



Energy Efficiency Programme Regulations

ES 11/2026

Publication Date: 24 June 2026

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Energy Efficiency Programme Regulations, 2026.

Part 1 - Introduction

Scope and Objectives

2. These Regulations are made by the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) in exercise of sections 14(3)(c) and 15 of the Electricity Act, 2024 for the purpose of establishing a regulatory framework for the development, approval and implementation of energy efficiency programmes by licensees.
3. The objectives of these Regulations are to promote the efficient use of energy within the electricity sector and to provide for the orderly development, assessment and implementation of energy efficiency measures by licensees in support of national energy policy.

Application

4. These Regulations apply to all licensees.

Commencement

5. These Regulations shall come into force on the date of their publication.

Definitions

6. In these Regulations, any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Electricity Act, 2024 has the meaning so assigned and, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply.

- a. **licensee** means an entity issued a licence by URCA under the Electricity Act, 2024.

Interpretation

7. In these Regulations, unless the contrary intention appears, the following principles of interpretation apply:
- a. Headings are included for convenience of reference and do not affect interpretation.
 - b. A reference to a statute, regulation or other legal instrument includes any consolidation, amendment, re-enactment or replacement of it.
 - c. Words in the singular include the plural and vice versa.
 - d. Words importing persons include bodies corporate, unincorporated associations and any other legal person.
 - e. Where a term is defined, its other grammatical forms bear a corresponding meaning.
 - f. The expressions include, includes and including are not exhaustive.
 - g. Words and expressions that are not defined have the meanings given to them in the Electricity Act, 2024.
 - h. A reference to a person includes a company or firm.
 - i. Cross references may be marked with an open parenthesis, and the parenthesis has no interpretative effect. The referenced provision alone is legally operative.

Part 2 - Submission and Approval of Energy Efficiency Programmes

Duty to Prepare and Submit a Programme

8. A licensee shall prepare an energy efficiency programme designed to secure material and measurable improvements in electricity consumption patterns, infrastructure performance and consumer awareness.
9. A licensee shall submit its energy efficiency programme to URCA for approval within one year of the coming into force of these Regulations.

Periodic Review and Resubmission

10. A licensee shall review its approved programme and shall resubmit the revised programme to URCA for approval not later than four months prior to the commencement of the third year of the programme.

11. A licensee remains at liberty to submit a revised energy efficiency programme to URCA at any earlier point.

Part 3 - Content of an Energy Efficiency Programme

Required Form and Content

12. A programme shall be prepared in the form set out in the first schedule to these regulations and shall contain the following information.
- a. the name of the licensee;
 - b. an introduction setting out the programme objectives, benefits and target groups;
 - c. the programme duration and areas of focus;
 - d. each initiative proposed;
 - e. proposed commencement date and proposed end date;
 - f. projected costs;
 - g. anticipated energy savings;
 - h. any explanatory material reasonably required to demonstrate the basis upon which the proposed measures are capable of achieving the stated benefits
13. A programme shall align with the National Energy Policy and shall identify and justify the manner in which the proposed initiatives advance the relevant national policy objectives.

Part 4 - Assessment and Approval by URCA

Factors for URCA's Consideration

14. URCA shall approve a programme where it is satisfied that the programme accords with the Electricity Act, 2024 and these Regulations and where the programme represents reasonable and prudent steps to improve energy efficiency including the extent to which the programme incorporates measurable indicators, verifiable baseline data, demand side management measures, behavioural interventions, modernisation of infrastructure, and appropriate digital and metering technologies.
15. Factors that URCA will consider in evaluating a programme shall include:

- a. the coherence of the programme;
- b. the sufficiency and robustness of the evidence supporting the programme;
- c. the credibility of the proposed targets;
- d. the technical feasibility of the proposed measures;
- e. the cost effectiveness of the proposed measures;
- f. the potential energy savings;
- g. the degree of innovation and scalability;
- h. the scope and quality of consumer engagement;
- i. alignment with the National Energy Policy;
- j. the long term sustainability of the measures; and
- k. the capacity of the licensee to ensure compliance and reporting.

Processing Procedure

- 16. URCA shall process an application for approval of an energy efficiency programme within forty five days of receipt.
- 17. URCA may approve a programme, may grant conditional approval requiring specified revisions or clarifications, or may reject a programme that does not meet the requirements of these Regulations or the Electricity Act.
- 18. URCA may require a licensee to amend a programme that does not demonstrate a clear pathway to significant efficiency gains or that does not reflect prudent utility practice.

Part 5 - Implementation, Monitoring and Compliance

Duty to Implement

- 19. A licensee shall implement an approved programme within sixty days (60) of being notified by URCA of approval and shall thereafter continue implementation in accordance with the terms of the approved programme.

Monitoring and Enforcement

- 20. URCA shall monitor compliance with an approved programme and may require the submission of reports at intervals determined by URCA.

21. URCA may direct a licensee to take corrective measures where necessary to secure or restore compliance.

22. A licensee shall comply with any direction issued by URCA under these Regulations.

Schedule - Energy Efficiency Programme Submission Template

1. Introduction

Include the name of the licensee, the proposed start and end date of the program, the areas of focus (e.g. generation, T&D, and consumption), and that the proposal is being submitted in satisfaction of section 15 of the EA 2024 and the guidance provided by URCA in ES 11/2026.

Provide a brief description of programme objectives, expected benefits, and target groups. - Programme duration and specific areas of focus. - Statement of compliance with the National Energy Policy.

2. Details of Initiatives

Provide a description of each initiative, their subtasks, start and end dates. Use the table format provided below to capture each initiative and their subtasks. In addition to the tables show the programme as a time bound plan via a Gantt chart. Include a in the schedule milestones for reporting progress to URCA.

Initiative A		
Subtask 1A	Start date 1A	End date 1A
Subtask 2A	Start date 2A	End date 2A
Subtask 3A	Start date 3A	End date 3A

Initiative B		
Subtask 1B	Start date 1B	End date 1B

Subtask 2B	Start date 2B	End date 2B
Subtask 3B	Start date 3B	End date 3B

3. Alignment of Initiatives with Policy

For each initiative list the National Energy Policy objective(s) it supports. Use the table format provided below to capture each of the initiatives.

Initiative	NEP Objective(s)
A	
B	
C	

4. Estimation of Opportunity and Cost

For each initiative provide an estimate of the amount of energy to be saved and the cos to achieve that opportunity. Use the table format provided below to capture each of the initiatives.

Initiative	Savings, kWh	Cost, \$
A		
B		
C		

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

For each initiative provide a key performance indicator (KPI) to track progress. The current and target (future) value of the KPI should be provided along with the party (person, unit, or department, etc.) responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on progress. Use the table format provided below to capture each of the initiatives.

Initiative	Current Value	Target Value	Responsible Party
A			
B			
C			

6. Supporting Documentation

Technical studies, pilot projects, or case studies. - Evidence of consultation or adoption of best practices. - Any explanatory material demonstrating the basis for expected benefits.

7. Conclusion

Reiterate programme start and end dates, areas of focus, estimated cost, and expected energy savings. - Statement confirming that the programme is submitted to URCA for approval in accordance with Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2024.

Declaration I, [Name], [Position], on behalf of [Licensee], declare that the information provided in this Energy Efficiency Programme submission is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the programme will be implemented in accordance with the Energy

Efficiency Programmes Regulations, 2025.