



EEB Residential Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 10AM - 12PM (Webinar Only)

Meeting Materials: <https://app.box.com/s/cbqp55qrd43fpk51kj98791ta7e4jvu6>

Minutes

1. Welcome – Amy McLean

Roll Call of Board & Committee Members: Brenda Watson, Amy McLean, Brenda Watson, Kate Donatelli, Ron Araujo, Donald Mauritz, Joel Kopylec

Other attendees: Bernard Pelletier, Devan Willemsen, Diane Del Rosso, Emily Rice, Giulia Bambara, Glenn Reed, Jeff Howard, Larry Rush, Enoch Lenge, Peter Klint, Richard Faesy, Rose Croog, Amber McDonnell, Anne Hulick, Art St. Armand, Claire Sickinger, Damaris Velez, Giulia Bambara, Jerry Graham, Joseph Roy, Julia Dumaine, Michelle Long, Mike Uhl, Patrice Gillespie, Pete Carlson, Richard Olisky, Rose Croog, Sharon Guarino, Sheri Borrelli, Shubha Jaishankar, Stephanie Weiner, Tanya Mulholland, Tasha Perreault, Violette Radomski

a. Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. Amy McLean reviewed the meeting procedures and process. Ms. McLean asked attendees to remain muted, to request to speak, and to hold off-topic comments for the public comment periods. Ms. McLean also requested speakers to identify themselves and to use the chat box for raising questions and providing resources, but not for conversations.

2. Approve 8/11/2021 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Brenda Watson provided a couple revisions: on page 6 replace “shoulder [months]” with “colder [months]” and in the recap of Ms. Watson and Mr. Larry Rush’s discussion, include “not”. Ms. Watson motioned to approve the minutes with the recommended revisions. Ms. Amy McLean seconded. The motion passed 2-0.

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

Mr. Bernie Pelletier, People’s Action for Clean Energy, works with the Heat Smart Program that performs educational outreach around HES, HES-IE, and heat pumps. Mr. Pelletier shared feedback/concerns received during outreach efforts that COVID guidelines for HES and HES-IE around entering customer homes is inadequate. Mr. Pelletier suggested that Companies provide more substantive guidance or point to it if already available. Further, Mr. Pelletier recommended that homeowners could ask for masks or vaccinated technicians. Mr. Pelletier noted that empowering homeowners and more substantive guidance is requested. Mr. Ron Araujo shared that COVID guidelines are available on the [Energize CT website](#).

4. DEEP Legislative and Regulatory Updates

a. Staff Updates

Ms. Giulia Bambara shared that Ms. Elaine Oelrich, Office Director of Building & Transportation Decarbonization has left DEEP and Mr. Mike Li, Bureau Chief, will be leaving and his last day is September 9.

b. Expansion of EEB Membership

Ms. Giulia Bambara reminded attendees that there are four vacancies on the Board, including two newly legislated seats and two from departing members. Process for submitting applications and nominations has closed, but DEEP is currently reviewing those applications. DEEP is unsure how long this phase of the process will take. Ms. McLean asked if Ms. Giulia Bambara could share the number of applicants. Ms. Kate Donatelli shared that approximately a dozen applications.

c. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and HES-IE Coordination

DEEP is coordinating with utilities and Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to identify and streamline referrals and cost-sharing between HES-IE and WAP. DEEP's priority is ensuring federal funds are used first. DEEP is working on reporting metrics.

Ms. Amy McLean referenced Ms. Bambara's statement that DEEP would "take advantage of federal funds first" and asked for clarification on which funds were federal? Ms. Bambara said the WAP funds would be used first. Mr. Richard Faesy suggested the Committee keep this topic on the agenda, and asked how frequently Ms. Bambara anticipates updates will be appropriate. Ms. Bambara wasn't sure how often there would be updates, but will check. Ms. Bambara expects monthly but can communicate when the topic should be removed from the agenda.

