



**Energy Efficiency Board**  
**August 10, 2022 | 1:00 – 3:30 pm**

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Recording](#)

**Minutes**

1. Process

A. Roll call of Board Members

Board members: Neil Beup, Kate Donatelli, John Viglione, John Wright, Kathy Fay, Donald Mauritz, Ron Araujo, Amy McLean, Anne Marie Knight, Anthony Kosior, Hammad Chaudhry, Joel Kopylec, Jack Traver, Victoria Hackett

Consultants: Allison Carlson, Ashley Nicholls, George Lawrence, Philip Mosenthal, Richard Faesy, Stacy Sherwood, Emily Rice, Deidre Sanders

Other attendees: Kate Donatelli (DEEP), Barron Wernick, Chuck Winchell, Colleen Morrison, Daniel DeLay, Daniel Murphy, Diane Del Rosso, Doug Presley, Ezra Lindee, Gillian Murphy, Greg Caggiano, Guy West, Karlyn Lempa, Larry Rush, Lillian Brough, Lloyd Kass, Loida Ayala, Maggie Barzin, Mary McCarthy, Michelle Long, Mike Weissmann, Pete Carlson, Ralph Mesite, Rebecca Baez Castro, Rebecca Dube, Ricky Jordan, Kenyetta Risser-Lovings, Rose Croog, Samantha Dynowski, Stephen Bruno, Tim Fabuien, Violette Radomski

B. Minutes – Approve minutes from July 2022 Board Meeting

John Wright motioned to approve minutes from July Board Meeting. John Viglione seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 6-0. (4 voting Board members arrived after this vote).

C. New Residential Board Member

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided an update on the status of filling the Board vacancy (residential seat previously held by Ms. Brenda Watson). DEEP closed applications on June 30<sup>th</sup> and application materials have been submitted to the Commissioner, who will make the final appointment. DEEP will update the Board when there is more news to share.

D. Joint Green Bank Committee Board Member Position

Mr. Neil Beup noted that there is still a vacancy on the Joint Green Bank Committee and encouraged Board members to consider taking on this role. Board members interested should reach out to [Mr. Beup](#) or the [Executive Secretary](#). Ms. Emily Rice stated that the Operating Procedures note the Board should have two voting Board members on the Joint Committee and suggested that the Board appoint someone soon.

E. Annual Planning Meeting

Ms. Emily Rice shared that the Annual Planning Meeting will be September 7. Due to spacing

and COVID-concerns, in-person attendance meeting will be limited to Board members, Consultants, and Company representatives. However, the meeting will be open to the public virtually. The Consultants are still developing content, but the Mobile Exhibit will be there and the meeting will be held at Hotel Marcel, an all-electric hotel that has worked with the C&LM Programs. Mr. Beup added that that Board strives to ensure the public has full access to meetings. The Board confirmed with DEEP that having a virtual option for the public, while allowing in-person for Board members, Consultants, and Companies, meets the standard for public access.

An invitation will be sent out this week.

F. Public Comments (3 minutes per organization)

No comments were made.

2. Programs and Planning

A. Energize CT Website Walk Through – Companies

Ms. Loida Ayala, Senior Marketing Specialist at Eversource, and Mr. Barron Wernick, Velir Studios, performed a walkthrough of the updated Energize CT Website. Mr. Wernick shared a presentation on the background of the project and budget as well as considerations for design and functionality. A copy of Mr. Wernick's presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

Mr. Daniel DeLay, Velir Studios, and Ms. Ayala conducted a live walkthrough of the new website. This can be viewed at 1:25PM of the [meeting recording](#).

Ms. Anne-Marie Knight asked if there is a way to make the About button more visible. Mr. Wernick stated that he wasn't immediately concerned users wouldn't find this, but noted that data analytics can help inform whether this is an issue once the site is live and navigation can be edited or another button can be added.

Ms. Melissa Kops asked when the site will go live. Ms. Alaya said the end of August is the target and Mr. Ron Araujo added that changes will be made for the 2023 programs before they being in January. Ms. Kathy Fay noted that the [Capital for Change calculator](#) discussed in the Residential Committee meeting, created by DEEP, will need to be fixed before it is live. Mr. Araujo added that the Companies may have a calculator to replace this one down the road.

Ms. Knight asked if a Small Business page will be added. Ms. Ayala said it would be. Mr. Richard Faesy asked what the distinction between Explore Solutions and the Rebates and Incentives Pages. Ms. Ayala noted that these were different paths to the same information, which would focus on a technology and applicable incentives.

Ms. Knight mentioned the Meet the Board page needs updated as some photos are missing. This has been in progress and will be updated.

Ms. Kathy Fay noted that the font size on the rebate calculation page was small and difficult to see. Mr. DeLay said that this could be skewed by the screen share but we can revisit this.

Mr. John Viglione, OCC, noted that the monthly cost provided could be confusing and supply versus distributed could add clarification. Mr. DeLay said he would look into this. Ms. Melissa

Kops asked if the cost were blended between companies and suggested offering more precise costs would be preferred. Mr. Chuck Winchell said that supply cost has been historically used, and distribution costs have not been used. Mr. Winchell said that the monthly costs could say “monthly generation costs”.

Mr. Neil Beup asked for an update from the Consultants on some issues that were highlighted during previous Leadership Calls. Ms. Stacy Sherwood indicated that some of those corrections are still in progress. Ms. Sherwood noted that an e-vote is anticipated so Board members can vote on the launch of the new website. The Consultants’ recommendation will be provided with the e-vote.

Ms. Amy McLean asked if the Companies are maintaining the website or if the website developers will be maintaining it going forward. Mr. Ron Araujo said that the Companies would be maintaining, but outsource the design and implementation of the new site.

