



**Energy Efficiency Board**  
**September 8, 2021 | 1:00 – 3:30 pm**

**Materials can be found here:**

<https://app.box.com/s/m8885iktcpb5zxodi0t9lem2qablljbx>

**MINUTES**

**1. Process**

Roll call of Board Members: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Amy McLean, Ashley Marshall, Brenda Watson, Jack Traver, John Viglione, John Wright, Michael Li, Neil Beup, Ron Araujo, Steve Bruno, Walt Szymanski, Donald Mauritz, Joel Kopylec, Kate Donatelli

Other attendees: Emily Rice, Erin Cosgrove, Ghani Ramdani, Glenn Reed, Samantha Dynowski, Alice Martin, Ashley Nicholls, Chris Phelps, Claire Sickinger, Daniel Robertson, Devan Willemsen, Diane Del Rosso, George Lawrence, Giulia Bambara, Glen Eigo, Julia Dumaine, Larry Rush, Mark Thomson, Matt Macunas, Mike Uhl, Mike Weissmann, Patrice Gillespie, Peter Millman, Rebecca Meyer, Richard Faesy, Rose Croog, Shannon Laun, Sharon Guarino, Sheri Borrelli, William Wesson

**A. Minutes – Approve minutes from August 2021 Board Meeting**

Mr. Neil Beup entertained a motion to approve the August minutes. Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson motioned to approve the August minutes; Mr. John Wright seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion passed 7-0, Mr. John Viglione abstained.

**B. DEEP Staff Changes**

Mr. Michael Li is transitioning out of his role as Deputy Commissioner at DEEP and is moving out-of-state to work for a private company. He will be replaced on the Board by Ms. Vicki Hackett. Ms. Kate Donatelli will serve as the Staff Lead for the Board. Ms. Giulia Bambara will continue to be the Residential Lead.

Mr. Li said it's been a pleasure to work with the Board and voiced an appreciation for its dedication in improving programs and maximizing value of program funds. Mr. Li thanked Mr. Neil Beup and Ms. Amy McLean for their leadership. Mr. Beup said the Board is grateful for Mr. Li's service and his absence will be a loss for the Board. Ms. McLean echoed Mr. Beup's sentiment and that Mr. Li's new employer is lucky to have him.

**C. Board vacancies and non-voting member changes**

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided update on current Board vacancies. The application/nomination period closed on August 20 and DEEP is in the process of reviewing them. After DEEP's initial review, the Commissioner will make the final appointments for the open seats.

Ms. Emily Rice shared changes to non-voting Board seats; Mr. Hammad Chaudry has replaced Ms. Elizabeth Murphy and is representing United Illuminating, Mr. Donald Mauritz has replaced Mr. Walt Szymanski to represent Wallingford Electric, and Mr. Walt Szymanski has replaced Mr. Scott Whittier to represent CMEEC. Mr. Neil Beup welcomed the new members to the Board.

D. Public Comments – 3 minutes per organization

Ms. Samantha Dynowski, State Director for the Sierra Club, shared her concern regarding some recent news around climate resiliency and mitigation. DEEP released its latest Greenhouse Gas Inventory and it shows the state is not on track to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Ms. Dynowski indicated this report signals that more needs to be done. Ms. Dynowski emphasized the Sierra Club's request to remove incentives for fossil fuel equipment, ramp up heat pump incentives to move more towards electrification, and to ensure low-income residents are enabled and empowered to participate in the programs.

2. Public Input Session Review – Consultants/Board

- Attendance, Participation, and Company and Board responses
- Stakeholder Comments and Discussion

Mr. Glenn Reed provided a slide deck that summarized Public Input Sessions regarding the 2022-2024 draft Plan. Mr. Reed thanked stakeholders that participated in the input sessions, it was the most attended to-date. Three public input sessions were held on March 10, August 11, and August 18. Approximately 25 verbal/written comments were received in addition to a few mass-email campaigns from individuals. Key themes from the feedback included ceasing fossil fuel incentives, increase support for heat pumps, electrify new construction, increase low-income funding, enhance support of workforce development, and improve data/document availability during the C&LM Plan development process.

Mr. Reed noted that there are currently no incentives for oil or propane-fired equipment. The Plan includes an all-electric residential new construction package with a growing emphasis on heat pump equipment and incentives for induction cooktops. There will be continued discussions re: replacement of existing gas condensing equipment. Mr. Reed added that the 2022 DEEP Comprehensive Energy Strategy is expected to provide further direction in terms of continued support for gas equipment incentives. Mr. Reed shared that the current/proposed program includes current all-electric residential new construction package with lower incentives for propane-heated homes. There will be increased emphasis on supporting new, low-load buildings for Res and C&I, including passive house certification and net zero energy buildings, and support for induction cooktops.