Ms. Brenda Watson asked what the total WAP funds are? Ms. Bambara didn't have that but would get that information. Ms. Watson also requested a diagram that shows the flow of funds into and across the state, including the timeline and dollar amounts. Ms. Watson asked if customers are automatically given WAP application, and Ms. Bambara said this is a detail DEEP et. al. are working through. Ms. Watson asked if customers would be routed to WAP until funds were out, then to HES-IE. Ms. Bambara clarified that the prioritization of funds is more focused on measures; if there is any overlap of services, the goal is to use federal funds prior to state funds. Mr. Richard Faesy said there has been a placeholder for this subject in the "agenda items for future Residential Committee meeting". Mr. Faesy added that Ms. Watson is raising questions many people have. Mr. Faesy suggested carving out time on a future agenda to go through these details and asked Ms. Bambara when it would be best to do so. Ms. Bambara said any time, but would check with the DEEP WAP manager, who would be the most appropriate person to handle this topic. Mr. Faesy suggested including this topic on October and November agendas.

Ms. Amy McLean indicated there are a number of concurrent, related processes in the Residential sector, including the Weatherization Program Operator RFP, WAP, 21-48, and LIHEAP. Ms. McLean indicated that coordination will be necessary to minimize duplicated efforts, and maximize funding, and optimizing program resources. Ron Araujo asked if this would include funding from 21-48 which is the act establishing respite grant funding for low-income housing. Ms. Bambara noted that DEEP may not be ready to discuss all of these details, but will discuss internally and follow up.

d. CTAC

Ms. Giulia Bambara shared that the last meeting included valuable discussion with contractors about DEEP's Weatherization/Health & Safety Barriers Remediation RFP. Ms. Bambara said DEEP received valuable input from attendees. Ms. Amy McLean asked if the last meeting was a regular CTAC meeting or not. Ms. Bambara clarified that this was a supplemental meeting driven by contractor interest that was open to the public.

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

Ms. Giulia Bambara shared an update on the RFP. The term for a DEI consultant will be

three years, Jan 1 2022- Dec 21 2024, which aligns with the next Three-Year Plan. Ms. Kate Donatelli said DEEP is waiting on a few final approvals and details regarding the budget, so they don't have an exact timeline for when this will be released. DEEP is working to get this out soon.

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

Ms. Kate Donatelli shared that the public comment period closed on September 7. DEEP is going to review feedback received and finalize the RFP September 17. DEEP will be following the state's standard RFP process from here. There will be a conference September 23, questions regarding the RFP are due October 1, proposals are due November 5. DEEP anticipates awarding the work in early December to prepare the Program Operator. The program begins April 1.

Ms. Donatelli shared some highlights from feedback received, including requests for more ambitious targets and more flexibility with maximum project cost caps. Comments regarding tracking, bidder qualifications and submissions, scoring, and more were submitted. Ms. Donatelli observed that data management was a common theme across comments and DEEP will be taking that into consideration.

DEEP's updates for 4a, 4b, 4c, 4e, and 4f can be found in a PDF file located in the materials folder.

Ms. McLean thanked stakeholders that provided comments and stated that the Board submitted comments. Ms. McLean believes it's important the Board provides leadership in this area. Ms. Rose Croog offered a special thanks to HES contractors, Acadia Center, E4theFuture, Sierra Club, and LISC Connecticut for submitting comments.

5. Community Engagement Initiative – Companies

Ms. Devan Williamsen shared an update on the Companies' Community Engagement Initiative. Applications opened on July 20 and Companies have sent three reminders to 350 stakeholders across the state; the third of which was an e-mail that went out last week. Companies are continuing to gather feedback and applications will close October 1.

Ms. McLean asked if Companies have received feedback from applicants on the timeline. Ms. Williamsen said that the Companies had heard concerns about the timeline and extended the deadline from August 20 to October 1. Ms. Williamsen noted that this is the first round, and there will be much to learn, both from an administration and a participant perspective.

