



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10AM - 12PM (Webinar Only)

Meeting Materials: <https://app.box.com/s/3swj3ax1rv2utbk1gkj1zgpfh4k43t8y>

Minutes

1. Welcome – Amy McLean

- a. Roll Call of Committee and Board Members: Amy McLean, Brenda Watson, Mike Li, Kate Donatelli, Ron Araujo, Donald Mauritz

Other attendees: Alex Rodriguez, Bernard Pelletier, Claire Sickinger, Devan Willemsen, Diane Del Rosso, Emily Rice, Erin Engelkemeyer, Glenn Reed, Joseph Roy, Larry Rush, Peter Klint, Richard Faesy, Roshan Bhakta, Art St. Armand, Laura Bozzi, Brendan Thomas, Carlene Taylor, Cary Lynch, Elizabeth Galante, Emily Basham, Enoch Lenge, Guy West, Jeff Howard, John Karycza, Julia Dumaine, Mia Lombardi, Margaret Tryon, Mark Scully, Michael Cresta, Michelle Long, Mike Uhl, Patrice Gillespie, Paul Gray, Peter Millman, Rebecca Baez Castro, Richard Olisky, Rose Croog, Sheri Borrelli, Shubha Jaishankar, Stephanie Weiner, Tanya Mulholland, Tasha Perreault, Tim Fabuien, Vivian Perez, William Wesson

- b. Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. Amy McLean reviewed procedures and process updates.

2. Approve 6/9/2021 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Brenda Watson motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Amy McLean seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

3. Public Input/Comments (limit to 3 min./person)

Mr. Bernie Pelletier, People's Action for Clean Energy, noted that the state does not have a means of recording progress towards the goal to get 80% of homes in Connecticut weatherized. Mr. Pelletier is willing to assist with finding a way to do that, as well as define clearly what weatherization completion means. Mr. Pelletier shared that ISO has completed a heating electrification forecast between 2021-2030 that looks at air source heat pump adoption across six New England states. The forecast indicates CT will have only 4.2% of homes with heat pumps by 2030, which is much lower than other NE states; for comparison Maine is projected to have 42% of homes with heat pumps. The forecast can be found on the ISO website, by searching for "heating electrification forecast". Ms. Brenda Watson hopes that Connecticut can do better than is forecasted. Ms. Amy McLean said it's important the Board consider this information as it plans for the future.

4. Legislative Update – DEEP

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided an update on the following bills:

- a. Stretch Code (HB 6572) & Home Energy Score (SB 882)

These bills did not pass. Ms. McLean asked if Ms. Donatelli had final vote counts for the failed bills and Ms. Donatelli said this information should be available online. Ms.

McLean also asked if Ms. Donatelli had an impression as to why these didn't pass. Ms. Donatelli noted that pushback from the real estate industry and landlord and property managers may have inhibited the Home Energy Score bill. Ms. McLean added that many in the legislature took issue with a section of the bill codified an Executive Order that set a 100% electrification by 2030 because they viewed this as superfluous. Ms. Donatelli didn't have an impression regarding the stretch code bill.

b. Expansion of EEB Membership (SB 856)

SB 865, an act increasing representation on the Energy Conservation Management Board passed. This legislates two new seats to the EEB, one for low-income communities and one representing municipalities. DEEP thinks this will add valuable new perspectives to the Board. Ms. Amy McLean asked for clarification on the process for selecting representatives. Ms. Donatelli noted that DEEP is still determining the process, but indicated an approach that would include a public notice and request for nominations. Ms. Donatelli noted that DEEP will hopefully be ready to share more details soon. Ms. McLean stated that there are two seats that need to be filled in addition to the new ones due to vacancies and asked to confirm that's the number of open seats. [NOTE: There are two open seats currently, and two additional with a total of four seats that need filled.]

c. Affordable Housing Weatherization (HB 356)

An act establishing an energy retrofit program for affordable housing. This bill was driven by many stakeholders and people on the Residential committee. The American Rescue Act Funds will be used to provide a range of measures, including distributed generation, energy efficiency, health and safety barrier remediation.

Ms. Amy McLean asked how the program will be funded without the ARPA money since these funds won't always be available. Ms. Kate Donatelli didn't have an answer, but said she would get back to the committee.

5. DEEP Updates

a. Weatherization/Health & Safety Barriers Remediation Update & Next Steps & DEEP RFP

Ms. Rose Croog shared a presentation that included an announcement of \$1 million LIHEAP funding for an initial half-year program. DEEP is collaborating with DSS to develop the program. A special act No. 21-15 dedicates \$7 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to "health and safety barriers to housing remediation". DEEP is currently discussing mechanics of fusing ARPA dollars and LIHEAP funded program. DEEP is finishing an RFP for a Program Operator, with plans to release the draft July 2021 and engaging a public process for feedback then releasing the official RFP in August 2021.