Several stakeholders recognized the need for additional workforce development. The current/proposed programs will increase commitment to workforce development by coordinating with other state workforce and training efforts.

In regards to feedback to increase low-income program funding, Mr. Reed shared that low-

income gas funding has been historically over-indexed but there is a proposed increase of 1% over indexing of electric funding. There are new and dedicated funding available for addressing health and safety barriers to weatherization. An RFP for a Weatherization Program Operator will be released soon and recent legislation establishes grant programs for energy efficiency and affordable housing. The draft Plan also includes a submission for a census track tool that can be used to pre-qualify customers for low income program services. There are ongoing discussions in the Residential Committee about the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Consultant, who will inform these decisions.

Mr. Reed shared that several parties requested more time to review data and documents and more transparency throughout the development process. Mr. Reed indicated that for the 2022 update and forward, these details will be better communicated. Companies and Consultants are working to catalog and increase visibility and access to key C&LM Plan, utility, filings, program documents, and reporting.

Mr. Reed stated that the formal Company and Board responses to the Public Input Session comments will be included in the final Plan. There are continued discussions at the Board and Committee level regarding input received. Mr. Reed shared that there will be further opportunity to provide input at DEEP's November Technical Hearing as well as Board and Committee meetings in the interim. The annual Plan update process is another opportunity.

Ms. McLean noted that Mr. Beup had to step out and entertained any questions Board members had.

Mr. Reed's presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

### 3. Programs and Planning

#### A. Plan Approval Schedule – Consultants

Mr. Glenn Reed shared the remaining schedule for Plan approval. The Board will vote on Plan Tables in October and the Plan will be filed in November. DEEP will host a C&LM Technical Hearing in November as well. Finally, DEEP will approve, and may provide conditions of approval, in December.

#### B. Discussion and Vote on Plan Text – Companies/Consultants/Board

Mr. Stephen Bruno provided an overview of the Plan Text via PowerPoint. Mr. Bruno noted that the companies added an appendix to talk about a Benchmarking Initiative proposal which helps customers benchmark performance. Based on feedback from public comment sessions, text boxes have been added to show historical (three-years) savings, lifetime benefits, emissions, and a few other metrics. Mr. Bruno shared the overall proposed budget is \$706 million over three years which is projected to achieve \$1.8 billion dollars in benefits which equates to \$2.60 for every dollar invested.

Mr. Bruno shared examples of additional text on the three priorities of the plan: equity, decarbonization, and energy affordability.

For the first priority, the Plan includes initiatives and practices to increase equity in the areas of residential, commercial & industrial, and education, workforce and outreach. Some strategies

include using DEEP's new Energy Efficiency Equity baselined to identify low participation areas and inform outreach efforts, marketing to customers in non-English languages to increase engagement, and introducing the Energy CT Energy in Action mobile exhibit.

In terms of decarbonization, there are three similar areas, residential, commercial & industrial, and education, work force development and outreach. Some strategies include expanding active demand response offerings to support electrification and carbon neutrality, educating contractors and customers on heat pump benefits, and leveraging manufacturer and distributor education and training efforts to promote heat pumps.

In terms of energy affordability, the Plan includes an introduction of a Census Tract Tool to streamline outreach efforts and leveraging funding from LIHEAP and ARPA to address weatherization barriers, increasing small business participation in weatherization measures, and providing energy efficiency seminars in schools and community-based organizations.

Mr. Walt Szymanski, CMEEC, asked about the weatherization of businesses located in converted residences, and whether Companies are thinking about using the HES program or a modified version to accomplish the goal? Mr. Ron Araujo indicated the Companies are still working out how they are going to do this, but they are looking at the same type of activities and possibly a different pool of vendors.

Mr. Glenn Reed shared a slide summarizing the Consultants recommendations on Plan Text Approval. Mr. Reed noted that Consultants have been working closely with the Companies the past several months, and indicated the Companies have been very responsive to their recommendations. Mr. Reed shared that the Consultants and Companies have agreed to make further text additions and changes that were not in the draft text distributed to Board members in the following areas: (1) investigate replacement of existing gas condensing space and water heating equipment with program supported condensing equipment, (2) revisit Policy Working Group (RD&D) charter, and (3) update HES virtual concierge services, including participant tracking/metrics.

