clerk  
Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

**Re: Block Island Utility District d/b/a Block Island Power Company  
Demand Side Management Plan 2022 – Docket 5244**

Dear Luly:

As you know, our office represents Block Island Utility District (“BIUD”).

Enclosed for filing in this matter please find BIUD’s responses to the Commission’s Record Requests directed to BIUD.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Leah J. Donaldson

Cc: Service List (via electronic mail)

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT :  
2022 DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN : DOCKET NO. 5244

BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT'S RESPONSES  
TO PUC RECORD REQUESTS

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RR-1. Please provide a copy of the bill stuffers pertaining to the audit information.

**Response:**

Please see Attachment JMW-1 and JMW-2

Prepared by: Jeffery M. Wright



Block Island Utility District  
dba Block Island Power Company

# No-Cost Commercial Energy Assessment

**ENE provides energy assessments for businesses on Block Island. If you're commercial rate payer, the off-season is the perfect time to get ready for next year!**

### Available Rebates & Incentives

- Up to \$1200 in free air sealing + 40% off additional air sealing
- Up to \$4200 in weatherization costs or \$3000 insulation costs
- Up to \$1000 in HVAC & Water Heating improvements
- 75% reimbursement of lighting replacements:
  1. Upgraded fixtures
  2. Lighting controls
  3. Lighting sensors (occupancy sensors)

### The commercial assessment includes multiple areas:

- Weatherization: insulation & air sealing
- All electrical equipment
- Heating & Cooling
- Lighting
- Water Heating
- Temperature control: programmable thermostats

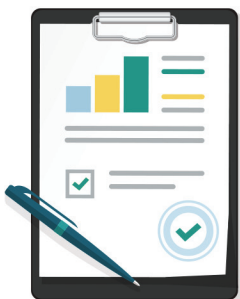
ENE will suggest an Business Energy Action Plan that pinpoints energy savings opportunities & estimated costs and give you an estimated Payback Time (ROI).

ENE offers immediate replacement of inefficient light bulbs with LED bulbs & 75% reimbursement when replacing fixtures, adding sensors or other lighting controls

### ELIGIBLE COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

These are just a few examples of the types of commercial rate businesses that qualify:

- Art Galleries
- Auto Repair
- Hair and Nail Salons
- Home Improvement
- Restaurants
- Retail Stores
- Hotels
- Community Organizations
- Religious Entities



**Receive information about incentives or rebates anytime:**

Email: [solutions@ene.org](mailto:solutions@ene.org)

ENE Energy hotline: 888-772- 4242

Online: [ene.org/BIHEA](http://ene.org/BIHEA)



Block Island Utility District  
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Energy New England | 5 Hampshire Street, Suite 100 | Mansfield MA 02048

PHONE: 888-772-4242 FAX: 508.698.0222 URL: [ene.org/BIHEA](http://ene.org/BIHEA) EMAIL: [solutions@ene.org](mailto:solutions@ene.org)



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# No-Cost Home Energy Assessment

**ENE provides energy assessments for homes & businesses on Block Island. Our expert Energy Advisors will assess your home or business for all of your heating, lighting & weatherization needs.**

Energy Advisors compile the data collected to produce a detailed evaluation and summary report of energy usage based on the Advisor's inspection of the home. Findings are reviewed for potential energy efficiency improvements, and achievable energy savings are explained.

**Receive information about incentives or rebates anytime:**

Email: [solutions@ene.org](mailto:solutions@ene.org)

ENE Energy hotline: 888-772-4242

Online: [ene.org/BIHEA](http://ene.org/BIHEA)

## RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ASSESSMENT

The Energy Advisor will evaluate a broad range of energy saving opportunities in the home or business:

- ✓ Insulation
- ✓ Appliances
- ✓ Heating/cooling
- ✓ Windows and door weather-stripping
- ✓ Water heating
- ✓ Efficient lighting
- ✓ Window and door replacement



**Call 888-772-4242 to schedule your appointment today**

For more information about how ENE can help you, please call **888-772-4242** or email us at [solutions@ene.org](mailto:solutions@ene.org).



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RR-2. Please indicate if ENE is still issuing surveys after the assessments or installations and provide the results of any surveys.

**Response:**

ENE issues a survey after every Home Energy Assessment performed. Since January 1, 2020, 40 surveys have been issued, and there have been 4 responses. Please see the excel file titled *BIUD Post Assessment Surveys anonymized* for the survey responses.

Prepared by: Dr. Katherine Johnson and ENE.

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RR-3. Please provide the actual calculation used to derive the projected savings as described on page 6, last paragraph, line 4.

**Response:**

In the course of developing this response, BIUD discovered a calculation error in the approximate annual savings described on page 6. The text has been updated to read:

“Based on the estimated participation numbers for the proposed 2022 DSM plan, the District estimates that this plan could deliver approximate annual savings of **145** MWh of electricity, **126** MMBtu of oil, and **63** MMBtu of propane. Actual savings numbers will depend on the exact measures installed by customers and the specific fuel types they utilize, among other factors, but this provides some scope as to the significant energy benefits BIUD customers can realize through this plan.”

