



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10AM - 12PM (Webinar Only)

Meeting Materials: <https://app.box.com/s/2qh87boa0f35168fu66gs4kiv0wo2pue>

Minutes

1. Welcome – Amy McLean

- a. Roll Call of Committee Members: Brenda Watson, Amy McLean, Vicki Hackett, Ron Araujo, Kate Donatelli.

Other attendees: Alex Rodriguez, Claire Sickinger, Devan Willemsen, Diane Del Rosso, Giulia Bambara, Jeff Howard, Nicholas Jones, Larry Rush, Mike Uhl, Richard Faesy, Alyssa Benoit, Amber McDonnell, Anne Hulick, Bernard Pelletier, Brendan Thomas, Damaris Velez, Emily Rice, Glenn Reed, Guy West, J. Correira, James Dormon, Joe Buonannata, Joe Roy, John Karyczak, Julia Dumaine, Mia Lombardi, Michael Cresta, Pete Carlson, Rose Croog, Shubha Jaishankar, Stephanie Weiner, Tammy Wilson, Tanya Mulholland, Tasha Perreault, Tim Fabuien, Violette Radomski, Vivian Perez, William Wesson

- b. Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. Amy McLean reviewed the meeting procedures; including attendees submitting comments in the chat, but not having side conversations so the discussion can be properly recorded.

2. Approve 9/8/2021 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

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

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

[There were no public comments.]

4. Case Studies and Technologies – Companies

Nicholas Jones shared a video highlighting an Eversource case study that implemented heat pumps in a multifamily setting. Mr. Jones shared that heat pump technologies make a lot of sense in many apartment buildings; this is due to a few factors, including the building code increasing building performance and the resulting low heating and cooling demand for individual units. However, Mr. Jones noted there is not a viable heat pump water heater in the market for multifamily applications because of design limitations (size, placement, etc.). Eversource offers all electric bonus certification offerings for multi-family new construction projects.

Ms. Brenda Watson asked whether solar water heaters were an option. Mr. Jones said they were but Eversource does not see many. Additionally, solar PV and storage can be used to offset the water heating load.

Mr. Mike Uhl asked whether Eversource has reviewed high performance MF buildings. Mr. Uhl noted that there is difference between solar water heating and the Solar-Assisted Heat Pump water heater,- has Eversource reviewed these technologies? Mr. Jones said the Company has, and added there is a third alternative, a split system heat pump water heater option in which condensing unit is placed outside and the water tank is inside. This could result in possibly freezing in the potable water line outside. Mr. Jones added that training is important for these Sanden split systems because of the higher pressure with CO2 as the refrigerant in the condensing unit . Mr. Uhl said it sounds like some of the penalties for multi-family were about performance and it's not a question of whether there's a technology that has performance, but whether there's enough market education and training to do it. Mr. Uhl thought Eversource can encourage new technologies and help develop the contractor network and education around the technology and incentives, specifically solar hot water systems. Mr. Jones stated that Eversource has developed a more aggressive all-electric incentive that aimed to encourage more advanced technologies like solar hot water systems, but did not get a lot of traction. In speaking with builders and developers, the Companies learned they were apprehensive to push these technologies because they are relatively new to the market. Mr. Jones shared that many developers are installing ductless, mini split systems but are still installing gas lines for domestic hot water and cooking. Incentives don't seem to be convincing developers to convert cooking and hot water equipment to electric.

Mr. William Wesson stated that he thinks a lot of BPI-certified people are coming out of the Building Energy NYC, which featured a lot of high efficiency multifamily projects, particularly ones built to Passive House standards. There are case studies from NY. Mr. Jones noted that on the Passive House side, 800 people have been trained via L&Ls and seminars. Currently looking for PH consultant and creating incentives for Passive House that offset feasibility studies and other soft costs.

Mr. Uhl is willing to install more advanced systems if Companies provide adequate incentives. Ms. McLean said it's helpful to know folks are willing to participate. Mr. Jones noted that the rebates are available and all-electric incentives are "maxed out". If there's a technology that the Companies have not mentioned, they will investigate and do what they can.

Mr. Glenn Reed said for larger MF buildings with central HVAC, there are HPWH systems available. Mr. Jones added the Companies haven't yet seen these projects in CT, though acknowledged there were some successful projects elsewhere, like in NY, and that they can be feasible. Ms. Vicki Hackett, DEEP, said we need to be cautious of circular logic (never been here, can't do, which leads to not having them). Ms. Hackett added that seeing projects in other states is instructive and CT/Companies can learn, and it would be helpful to get early guidance from DEEP on the direction for electrification in these applications, especially for hot water and cooking. Ms. Hackett noted that funding can be leveraged to further investigate and, in fact, shared that DEEP expects these funds to be used to test and bring to market technologies that overcome barriers in these areas.

Mr. Ron Araujo echoed that the all-electric incentive is maxed out, but there are retrofit options. Mr. Araujo said the technologies mentioned (solar systems, etc.) can be accommodated as a custom measure. Mr. Araujo stated that the cost of some of these technologies remains prohibitive in many cases, despite the incentive. Ms. Hackett said DEEP expects companies to develop the interest for these technologies, leading the market to decarbonize. Mr. Jones shared that Companies have moved developers to installing heat pumps, which was a significant step towards decarbonization.