Ms. Amy McLean solicited thoughts and/or questions from the Board. Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson asked how the Board could be sure the recommendations they have received now and recently are getting considered into the Plan Text. Mr. Reed shared that the Consultants and Board have been able to review and consider input, but conceded that updates and changes may not satisfy every request. Mr. Steve Bruno added that the Plan doesn't get filed until November, and edits can be made over the coming weeks. Ms. Fargo-Johnson stated that she wanted to ensure the Board isn't asking for comment only to not consider it.

Mr. Jack Traver motioned to approve the Plan text, Ms. Amanda-Fargo Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with Mr. John Viglione and DEEP abstaining, and Mr. Neil Beup and Mr. John Wright absent. There was much discussion about the Board operating procedures in terms of voting. [There are eight total voting members presently and half must be present for quorum. When Board members are absent during a vote, the voting count to determine a majority is the number of present voting members less those absent; this vote meets the threshold outlined by the Board operating procedures.]

Mr. Neil Beup and Mr. John Wright rejoined the meeting and offered affirmative votes to approving the Plan text. The motion was updated to 6-0, with Mr. John Viglione and DEEP abstaining.

C. 2022-2024 Plan Savings and Budget – Companies/Consultants

Mr. Stephen Bruno continued his presentation, sharing that no updates from the past meeting to revenues and budgets. Anticipated 2022 revenues are \$189.1 million from electric customers and \$54.2 million from natural gas customers. Mr. Bruno shared parity charts, indicating that proposed electric budget and revenue are proportionate for C&I, over-indexed by 1% for residential income-eligible, and under-indexed by 1% for residential non income-eligible. Mr. Bruno pointed out that the demand response program is not anticipated to be as cost-effective as the last model, per the Avoided Energy Cost Study, and so some funding was reallocated to other programs (primarily HVAC). Mr. Bruno shared a proposed increase by \$4 million dollars in the residential portfolio from 2021 to 2022. Mr. Bruno shared there were no proposed changes to workforce development and customer engagement program budgets.

Mr. Ghani Ramdani shared projected savings (annual and lifetime) across the portfolio for the 2022-2024 Plan. 2022 combined annual savings are projected to be 1.4 million MMBtu, a 1% decrease from 2021, and combined lifetime savings 19.3 million MMBtu, a 7% decrease from 2021. Decreases are due to anticipated decrease in budgets, shifting lighting budget to weatherization, and C&I natural gas HVAC baseline increase. Mr. Ramdani also shared waterfall charts for lifetime electric savings (MWh) which visually represent impacts on program changes to projected savings; including lighting phase-out, lower incentives, and others. Similarly, a waterfall chart of lifetime natural gas savings and portfolio changes, including budget reallocations, HES/HES-IE cost rate adjustment, etc.

Mr. Ramdani shared savings projections for 2021-2024 from passive demand response, or traditional energy efficiency programs like lighting or HES. Residential savings decrease over time, mostly due to phasing out of lighting, while the C&I saving increase slightly over time. Mr. Ramdani also shared savings projections for active demand response programs, including residential Wi-Fi thermostats, room AC units, battery storage, and EV as well as C&I load curtailment and battery storage. Savings projections increase over time for all demand response programs. Mr. Ramdani shared the savings projections as a percent of sales 2021-2024 and those numbers decrease over time, mainly due to the anticipated decrease in revenue.

Mr. Ramdani shared the performance management incentive table outlining allocations by sector and fuel type; 51.88% residential allocation, 47.12% C&I allocation, and 1% evaluation allocation for both electric and gas. Mr. Glenn Reed pointed out that the allocations have changed and had been 52% C&I, 48% residential. Mr. Ramdani confirmed that. Mr. Steve Bruno added that demand response yields a nice KW benefit, but doesn't necessarily equate to as big a dollar benefit as combined energy and passive demand. Mr. Bruno added that the Companies originally thought they would get a larger dollar benefit from the demand response programs, but not as big as the energy-based programs.

Mr. Glenn Reed shared that Mr. George Lawrence led a fairly in-depth discussion during the C&I committee meeting yesterday that examined historic and current actual cost rates in

comparison to the Plan cost rates. The discussion generated useful back-and-forth between Consultants and Companies as to what the Plan savings should be, given the cost rate numbers.

Ms. Amy McLean acknowledged that Mr. Neil Beup rejoined the meeting and suggested revisiting the Plan text vote.

#### D. Plan Documents and Program Data Availability and Accessibility – Consultants/Companies

Mr. Glenn Reed reiterated the public comments around availability of Plan documents and data. Mr. Reed indicated that there is a wealth of data and information available, but perhaps not easily accessible for the public. Mr. Reed acknowledged the need to ensure documents related to the C&LM Plan development process are properly organized and easily accessible. Mr. Reed reviewed a few pertinent tables quickly and noted that people can look at them in more detail later.