Ms. McLean asked if there was a schedule for the second round. Ms. Williamsen said the Companies do not have a second round scheduled yet as they are currently focused on ensuring the first round is a good experience. Ms. McLean said it was important that Companies extended the first round and learning the right timing for applicants will be a key to success.

Ms. McLean asked how many have applied and whether applicant identities are public. Ms. Williamsen noted that the companies are keeping applicants private at this time, and plan to get consent for publishing awards and identifying participating entities. Ms. Williamsen shared that one application has been submitted but it is typical to see an uptick a week or two before the deadline, and a majority right at the deadline.

6. Compliance Items – Companies

a. CEE Super-Efficient Home Appliances initiative (#17)

Peter Klint, Program Manager for Emerging Technologies at Eversource, shared information on initiatives at the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE). CEE has 80 program administrators across US and Canada.

Mr. Klint presented a slide deck that summarized four initiatives the CEE is working on. First, the CEE Super Efficient Home Appliances Initiative (SEHA) is a companion initiative to ENERGY STAR® Appliances Program, which provides ENERGY STAR® labeling to qualified appliances and has proven to be influential in the market. SEHA promotes high efficiency ENERGY STAR® appliances and includes additional categories beyond the ENERGY STAR® program, denoted by a CEE Advanced Tier. Products include clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, and room air conditioners. Mr. Klint shared a graphic depicting how the appliances map from ENERGY STAR® to CEE tiers.

CEE is aligned with the ENERGY STAR Retail Products Program is a market transformation program that works with retailers to get certified products into the market. Retailers are important channels to customers, so the program incentivizes retailers to stock products as well as incentivizing consumers. This is an annual program and CEE receives sales and inventory data from retailers that informs program administrators.

The Residential Heating and Cooling Systems Initiative focuses heavily on heat pumps. CEE works closely with and uses AHRI for the backend of its database. CEE is helping Companies work with AHRI to add a capacity ratio for heat pumps.

The Integrated Home Initiative looks at how products in the home can be integrated to improve efficiency. This program provides awareness of desired product capabilities and encourages market competition through an award process. Over 40 applications have been received so far this year. Second round includes testing and then the winners are announced in November. Categories include HVAC equipment, thermostats, water heating, combined space and water heating, ceiling fans, pool pumps, plug load controls, and window attachments. The goal is to drive greater efficiency by enabling these systems to connect.

Residential/Commercial Water Heating Initiative includes updates for specifications on equipment for 2021 in the residential space.

Mr. Klint shared that the Commercial Kitchens Committee has identified equipment currently offered in ENERGY STAR®, but a new category is emerging: induction cooktops. Induction cooktops are being evaluated now.

Ms. Brenda Watson asked if there has been discussion about moving in the direction of including water efficiency measures in weatherization. Mr. Ron Araujo noted that previously wasn't met with a lot of enthusiasm and did not gain much traction. Ms. Watson observed the planning is now under Companies umbrella, and wondered if they could affect interest? Mr. Araujo noted that unless we can garner a lot of support from multiple utilities, there will be an inconsistent delivery of services. Ms. Watson asked what are we waiting for and suggested we can figure this out. Mr. Araujo noted that there needs to be funding given that water savings measures that don't reduce energy consumption shouldn't come out of the efficiency fund. Ms. Watson continued that this is something the utilities can solve. Ms. Amy McLean noted that water-energy nexus and issues around water are going to continue to be a significant issue. Ms. McLean suggested that she and Ms. Watson visit separately. Mr. Richard Faesy indicated the Consultants are open to ideas. Ms. Watson shared that meeting with the Water Planning Council could be a good place to start.

7. 2022-2024 Plan

a. Plan Process – Consultants

Mr. Richard Faesy said Consultants have covered topic areas in the Plan at previous

Committee meetings and reminded attendees the Board would be voting to approve the Plan text in the EEB meeting later today. Mr. Faesy said it's important for folks to know how the Plan process works and provided an overview. CL&M is Conservation and Load Management. Electric Utilities include Eversource and United Illuminating (UIL), Gas utilities include Eversource Natural Gas, Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), and Southern Connecticut Gas (SNG). Avangrid is parent company of UIL, CNG and SCG.