Mr. Richard Faesy asked if the \$1 million half-fiscal year meant that the \$2 million dollars for LIHEAP – will that be part of the Plan request? Ms. Croog noted that given the timeline of initiating a contract for the Program Operator, they would only have six months operating the program in the federal fiscal year. DEEP assessed that spending \$2 million would be unrealistic. Ms. McLean asked how long CT would have to spend the \$7 million ARPA dollars, but then noted she believed it was seven years. Ms. Croog noted that DEEP is still looking into possibly fusing this spending.

b. Equitable Energy Efficiency (E3) Proceeding Public Comments

Ms. Kate Donatelli reminded attendees that a public comment period closed on June 18

and DEEP is now reviewing those comments, with a goal of issuing a final determination in July. Ms. Dontelli noted that there were over 100 attendees at the public meetings and nine entities that submitted written comments. DEEP has aggregated and consolidated the feedback into common themes. Ms. Donatelli's presentation includes a summary of those themes, a copy of which can be found in the materials folder.

Now that DEEP has the comments logged, DEEP is working on articulating the best next steps. Some items in the determination are already in progress, like weatherization and safety barriers, and soliciting for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant.

c. CTAC & Workforce Development

Ms. Kate Donatelli recapped the June CTAC meeting combined with the Res and C&I meetings. With the combined group, DEEP discussed the COVID-19 safety protocols. DEEP will now be relying on the Companies' safety guidelines. With the residential group there was a discussion of a cost and availability issue around certain HES materials. The next meeting is July 28 and DEEP would like to discuss SB356. Ms. Donatelli did not have an update on Workforce, but asked for any questions so she could relay them to her team.

6. The Integration of Solar and C&LM Programs – HES Vendors

Mr. Richard Faesy presented a background to set context around integrating solar and C&LM Programs. Mr. Faesy noted that there were a variety of opportunities on the energy efficiency side, but there are at least three initiatives that incorporated solar PV, renewables, and storage. During the development of the next Plan, Consultants and Companies found that it was worthwhile to consider these initiatives. Public Act No. 21-48 specifically mentions rooftop solar, photovoltaic panels, and energy storage systems. PURA Docket 20-07-01 established tariffs for generated solar, establishing a process for electric distribution utilities for renewable energy projects located on residential customer sites. The Residential Solar Investment Program, administered by Green Bank, has been renewed through 2022 with increased capacity. The Consultants have engaged with HES/HES-IE vendors to prepare for determining the path forward. Consultants have observed that there is a gap in understanding on the details, implications and opportunities of recent solar initiatives. Consultants want to ensure open dialogue and discussion. Mr. Faesy outlined some questions:

- What should the roles for Companies and vendors?
- What goes into the next Plan?
- What is the next step?

Ms. Mclean acknowledged that there is much here to consider. Mr. McLean indicated that the process would need to wrap in the next few months, and set a placeholder in the Plan development. Ms. McLean noted that the EEB does not spearhead development, and relies on experts and stakeholders to drive this process forward. Mr. Mike Uhl asked if Mr. Faesy can speak to the economic evaluation, side-by-side, of the by-all tariff versus net tariff based on early evaluations with solar vendors? Mr. Faesy said he was not in a position to speak on that. Ms. Elizabeth Galante, PosiGEN, welcomed the opportunity to talk with HES/HES-IE vendors. Mr. Pelletier said the final tariff has not been determined. Mr. Ron Araujo noted that the Companies have reviewed the legislation that includes energy efficiency, but have not been bringing up legislation that are tangential to energy efficiency. Mr. Araujo noted that awareness of tangential legislation would be beneficial.

Mr. Bernie Pelletier stated that through the Heat Smart program it can be difficult to reach residential customers and he sees the value in having vendors connect with homeowners.

Connecting them with an expert can be valuable and taking advantage of experts in the field is a good idea. Mr. Joe Gilroy, CMC Energy, stated that his firm is supportive of integrating solar in to the CL&M programs. Many existing programs can serve as vehicles to educate customers while delivering consistent messaging. Some additional training and lead time would be needed, and vendors would likely request additional compensation. This can be delivered via an incentive. Mr. Gilroy believes this could add a new line of business for vendors. Ms. McLean expressed support for this approach and indicated this would be something the Board would be challenged to figure out. Mr. Faesy asked Ms. Donatelli if this conversation is one that could be borne out in CTAC. Mr. Mike Li suggested confirming what the statute allows, and posited whether the funds be used to support solar.

Mr. Li asked Mr. Gilroy if it makes sense for solar companies to incentivize vendors rather than the funds coming from the Plan, since the vendors will be driving leads for solar companies. Mr. Gilroy stated that this is still being worked out, but it's true that the reciprocation isn't always there currently because there is no programmatic function to return those leads. Mr. Li stated that EECs ultimately have goals for customer acquisition, and asked how they see their roles? Mr. Ron Araujo indicated that much of the solar measures could be considered demand control. Regarding outreach, Mr. Araujo noted that customer data in existing programs could be used to target customers. Ms. Kate Donatelli noted that there's still effort defining parameters around this discussion before CTAC would host this discussion, because there are many other topics to balance as well. Ms. McLean noted that this is similar to the weatherization discussion; it started as an idea and eventually was formalized.

