

ENERGY SOLUTIONS CENTER

DRAFT Strategic Plan 2013-2016

Mission Statement

Building Energy Value and Customer Loyalty with Innovative Natural Gas Solutions

Goals

Accelerate the Introduction & Deployment of New Gas Solutions that Improve Customer Productivity, Reliability, Competitiveness, and Comfort

Strengthen Ability of Energy Utilities to Achieve Excellence in Serving All Customer Segments

Enable Energy Customers to Achieve Efficiency, Conservation, and Environmental Goals Through the Use of Natural Gas

Ensure the Organizational and Financial Sustainability of the Energy Solutions Center

The *Energy Solutions Center Inc.* is the only organization in North America exclusively dedicated to the marketing, sales, and customer support needs of energy utilities that distribute natural gas.

As a member-driven, market development organization of utilities and equipment manufacturers, ESC brings improved, energy-efficient gas solutions to residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

These solutions help to maintain the competitiveness, efficiency, productivity, and profitability of

an array of North American businesses and industries, and save energy, enhance reliability, and improve comfort for all energy users.

The Center develops tools, materials, and resources to enhance the success of utility marketing, sales, and customer support staff in delivering more satisfactory solutions to their natural gas customers.

ESC assists its members in partnering with customers, government, the non-profit sector, building managers, architects and engineers, and other energy stakeholders that seek to use our natural gas resources more wisely and efficiently.

ESC's primary education and training venue, the Technology and Market Assessment Forum, attracts participants from throughout North America seeking better ways to bring new gas solutions and energy efficiency to their customers.

The Energy Solutions Center is a 501(c) 6 non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC and governed by its Board of Directors.



Critical Success Factor #1:

Accelerate the Introduction and Deployment of New Gas Solutions that Improve Customer Productivity, Competitiveness, Reliability, Efficiency, and Comfort

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
Expand efforts to study and asses market needs to increase ultimate success of commercialization activities	<p>Increase capability of ESC and its partners to conduct market research and assessments</p> <p>Educate members about the value and utility of market research</p>
Identify more effective means of hastening development of new equipment & systems from R&D organizations, universities, & entrepreneurs	<p>Use ESC venues to strengthen linkages between member technology support staff and marketing/customer relationship staff</p> <p>Expand ESC's role in catalyzing synergies between research organizations, equipment manufacturers, utilities, and end-users</p> <p>Increase support for technology demonstrations at customer locations</p>
Create innovative marketing partnerships with equipment manufacturers to accelerate the introduction of market ready equipment and solutions to diverse customer segments.	<p>Improve ESC's model of leveraging funds and building partnerships to accelerate market introduction of new technologies</p> <p>Position the Equipment Manufacturers Council to attract and retain equipment manufacturer members and to identify innovative ways to engage with utilities and customers.</p> <p>Seek alliances with trade associations representing customers interested in new energy solutions</p> <p>Lend support to public policy efforts that may accelerate the development and use of new gas equipment & systems</p>
Enhance ESC's role as the knowledge center for new gas equipment and solutions from around the world.	<p>Collect and distribute knowledge on new gas systems in a manner that enhances the role and reputation of the utility professional in addressing customer needs, and ultimately providing the customer with the best solution</p> <p>Innovate with new communication vehicles and new audiences to more broadly convey the benefits of natural gas</p> <p>Increase ESC technical staff presence at professional conferences and meetings</p>

Critical Success Factor #2:

*Strengthen the Ability of Energy Utilities to Achieve Excellence
in Serving All Customer Segments*

