

**ECE 480 – Design Team 10
Energy-Saving Thermostat
Interview Guide**

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OPENING:

“Could you take a minute to explain to us what the mission of your department is, and what your personal roles are in the organization?”

INTRODUCTION:

“The thermostat has been around for many years in many different forms. What are the problems with the thermostat as we know it?”

TRANSITION:

“The description of the proposed product sounds fascinating! What do you think a successful implementation of this product could do for the people of Michigan?”

KEY QUESTION #1:

“Has the State gathered data or conducted research related on residential energy conservation as related to thermostats and HVAC equipment?”

PROBE #1-A:

“What key areas have been identified as energy-saving opportunities?”

PROBE #1-B:

“What has been done already or is in progress?”

KEY QUESTION #2:

“If cost was not a factor, what features would you want to see in this product?”

PROBE #2-A:

“Tell us more about _____.”

PROBE #2-B:

“What benefit would this bring to the economy if it were implemented?”

KEY QUESTION #3:

“Which features might not be as important to the final product?”

PROBE #3-A:

“What was the motivation behind these ideas?”

PROBE #3-B:

“What potential pitfalls can you see if these features were not part of the final design?”

ENDING:

“Overall, what would you say is the most important feature that you would like to see in a redesigned thermostat?”

SUMMARY:

“Thank you for sharing all these great ideas! Would you agree that our summary is a good record of all that we have discussed today?”