Mr. Faesy was asked whether there was a comprehensive audit/service that worked in other NE states and was scalable. Mr. Faesy shared that Vermont has been piloting a comprehensive approach. Mr. Faesy noted that the pilot has been achieving savings that far exceed beyond the goal and stated that the challenge in making this scalable is the silos each program works in.

Ms. McLean asked what would be a good next step? Ms. Donatelli said that as a first step DEEP would need to internally address the larger questions posed during this discussion, including whether using funds for solar projects is possible statutorily and what the parameters are. Mr. Ron Araujo suggested that the legislative update be changed to "legislative and regulatory" update, which could be a good time to discuss some of these items.

7. Community Engagement Initiative – Companies

Ms. Devan Willemsen, Eversource, shared that the Companies have been sharing regular updates over the past few months. Applications will be open as early as next week and a targeted, mass email campaign will be used to get the word out. Companies will accept applications through August 20 and will select recipients a month later. Companies welcome input during this phase of applications which may be applied during subsequent rounds of funding. Companies continue to set up stakeholder meetings.

Mr. Mike Uhl asked what feedback was received. Ms. Willemsen shared comments included indicating benefits to participants in outreach materials and ensuring inclusivity for applicants. Ms. McLean asked how many applications they would be able to approve? Ms. Willemsen said she couldn't be sure how many would be accepted given the variability in scope, but it would be great to award ten or more. Ms. Willemsen indicated a preference would be provided to distressed communities and other targeted communities. Projects will be awarded \$5,000 awards up to \$20,000.

8. 2022-2024 Plan – Companies

Mr. Ron Araujo noted that there are three slide decks; one for 8a. and two for 8c., which can be found the materials folder.

a. Opportunities & Plans for Heat Pump Adoption in SF Homes

Ms. Erin Engelkeymeyer shared a couple updates, including an eLearning site the Companies launched in May. The site provides training to contractors. Additionally, the Heat Pump HES Pilot continued in 2021. Ms. Diane Del Rosso shared an update on the pilot: 15 installs have been completed as of June 2021 and 26 preapprovals are pending. Ms. Engelkeymeyer discussed retrofit opportunities for heat pumps and areas of focus for 2022; including regional alignment, increased customer awareness, dedicated customer support, contractor enablement, and channel engagement.

Mr. Glenn Reed asked how quickly will the region transition to the EnergyStar specification for heat pumps. Mr. Peter Klint indicated that there would be a transition over the next year and a half for manufacturers to get certification.

Mr. Faesy asked what would it take to focus on oil and propane-heated homes? Only through the pilot are Companies addressing propane and oil, outside of the pilot heat pumps are considered a lost measure in oil and propane-heated homes.

b. Filling the Lighting Void (in Budgets and Savings)

c. Demand Response

Mr. Roshan Bhakta provided an overview of 2020 EV, BYOD thermostats and residential batteries. Connected Wi-Fi air conditions have been added to the residential portfolio. Beyond the summer, Mr. Bhakta shared that a large priority is co-delivery of energy efficiency and demand response programs. Some strategies to address this priority include cross-marketing, Wi-Fi thermostats, and HES informational booklet. Ms. Bhakta shared areas that can drive program growth, like residential measures and marketing campaigns. Companies continue to look at new connected devices that can be included.

Mr. Bhakta shared that some new PURA orders have potential overlap in the next CL&M Plan, like RE04 and RE03, which address EVs and battery storage, respectively. Companies are working with different partners on program design and development as well as engaging PURA to ensure these programs and offerings are complimentary.

Mr. Lawrence Rush provided an overview of Avangrid's demand response programs. Mr. Rush shared that the Bring Your Own Thermostat program was successful, with 3,800 installed last year. Mr. Rush indicated another 3,200 thermostats are expected this year because of the expansion of eligible products. Heat pump water heater demand response program has had some challenges given that customers need to opt it. Coming up this year is a gas pilot and residential load balancing pilot. A pilot that installs thermostats with DR capability in multifamily settings will provide insight on nuances at these properties. Mr. Rush also indicated cross collaboration strategies in HES/HES-IE, online marketplace, Residential New Construction, Energy Manager Tool and HVAC Market.

9. Agenda items for future Residential Committee meetings – Consultants

- a. Q2 Report (Program Updates and Equity Metric Performance)
- b. 2022-2024 Plan
- c. Secondary Metrics
- d. Weatherization/Health & Safety Barriers Remediation Plans

- e. Low Income Deep Dive
- f. Consortium for Energy Efficiency's (CEE) Super-Efficient Home Appliances initiative

10. Public Comments

Ms. Amy McLean encouraged attendees to read the draft Plan when it becomes available and to attend the Public Input Sessions. Mr. Glenn Reed indicated that Consultants would be working with DEEP to confirm those dates and get out an invitation. Mr. Richard Faesy commended the companies on the Plan for their responsiveness and development of the plan thus far.

11. Adjourn

Ms. Brenda Watson motioned to adjourn; Ms. Amy McLean seconded and adjourned the meeting.