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
<p>Increase the competency of utility staff to address customer needs through the application of conventional, emerging, and new gas equipment and systems.</p>	<p>Continually improve the quality of Technology and Market Assessment Forums and similar venues for educating and training members</p> <p>Promote professional networking to convey to members “lessons learned” from other service territories and to prevent members from “reinventing the wheel”</p> <p>Foster online collaboration between members.</p> <p>Enhance the quality, sophistication and use of the ESC website, ESC software, and social media venues for communicating advantages of gas equipment and systems to utility professionals and customers.</p> <p>Increase the skill mix of members to convey the financial, environmental, operational, and reliability advantages of natural gas over other fuel sources.</p>
<p>Identify and develop successful marketing, sales, and customer relationship strategies and approaches that can be adopted by member utilities.</p>	<p>Increase the ability of utility professionals to make the business case to customers regarding the use of natural gas.</p> <p>Ensure that consortia tools and products incorporate and simplify financial and contractual considerations relative to a customer’s needs for reliable, cost effective gas service.</p> <p>Introduce state-of-the-art customer relationship strategies and methodologies used by leading businesses</p> <p>Offer opportunities to seek greater insights into customer strategies and decision-making</p>
<p>Enhance the professionalism and stature of marketing, sales, and customer support staff within the utility and amongst customers.</p>	<p>Strengthen the ability of individual members to be a more effective voice for marketing and customer support within their own organizations, and enhance their business and professional skills to make a greater impact within their own organization.</p> <p>Increase focus on issues outside the realm of marketing and sales where the gas utility marketing professional can contribute to the wellbeing of the utility such as in system expansion, economic development, codes and standards, and regulatory affairs.</p> <p>Provide members with the skills to assess return-on-marketing investment</p>
<p>Form strategic alliances with equip manufacturers A/E’s, trade associations and government to more effectively address customer questions and needs</p>	<p>Capitalize on ESC’s uniqueness in working with other natural gas, energy and governmental organizations at the national, regional, state, and local level</p> <p>Create innovative partnerships with equipment manufacturers, architects, and engineers and their professional associations to accelerate the delivery of new gas solutions to customers</p> <p>Establish relationships with organizations representing energy users to communicate the efficiency and environmental benefits of natural gas solutions</p>

Critical Success Factor #3:

Enable Energy Customers to Achieve Conservation, Efficiency, and Environmental Goals through the Use of Natural Gas

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
<p>Increase customer and public understanding and support for the role natural gas plays in addressing climate change and global warming</p>	<p>Communicate the positive impact of natural gas use on the carbon footprint</p> <p>Partner with gas industry stakeholders to educate public audiences about benefits of increased gas use to reduce global warming</p> <p>Stress role of natural gas in reducing pressures on electricity grid capacities during peak usage period</p>
<p>Enhance the recognition and role of natural gas in green “portfolios.”</p>	<p>Quantify environmental benefits of gas use</p> <p>Expand the use of site vs. source arguments to explain the superior efficiency of natural gas</p> <p>Lend support to market and government policies that reward gas technology use such as emissions trading and carbon credit programs</p>
<p>Develop resources and tools to foster the design, implementation, and evaluation of utility conservation and efficiency programs</p>	<p>Educate members and customers about new energy efficient gas equipment and solutions</p> <p>Build alliances with energy efficiency organizations</p> <p>Ensure that ESC products and services offer greater information on conservation and efficiency strategies</p> <p>Identify appropriate metrics to measure the success of utility conservation, efficiency and demand side management initiatives</p>

Critical Success Factor #4:
Ensure the Organizational and Financial Sustainability of the Energy Solutions Center

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
<p>Maintain ESC as a member-driven, market focused organization that provides value, benefit, and a positive return on investment to its members</p>	<p>Encourage members to take ownership of ESC to create a vibrant and robust organization</p> <p>Reassess the direction, goals, and tactics of ESC as necessary to ensure relevancy to the membership</p> <p>Help members to determine and articulate the value, benefits, and ROI received from ESC participation</p> <p>Seek innovative methods for encouraging, receiving, and acting on membership feedback and needs</p>
<p>Ensure the Center’s financial integrity</p>	<p>Emphasize the obligations of the board to ensure the Center’s financial integrity</p> <p>Adhere to a board-approved investment policy for funds in ESC accounts</p> <p>Maintain a dues structure that is fair and equitable, while keeping annual dues as low as possible to enhance membership retention and growth</p> <p>Strive to ensure that revenues equal expenditures on an annual basis</p> <p>Continue to establish consortia and other initiatives that allow members to fund programmatic activities, products and deliverables outside the Center’s annual operating budget</p> <p>Encourage existing members to take an active role in new membership recruitment</p>
<p>Ensure an equitable and effective system of governance and membership participation</p>	<p>Educate members about the functions and roles of an effective board of directors. Encourage the designation of board members that have strategic and financial organizational experience.</p> <p>Encourage member companies to increase the number of individuals participating in ESC initiatives and to strengthen efforts to transmit ESC products and services to all their employees</p>