Mr. Reed shared a table outlining C&LM plan documents, including the name, description, location, and recent/proposed actions to improve visibility. There are four sets of documents. A more visible link has been added to the [EnergizeCT website's homepage](#) that directs users to the Plan documents. Mr. Reed stated the Board will continue to ensure relevant documents are there. The Board's website shares previous [Plan documents](#). Companies are required to file [compliance filings](#) and Mr. Reed suggested the Board determine whether the documents should be included on the EEB site. CMEEC and Wallingford Electric Division Efficiency Plans are on the [EEB site](#), though recent Plans are not currently available on the page.

Mr. Reed shared a table outlining Program Reporting and Data documents, including the name, description, location, and recent/proposed actions to improve visibility. Energize CT [Energy Efficiency Dashboard](#) and [2001-2020 Annual Legislative reports](#) are located on the Energize CT website. [2020 Eversource Annual Report](#) to DEEP and [UI Annual Report](#) to DEEP are available on a state website, but could be added to the Energize CT website. 2012-2018 Annual and Biennial Equitable Distribution of Funds Reports are available on [DEEPS website](#) and could be added to EEB site. Ms. Kate Donatelli shared that Companies submit equitable distribution data annually and DEEP prepares the actual report. The most recent report is 2018 and the most recent data filing is from 2020. Ms. Donatelli can provide that link to Mr. Reed.

The following resource are available on the EEB site, but could be more visible: (1) [Eversource Single Family Participation Analysis](#), (2) [Quarterly Portfolio/Sector Reports](#), and (3) Quarterly [C&I](#) and [Residential](#) reports. [Evaluation reports](#) are also available, but a search function could make finding reports easier. Mr. Reed also discussed the state's [Comprehensive Energy Strategy \(CES\)](#). The state has been through two prior cycles and CES includes utility, transportation, and electric power sector activities. Mr. Reed suggested the next report be made available on the EEB site when it becomes public.

Mr. Reed posed a question to the Board, DEEP, and Companies: are there reports or data not currently listed that would be of value and should be considered? Mr. Reed noted this is the beginning of this discussion and the group will likely need to engage parties outside of this meeting. Ms. Kate Donatelli suggested aligning some of the Mr. Reed's proposed actions with the on-going website redesign process. Ms. Donatelli also acknowledged comments regarding

DEEP's website and shared that DEEP has made changes and continues to work on addressing concerns shared regarding its website.

E. Community Engagement Initiative – Companies

Mr. Ron Araujo reminded the Board that the Companies had opened the application process for the Community Engagement Initiative back on July 20<sup>th</sup> and have extended the application close to October 1 2021. A reminder was sent September 1. Next steps will be to evaluate applications once they have been received and to begin making determinations on rewards.

4. DEI Consultant RFP Update – DEEP

Ms. Kate Donatelli shared that DEEP is finalizing the RFP document and is aiming to release it as soon as possible. Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson inquired about the timeline, noting that we need to leave enough time for interviews and onboarding. Ms. Donatelli acknowledged the window to get this all done in time for a January start date is slowly closing and hopes she will be able to share the RFP soon.

5. Weatherization Barriers Update/Wx Program Operator RFP – DEEP

Ms. Kate Donatelli shared that the draft RFP was released for a Weatherization Program Coordinator. On August 31 DEEP held a public input session regarding the RFP and the comment period closed September 7. DEEP is reviewing those comments and deciding what to incorporate into the final RFP. When the final RFP is released, DEEP will be following normal procedures. A conference will be held September 23 for those interested. All of the details of the draft RFP can be found on [DEEP's website](#). Question and answers will be released October 12 and proposals will be due early November. DEEP plans to award a winner in early December.

Ms. Donatelli shared a summary of comments DEEP has received regarding the RFP; including, but not limited to setting more ambitious targets for number of homes served, improving flexibility around maximum project cap cost, clarifying various funding sources and amounts available to the Program Operator, develop consistent customer intake and tracking system, and more. Other comments spoke to the coordinator's qualifications and scoring. Ms. Donatelli thanked those that have provided comment and have engaged in this process.

Ms. Amy McLean acknowledged all of the work that has gone into this process and commended DEEP on a job well done.

6. Closing Public Comments – (3 minutes per organization)

Ms. Sam Dynowski said that it was concerning that the Board voted on a Plan text that was largely unchanged and continues to provide incentives for gas-fired equipment in new construction and retail products. Ms. Dynowski stated that the Board has left the door open for further changes and hopes it will make amendments to address her concerns.

7. Adjourn

Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson motioned to adjourn. Mr. John Wright seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed 8-0 and the meeting was adjourned.