Ms. McLean said that surrounding states are more aggressive in this area and encouraged Companies and stakeholders to continue pushing forward. Ms. McLean thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation.

Mr. Richard Faesy encouraged suggestions or ideas for future Committee case studies or technologies.

5. DEEP Legislative and Regulatory Updates

a. Staff Updates

Ms. Giulia Bambara shared that three Director positions at DEEP have been posted: Affordable Housing Energy Retrofit Program, Building and Transportation Decarbonization Team, and Telecom Telecommunications and Broadband. The experience requirements have been updated. Applicants may apply by November 19 (Affordable Housing, Telecommunications) and November 21 (Building and Trans). Ms. Bambara encouraged attendees to share the posting as DEEP would like a large pool of applicants.

b. Expansion of EEB Membership

DEEP extended the deadline to November 15 for applications so more outreach could be performed. The goal is to get a large and diverse pool of applicants. DEEP hopes to have all vacancies filled by the New Year. Ms. Amy McLean asked if DEEP was happy with applicant totals and how many have applied. Ms. Kate Donatelli said she didn't have an updated number since August.

Ms. McLean asked if this was a process that would be followed for future positions to other Boards. Ms. Vicki Hackett said that she received guidance from the administration regarding appointments to Boards, and that this process is in alignment with where both the legislature and administration are headed.

c. CTAC

Ms. Bambara shared that the last meeting had a short agenda. Some contractors had questions regarding the solar tariff program, and those were discussed. A vendor requested a discussion on health and safety barriers, specifically vermiculite. The next meeting will be by October 27.

d. Equitable Energy Efficiency (E3) - DE&I Consultant

Ms. Bambara noted that DEEP is wrapping up the final team approvals for the RFP and will be sending that to the Consultant committee. DEEP anticipates a start date in early 2022.

e. Weatherization/Health & Safety Barriers Remediation RFP & Plans

Ms. Claire Sicklinger shared that DEEP adjusted its original timeline and are making further revisions to the RFP; including scope of service, evaluation criteria, clearer budget requirements, etc. Ms. McLean asked what channels would be used to share the RFP. Ms. Claire Sicklinger said it would be on the website, Ms. McLean emphasized this is something that needs to be shared far and wide.

6. CT Clean Heating & Cooling Page – DEEP

Mr. Jeff Howard shared that the Clean Heating and Cooling page is still under development, its

work a collaboration between DEEP, the Companies, and the Web Development Committee. The group put together a dummy page and are in the process of developing customer guidance documents. The group is completing preparations for the Clean Heating & Cooling Calculator that was developed jointly by Clean Energy States Alliance, GreenBank, Avangrid, NYSEERDA, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, etc. Mr. Howard shared examples of branded guidance customers will receive; which include information on the technology, how it fits in the home, costs, links to incentives and discounts, availability of financing and more. All guidance documents point readers to the calculator.

The Clean Heating & Cooling Calculator is tailored for each state, using specific weather and incentive information relevant to customers in that region. The calculator aims to educate consumers and provide them with information they would need to take the next step.

How will customers find the calculator and will HES vendors be using the calculator? Mr. Howard said getting customers to the calculator is a discussion that the team still needs to have. Mr. Howard indicated that the calculator is designed for customer use, and is high-level. It's not intended to design or a specific system as more analysis would be necessary. Mr. Uhl asked if the calculator was intended for the customer to explore options and bring those to a contractor. Mr. Howard said that the calculator is intended to empower homeowners to have discussions with contractors.

7. Community Engagement Initiative – Companies

Ms. Devan Willemsen shared that there were 10 total applications received. The Companies are currently scoring applications. Companies are visiting with applicants for clarification and to address any questions or thoughts. Companies expect to notify applicants on or around October 22 and expect to provide an update at the next Committee meeting.

Ms. McLean asked if there was geographic variety; Ms. Willemsen said applications from five of eight counties have been received. Ms. Willemsen hopes to share more details about the projects and their scope at the November meeting.

Ms. Kate Donatelli asked if Ms. Willemsen could share some details about the goals and applications received. Goals number one and two are a total 10% increase in each HES market rate and HES-IE, goal three is 15% increase in residential rebates, and goal 4 is a 5% increase in SBEA. Projects have been received under each goal; goals 1 and 3 each have three projects, goals 3 and 4 have two projects. \$220K is available for projects; with \$250K total.

Ms. Brenda Watson asked if the Companies were rating the applications, and if anyone else would be involved in scoring. Ms. Willemsen said for the first round Eversource and UI personnel will handle scoring. Ms. Watson asked if folks reviewing have experience in community engagement and Ms. Willemsen said the review teams have experience in income-eligible programming, residential and small business energy advantage, DEI and in the field.