Enabling legislation in Connecticut requires a Three-Year Plan, currently for 2022-2024, which is filed in November 2021. Connecticut updates the Plan annually, filing in March. The Plan Text includes program descriptions and future plans, which get voted on ahead of the Plan Budget and Savings Tables, which include budget summaries (Table As) and details (Table Bs), costs and benefits by program and sector (Table Cs), and historical and projected savings and metrics (Table Ds). The Companies do a lot of work to produce content for these tables.

PMIs are "performance management incentives" and describe payments to Companies for achieving defined goals and metrics. The PSD is the "program savings document" that includes agreed-upon calculations for determining program savings. This is based on best practices and reasonable assumptions for each measure. Compliance conditions are DEEP's conditions for Plan approval.

Historically the planning process has begun in the first quarter of the year with Companies and Consultants reviewing programs in depth and discussing modifications. Public input sessions and comment periods are then held, followed by draft responses to the feedback received. Companies draft plan text for consultant review and then a revised draft for the EEB and public to review. Another round of public input sessions and evaluations that feed into the PSD shape the next round. Companies then develop Plan Tables, which are combined with the Plan Text and ultimately voted on by the EEB. The final Plan is submitted to DEEP for approval and conditions. Mr. Faesy noted that there is always room for improvement and that this process could be modified to address stakeholder criticism/concerns received during August Public Input Sessions.

Remaining steps for the current Plan development include a vote on the Plan Text at the September EEB Meeting and voting on Plan Tables in October. In November the Three-Year Plan will be filed and DEEP will host a technical hearing. At this time stakeholders will have an opportunity to engage with DEEP and Companies on the Plan. Finally, DEEP will approve and provided conditions of approval in December.

b. Equity, Parity and Proportionality – Consultants

Mr. Richard Faesy provided a slide deck on 2022-2024 Plan Equity, Parity, and Proportionality. The Plan Tables include Parity Pies for each fuel which show the revenue coming in by customer class (C&I, residential – income-eligible, and res – non income). We spend 1% more on income eligible than collected for income eligible. Historically we haven't shown where the gas revenue comes from, just where it's spent. 37% C&I, 23% Res I-E and 41% Res.

Mr. Faesy noted that questions arise when reviewing these charts. Is the allocation appropriate? How should they be shifted and what's the justification? The philosophy has typically been that electric ratepayers should benefit from electric revenues, and gas customers benefit from gas revenues. Ms. Amy McLean asked if Mr. Faesy has a thought for next steps or how to answer some of the questions. Ms. McLean asked whether this topic warrants a smaller workgroup or meeting? Mr. Faesy says these questions fit with DEEP's Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) consultant and should/could fall under their purview. Ms. Kate Donatelli agreed, and noted that the DEI Consultant timeline is longer,

but in the short-term we can look to other jurisdictions and how they've answered these questions. Mr. Faesy clarified that we are not expecting to address these questions in the 2022-2024 Plan, though it could be tackled in the 2022 annual review and filing. Ms. Donatelli added that DEEP needs to spend some more time considering what is possible within the current construct of the program under the statute.

Mr. Ron Araujo suggested we should be looking at this comprehensively, and including federal and other resources as part of the planning.

c. Incentives for Fossil Fuel Equipment – Companies

Mr. Larry Rush provided a presentation on program fossil fuel incentives in response to the public comment around this issue. Incentives for propane and oil boilers have been eliminated, but Companies do still offer incentives for high efficiency natural gas boilers and furnaces. Companies have been considering how to shift incentives away from fossil fuels and are looking for more data to base those decisions off of. Considerations include, but are not limited to, economic feasibility for consumers, market readiness, etc.

