

SEND JEA BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

It's well established that energy efficiency is the cheapest, quickest, and cleanest way to meet energy demand. JEA, owned by the City of Jacksonville, is the largest municipal utility in Florida. While local ownership should mean greater benefit for local residents, the **five-year energy efficiency plan JEA recently filed with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) lacks transparency and fails to deliver because of two big problems.**

First, it doesn't include many of the energy reduction programs that were saving customers far more in recent years than what's detailed in JEA's plan. And second, it fails to deliver sufficient savings to its most vulnerable citizens, falling short of peer utilities in both the number of customers served and how much energy each customer actually saves.

JEA achieved moderate success in recent years with both standard and low-income energy efficiency programs. But JEA's new plan does not build on this foundation. Two simple, but important improvements, could help residents. **First, including the missing programs with a commitment to maintaining budgets and savings levels at least as high as those achieved over the past two years. And second, expand the reach and level of efficiency bill savings for low-income customers.**

Residents with limited income spend a higher percentage of their total household income on their power bills, which is known as having a high energy burden. Unfortunately, **Jacksonville has the highest resident energy burden of any major Florida city.** With approximately 38% of the population in JEA's service territory living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, the plan must do more to meet the critical need of its low-income customers.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

JEA's low-income program, *Neighborhood Energy Efficiency*, is projected to reach 1,350 eligible customers annually with savings of 1,084 kWh per participant per year. This amounts to a 5% cumulative penetration of eligible customers, with a total of 6,750 low-income customers assisted over the next five years.

While better than OUC (Orlando's municipal utility), **JEA's program lacks the ambition of other utilities.** For instance, Tampa Electric – which serves about 50% more customers than JEA – has a program to help 32,500 customers during the same period (almost five times as many). Meanwhile, Duke Energy Florida not only plans to reach a higher percentage of eligible customers than JEA, but it will also provide three times the energy savings for each of the families served by its efficiency program for low-income neighborhoods.

INCLUDE MISSING PROGRAMS

More transparency is always better than less. In past years, JEA had meaningful efficiency programs - such as *Residential Efficiency Upgrade* and *Residential Efficiency Products* - to help customers save energy. But it does not list any of those programs in its proposed five-year plan. Why not? Without including them in the plan, **customers have no guarantee that JEA will continue offering these popular energy-saving programs going forward.** If those effective programs are not in the plan, will they be cut? We don't know. It's not transparent.

| ACTUAL GWH SAVINGS FROM ALL PROGRAMS | | PROJECTED GWH SAVINGS FROM JEA'S PLAN | |
|---|--------------|--|-------------|
| 2015 | 33.7 | 2020 | 3.5 |
| 2016 | 32 | 2021 | 3.5 |
| 2017 | 37.3 | 2022 | 3.5 |
| 2018 | 47.5 | 2023 | 3.5 |
| 2019 | 48.8 | 2024 | 3.5 |
| Total | 199.3 | | 17.5 |

JEA should go back to the drawing board and improve its plan. JEA can be a leader by providing more opportunities for its customers to reduce their energy bills. **Given JEA is owned by its citizens, they should expect their utility to include robust low-income programs and a continued commitment to run its popular efficiency programs at comparable savings levels as they've offered over the past several years.** Doing so in a transparent way will provide certainty for JEA customers and also take the utility from having one of the worst plans in the state to having one of the best.