To calculate this, BIUD used the savings per participant from the Block Island Savings Pilot and applied those values to the expected number of participants in PY 2022.

	Block Island Saves Pilot (n=110)	Savings per Participant	PY 2022 (n=51)
Electricity (MWh)	313	2.8	145
Oil (MMBtu)	271	2.5	126
Propane (MMBtu)	136	1.2	63

Prepared by: Jake Millett

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RR-4. Please indicate how much of the 2022-2023 Program Year is allocated to assessments?

**Response:**

A total of \$29,055 of the 2022-2023 Program Year budget is allocated to assessments, including travel. This consists of \$22,455 for residential assessments and \$6,660 for business assessments.

Prepared by: Jake Millett

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RR-5. How much of the budget is allocated to Johnson Consulting and how much is allocated to ENE?

**Response:**

A total of \$62,125 of the budget is allocated to ENE. This includes assessments, travel, and the cost of the direct installation measures. The table below provides more granularity. Johnson Consulting is allocated \$19,840 for program administration and \$4,000 for inspections of direct installation measures.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Residential Assessments, including Travel	\$22,455
Residential Direct Installation Measures	\$13,370
Business Assessments, including Travel	\$6,600
Lighting Direct Installation Measures and Incentives	\$15,600
Inspection Services	\$4,100
Total	\$62,125

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RR-6. To be eligible for rebates, the water heater must have a UEF of 2.0 to 2.7. Are they the most efficient? If not the most efficient, how efficient are these water heaters on a scale?

**Response:**

Uniform Energy Factor (“UEF”) is a measure of how efficiently an appliance uses energy. The higher the UEF value is, the more efficient the water heater. BIUD’s DSM Program uses the efficiency thresholds in the Rhode Island Technical Reference Manual (“TRM”).

The Rhode Island TRM uses the following efficiency thresholds to define “high efficiency heat pump water heater” – for heat pump water heaters (HPWHs) with less than 55-gallon units, the UEF efficiency threshold in the RI TRM is 2.0, and for HPWHs with more than 55-gallon units the UEF threshold in the RI TRM is 2.7.

HPWHs are, by design, much more efficient than standard storage water heaters. A standard 50-gallon electric resistance storage water heater typically has a UEF of about 0.95. While an ENERGY STAR gas-fired storage water heater has a UEF of greater than or equal to 0.64 (for less than or equal to 55-gallon units) and a UEF of 0.78 (for greater than 55-gallon units). The efficiency threshold set in the Rhode Island TRM for HPWHs is similar to the ENERGY STAR requirement of greater than or equal to 2.2. However, some HPWHs can have UEF values of more than 3.0. In this regard, the definition used by BIUD can be considered high efficiency but not in the highest tier of efficiency.

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RR-8. How much was spent on each of the following categories in each of the Program Years?  
Inspection; Administration; and Advertising.

**Response:**

	2020/21 Program Year	2021/22 Program Year
Administration	\$ 9,505.00	\$ 6,850.00
Audit/Assessment/Inspection Fees	\$ 9,591.00	\$ 11,259.45
Direct Instal Expenses	\$ 2,212.00	\$ 2,405.00
Advertising	\$ 2,223.00	\$ 988.00

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RR-9. Please ask the Block Island Building Official if a permit is needed to install a heat pump. If the answer is yes, please ask to review the building permits issued for heat pumps for the period June 2020 through April 2022 to identify the properties where heat pumps were installed. Please report back the answer by May 17, 2022. Assuming the answer is yes, once BIUD has been able to ascertain the properties that have installed heat pumps, please cross reference those properties with the relevant accounts and update any relevant data requests seeking information about heat pump impact.

**Response:**

I was informed by the Town of New Shoreham Building Official that the BI Solar Initiative did not pull permits for the installations of the 52 heat pumps.

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RR-10. Please inquire of ENE, for the assessments completed in each Program Year, the listed recommendations in each of the audits and whether they were installed. (example discussed at the hearing was if there were 19 residential audits, how many needed new thermostats and how many were not installed).

**Response:**

ENE has completed a total of 40 assessments since 2020 for BIUD:

2020	7
2021	29
2022	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40</b>

Please see the excel file titled *BIUD SnuggPro Extract anonymized* for full details regarding what was recommended at each facility.

The following information responds to the thermostat question specifically:

	Thermostat > Programmable Thermostat Installed	Recommendation > Thermostat
2020	Yes	Declined
2020	No	Recommended
2020	No	Recommended
2020	No	Recommended
2020	Yes	Declined
2020	No	Recommended
2020	No	Recommended
2021	No	Recommended
2021	No	Recommended
2021	Yes	Recommended
2021	No	Recommended
2021	No	Recommended
2021	No	Recommended
2021	No	Recommended

Prepared by: Dr. Katherine Johnson