**B. Mobile Unit Follow Up – Companies**

As a follow-up from a request made at the July Board Meeting, Ms. Mary McCarthy provided a presentation on behalf of the Companies that included metrics on historic and current education campaigns in comparison with the mobile unit. A copy of Ms. McCarthy’s presentation is in the [materials folder](#).

Ms. Leticia Colon de Mejias asked about the “Green Step Program”, specifically what the results were. Ms. McCarthy said that fiscal year for this program has just wrapped up and the Companies can present this information at a future meeting.

Regarding Slide 8, Ms. Colon de Mejias suggested a collaborative meeting to address serving communities that are disadvantaged to ensure the approach serves them. Ms. Lillian Brough noted a concern that there are few engagements and programs in EJ communities.

**C. Q2 Results – Companies**

Ms. Karlyn Lempa, Eversource, provided a presentation summarizing the Companies’ Q2 results, a copy is in the [materials folder](#).

**D. SCG HES Budget Follow Up – Technical Consultants and Company**

Ms. Stacy Sherwood, Lead Technical Consultant, provided a follow-up to previous discussions regarding Southern Connecticut Gas Home Energy Score budget issues. Ms. Sherwood’s presentation included a summary of SCG’s Home Energy Score Program metrics and recommendations to ameliorate current issues as well as mitigate future issues. Ms. Sherwood also led the Board in a discussion of considerations. A copy of the presentation is in the [materials folder](#).

Mr. Neil Beup shared that a goal of the Board is to provide consistency and mitigate program disruptions. Mr. Beup asked for more information on what a change in the Performance Management Incentives (PMI) would look like, adding that it’s the strongest mechanism for the Board to ensure the programs are operating appropriately. Mr. Beup asked Eversource to consider how they will mitigate this issue.

Regarding the possibility of scheduling customers out to manage to the budget, Mr. Beup noted an aversion to this approach, given that it would be unfair to customers. Ms. Melissa Kops noted that customers facing a long wait period may install their projects outside of the utility program. Ms. Kops suggested the Board start investigating other models, besides the current one in which budgets are allocated to certain customers.

Ms. Kathy Fay asked how the Board can find a way to scale up the budgets without disruptions, adding that the JPMI to keep to the budget is counterintuitive. Ms. Anne-Marie Knight emphasized the importance of delivering services in a timely fashion and agreed with exploring opportunities to expand the budget. Mr. Traver agreed and noted that the Board should celebrate the increased demand over the past couple years and find ways to replicate it.

Ms. Vicki Hackett said that the Board should evaluate the impact of COVID-related changes to incentives on the increased demand. Many of the changes put in place to protect the workforce and address COVID-related concerns are still in place and Ms. Hackett noted the Board should ensure the incentives are cost-effective, sustainable, and in line with other states. Mr. Beup noted that this topic is scheduled for the September Board meeting and the Annual Planning Meeting.

Mr. Beup noted that the Board should make sure that all of the vendors are able to sustainably operate their business. Mr. Beup suggested that program management is a factor that can be addressed. Mr. Beup asked the Technical Consultants what is happening in other territories, so they don't have this budget issue. Ms. Sherwood indicated that other gas utilities in CT are experiencing similar increased spending earlier in the program year, noting that Eversource Gas has expended 77% of its budget by the conclusion of Q2 2022. Mr. Traver said the Board should know what caused the increase in demand in this territory specifically.

Ms. Fay asked for a clear analysis of the increase to demand for the programs.

Mr. Beup said that the Board needs to consider various scenarios that will improve budget management without causing service disruptions. Mr. Beup asked for analysis on the demand increase so that the Board can refine some ideas (scheduling, incentive levels, PMI) to take action.

E. DEEP Updates – DEEP

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided a slide deck with updates on the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) and upcoming Technical Meetings. DEEP has been conducting information gathering for the past couple months. DEEP will be hosting a series of Technical Meetings to engage with stakeholders. Ms. Donatelli shared the [Notice of Technical Meetings](#) issued August 1 and the schedule of meetings. There will be eight sessions, four in September. These meetings will be on Zoom and will be recorded, and will have opportunities for public comment and stakeholder presentations. Ms. Donatelli noted that the deadline to submit proposals for presentations was August 8; however, Ms. Donatelli encouraged those interested to reach out.

A copy of the CES Technical Meeting schedule can be found in Ms. Donatelli's presentation in the materials folder. More information on the CES can be found on [DEEP's website](#).

Ms. Donatelli also reminded attendees that [DEEP's Determination](#) on the 2022-2024 C&LM Plan

was issued on June 2, 2022 and included several Conditions of Approval. Ms. Donatelli shared a list of Conditions of Approval that have been received and which have been responded to. Ms. Donatelli also shared where the [public can access](#) responses to Conditions of Approval.

### 3. Closing Public Comments

Ms. Leticia Colon de Mejias asked for information on the Green Step Program. Specifically:

- How many youths obtained certification and jobs?
- How many local residents were supported in connecting to information on energy equity or energy impacts on health?
- How many of the providers we used were POC's and how does this align with DEI goals in energy?
- What towns were the youth from in the Green Step program?
- What was the cost Per student, and for the programs?

Ms. Colon de Mejias requested that the Green Step report be posted and presented to the Board, including costs and outcomes, as it is part of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Ms. Lillian Brough, Efficiency for All, said there are opportunities for funding outside of the Programs that can help address the budget concerns, including American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Department of Energy, and Green Bank funds.

### 4. Adjourn

Mr. Jack Traver motioned to adjourn. Mr. John Viglione seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned with a 10-0 vote.