8. 2022-2024 Plan - Consultants

a. Public Comments Summary

Mr. Richard Faesy provided a summary of the comments received during Public Input Sessions. Mr. Faesy reminded attendees the Plan is in a three-year cycle and there is an annual update process. About 29 individuals and organizations submitted comments, three sets were from mass email campaigns. Additionally, public input on the Plan has been provided at monthly Board meetings. All the comments and responses from

Companies and the Board can be found [here](#). They are also incorporated in the Plan Text.

There were eight key themes:

1. Cease fossil fuel equipment incentives
2. Increase support for heat pumps
3. Electrify new construction
4. Workforce development
5. Equity/low-income program funding and services
6. Quantifiable program goals
7. Align with state's GHG policy and goals
8. Data/document availability and C&LM Plan development process transparency

RE: Ceasing fossil fuel incentives

There are currently no incentives for oil or propane-fired equipment. All-electric incentives are being offered and reduced incentives for propane-heated homes. DEEP's 2022 Comprehensive Energy Strategy will inform handling of gas-fired equipment.

Re: Increase support for heat pumps

Lots of emphasis around heat pumps; including all-electric new construction package and increased emphasis on low-load buildings. DEEP's 2022 Comprehensive Energy Strategy will inform heat pump incentives.

RE: Electrify new construction

There are different economics for new construction and retrofit. A new construction package, with an all-electric bonus will hopefully help drive electrification. Increased emphases on Passive House and Net-Zero buildings.

RE: Workforce development

The need for workforce development is recognized. Technicians are needed to keep HES /HES-IE going. Ms. Amy McLean attended the Operation Fuel webinar and indicated that coordinating efforts with other state workforce and training efforts will be necessary. Ms. Brenda Watson said that it's time to start thinking about non-traditional partners, acknowledging a growing immigrant population.

RE: Equity/low-income program funding and services

There will be a continued over-indexing (spending more on low-income programs relative to the revenue they generate) for both fuels. New equity metric has been added to support "hardship" customers. Public Act 21-48 established a grant program for EE in affordable housing. A Census Tracked tool will lower barriers to participation.

RE: Quantifiable program goals

Quantifiable goals have existed but have been in appendices at the end of the Plan. Mr. Faesy noted this was a great suggestion and these metrics/goals have been moved into the Plan Text to increase visibility. The Board is working on making documents more readily available both on the website and Box.com; this includes quarterly reports and other materials related to Plan goals and progress.

RE: Align Plan with state's policy and goals

Decarbonization, equity and demand response shifts are all in alignment with the state's

GHG goals. C&LM programs reduce pollution through efficiency programs.

RE: Data/document availability and C&LM Plan development process transparency
Data tables exist during Plan development but were not brought in front of public until later in the process. Current version has those tables added into the text. For the 2023 Plan Update, these details will be better communicated.

Mr. Faesy indicated that DEEP would be hosting technical meetings in November. The 2023 Plan update will be informed by the 2022 Comprehensive Energy Strategy. Ms. McLean acknowledged the level of stakeholder engagement and expressed appreciation for those that have participated. Ms. Brenda Watson thanked Mr. Faesy for the summary and for those that participated.

b. Secondary Metrics

Mr. Richard Faesy shared information on Performance Management Incentives. If Companies meet certain goals, they receive revenue that was withheld as payment for that performance. The amount withheld/paid out is agreed upon and voted on by the Board, ultimately approved by DEEP. On the electric side, residential secondary metrics include a 9% incentive, approximately \$657,056. For HES/HES-IE the MMBtu savings needs to increase annually per home to meet the metric. The residential new construction metric aims to increase the percent of efficient new homes that receive a HERS score of 50 or less. Companies must increase performance by annually. On equitable distribution, the Companies must increase participation annually.

On the Residential Gas side, 9% gas incentives is approximately \$99,929. Gas metrics are around CCF savings achieved. Mr. Uhl asked if advanced duct sealing would be incentive and how that would work. Ms. Diane Del Rosso noted that HES, HES-IE currently offer duct sealing incentives, including advanced duct sealing incentives. These incentives will continue, and the Companies are making efforts to bundle incentives. Mr. Uhl asked if heating and cooling impacts were included in the calculations. Ms. Del Rosso indicated the Companies have strict calculations they need to use.

Mr. Uhl asked if the Companies have considered leveraging lists like SNAP for automatic eligibility and enrollment in IE programs. Ms. Del Rosso noted that there have been discussions, but this would require possibly legislation to enable sharing data across state agencies. Ms. McLean has hopes that the Weatherization Program Operator RFP can take ideas like this and run with them.

9. Agenda items for future Residential Committee meetings

- a. Q3 Report (November)
- b. Low Income Deep Dive (WAP and HES-IE Coordination) (November)
- c. Participation Study (UI in December and Eversource in January)
- d. CT Green Bank Updates
- e. Program QA/QC Processes and Results
- f. DEI Consultant Engagement and Recommendations
- g. Water Utility Coordination
- h. Defining "Weatherization" for Connecticut

10. Public Comments

Mr. Uhl asked for more information regarding the residential concierge program that was

mentioned. Mr. Faesy pointed Mr. Uhl to the text in the Plan. Mr. Uhl noted that it didn't include specifics and is looking for more information. Mr. Faesy noted there wasn't more detail at this time.

11. Adjourn