HES and HES-IE weatherization programs prepare customers for decarbonization; improving shell, mechanical systems, and educating customers around heat pumps. Mr. Rush shared that natural gas is still most economical choice for heating a home, so companies allow incentives for high eff natural gas equipment. Companies have observed a decrease in propane/oil RNC projects. Companies do offer an all-electric incentive through the rate structure. Ms. Amy McLean addressed a point on the Residential New Construction slide that claims “natural gas [equipment] is still the most economical choice for heating a home”. Mr. Glenn Reed noted that natural gas may have the lowest operating costs, but on a life cycle cost basis electric-heated homes are more economical. [RMI](#) has done studies on this. Ms. McLean said that we need to be selective about how we share information and frame things so as not to mislead consumers, especially given the public's concerns relating to climate change.

d. Heat Pump Initiatives – Companies

Companies have established an EE learning center that promotes heat pumps through HVAC trainings, targeted outreach and leveraging distribution and manufacturer relationships. Expansion for heat pump equipment applications is underway and expected in 2022.

Companies are looking into simplifying incentive offerings and removing barriers to adoption. Mr. Rush stated that we need to prepare the market for increased demand, focusing on scalability and minimizing administrative burden on distribution partners. Companies continue to promote and educate through HES and HES-IE programs, Wise Use and the Energize CT website.

Mr. Rush provided an overview of the Clean Heating and Cooling (CH&C) Calculator that will soon become available to consumers. The calculator will use state energy prices, local weather data, local equipment costs, and available state-wide incentives, and more. The tool estimates simply payback time and net installation costs. The calculator is not launched yet. Ms. Amy McLean asked when the full tool will be live and Mr. Rush wasn't sure on when this will be available. Mr. Jeff Howard, DEEP, has been involved in the project and announced a separate roll out for state individual calc and will provide an update via email in the next day or two.

Mr. Richard Faesy, addressing the varying costs between new construction and retrofits, asked whether the calculator has functionality for both or one or the other. Mr. Jeff

Howard said he would include an answer for this when communicating about the timetable.

8. Proceedings Updates – Companies:

a. Solar (20-07-01)

Ms. Diane del Rosso provided updates for legislative proceedings from PURA dockets. 20-07-01 was issued June 30 and is a 6-year program to support residential renewable energy resources. The period is January 1, 2022-December 31, 2027 and is administered by the electric Companies. It includes a HES/HES-IE prerequisite and allows beneficial electrification.

b. Battery Storage (17-12-03.RE03)

Final decision was issued July 28 and allows for Residential and Commercial & Industrial Eversource and UIL customers a declining-block upfront incentive and a performance-based incentive. Electric Companies are administering the performance-based incentive and CT Green Bank will be administering the up-front incentive.

c. EV Charging (17-12-03RE04)

Program will launch Jan. 1, 2022. Establishing five program areas to optimize deployment of EV supply equipment. Electric Companies will administer the program. Companies are working on establishing a working group.

9. Agenda items for future Residential Committee meetings

a. 2022-2024 Plan

b. Secondary Metrics – Mr. Faesy indicated he can report out on this in October.

c. Low Income Deep Dive – DEEP can provide this update in Oct.

d. UI Participation Study – Eversource has been doing this for a number of years, Mr. Faesy noted this would likely be both companies and asked if the results would be ready by Oct. Mr. Larry Rush anticipates the companies will be ready by Oct.

e. DEI Consultant Engagement and Recommendations – likely next year, but want to keep an eye on this.

f. Mr. Jeff Howard suggested Energize CT Clean Heating and Cooling calculator for a future meeting.

g. Ms. Brenda Watson suggested an Update RE: Recent IPCC Report; Ms. Watson is concerned about recent weather events and believes it's time to be bold. Mr. Jeff Howard volunteered to take this on. Ms. Amy McLean suggested this could be included in an upcoming Board meeting and Mr. Glenn Reed will bring this to Board Leadership.

h. Ms. Patrice Gillespie suggested Defining Weatherization for CT

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Adjourn

Ms. Brenda Watson motioned to adjourn; Ms. Amy McLean seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 and the meeting was adjourned.