



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 | 9:30AM - 12PM (Webinar Only)

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Recording](#)

Minutes

1. Welcome

a. Roll Call of Committee Member

Board Members: Donald Mauritz, John Viglione, Kate Donatelli (DEEP), Kathy Fay, Melissa Kops, Lawrence Rush, Ron Araujo

Board Consultants: Richard Faesy, Stacy Sherwood, Glenn Reed, Philip Mosenthal

Other attendees: Alycia Jenkins, Bernard Pelletier, Devan Willemsen, Diane Del Rosso, Kenyetta Risser-Lovings, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Lillian Brough, Michael Cresta, Nick Jones, Skip Wiltshire-Gordon, Stephen Cowell, Alysse Rodrigues, Amanda Stevens, Amy Conroy, Brendan Thomas, Douglas Presley, Edgardo Mejias, John Figlewski, John Karyczak, Joseph Roy, Joyce Chai, Madeline Priest, Michael Cresta, Michelle Long, Mike Uhl, Patrice Gillespie, Pete Carlson, Ralph M, Rebecca Dube, Richard Olisky, Rose Croog, Shubha Jaishankar, Stephanie Weiner, Tammy Wilson, Tim Fabuien, Tim Kendzia, William Wesson

b. Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. Melissa Kops noted that Ms. Amy McLean resigned from the Board, effective September 9. A Residential Committee Chair will need to be selected by the Board. Ms. Kops reviewed the meeting procedures, a copy of which can be found in the [materials folder](#).

2. Approve August Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Kate Donatelli motioned to approve the August minutes. Ms. Melissa Kops seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

3. Public Comments

Ms. Alycia Jenkins shared action steps the Sierra Club is requesting of the CTEEB. This includes ending gas incentives as planned, actionable items to address energy burden, allocate more funding for income eligible programs, achieve measurable reduction of energy burden for participants to energy efficiency, weatherization, and clean energy, prioritizing LIHEAP, hardship, and LIDR once established, for energy efficiency retrofits. Sierra Club Connecticut also provided a [webinar](#) with Operation Fuel on energy burden and the low-income discount rate. The passcode to access the webinar is "EnergyBurdenCT2022!".

Mr. Bernard Pelletier, PACE, asked that the EEB devote attention to getting the town-level metrics updated on the dashboard. Data from 2021 for HES, HVAC, etc. are not available. Mr. Pelletier also referred to comments he provided during the Annual Planning Meeting.

Ms. Lillian Brough expressed frustration at connecting to the meeting today. Ms. Brough commented that if stakeholders cannot access the meeting due to internet issues or access to GoToMeeting, they cannot meaningfully participate. Ms. Brough shared that data shows those

who are most impacted by energy and climate impact issues are least likely to have internet access, or a PC. That means having ONLY online meetings is systemic exclusion. This was also addressed by GC3 Equity- which provided a full report on the proper way to be inclusive ensuring in person options for meaningful engagement.

Ms. Brough asked when in-person meetings would resume. Ms. Kate Donatelli indicated that DEEP was waiting for upgrades to meeting rooms that would allow for effective hybrid meetings. Until those upgrades are finished, meetings will be held virtually. Ms. Kops suggested continuing the hybrid model, at least quarterly would be helpful. Ms. Brough commented that quarterly is not enough to provide communities opportunities to have a voice. That energy equity climate action planning guide is on DEEP's website.

4. Follow Ups from August Meeting

a. CT Heat Loan calculator update (Eversource)

Ms. Diane Del Rosso, Eversource, noted that all updates and corrections have been made to the Heat Loan calculator. The calculator is available on the EnergizeCT website. Mr. Mike Uhl asked if customers that have used the Heat Loan Calculator in the last year been contacted and loans reset. Ms. Del Rosso said she would look in to this and provide an answer.

b. Residential New Construction (RNC) metrics follow up

Mr. Larry Rush, Avangrid, said that the Companies are looking into the RNC secondary metric regarding the number of participants with HERS ratings lower than 50.

Mr. Mike Uhl asked what reviews are done of the ratings and actual energy usage of homes? Mr. Nick Jones, Eversource, said that to maintain credentials a HERS rater is required to have a HERS provider. The provider is responsible for quality assurance for all the models that come from that company, and a 5% field inspection is also required for each company. Mr. Jones said there is not an EM&V program for RNC, but realization rates and net-to-gross savings are adjusted based on evaluations done every year to true up savings.

c. Reporting consistency

In response to a request from the Committee for the Companies to coordinate in order to improve consistency on quarterly report outs, Ms. Diane Del Rosso shared that the Companies are engaged in discussions. Ms. Del Rosso noted that the Companies are committed to making changes and are considering using a similar format to the one used for the EEB meetings. The Companies are also looking into developing reporting templates for HVAC and other programs that can improve consistency in reporting.

5. Programs and Planning - Companies

a. Community Partnership Initiative (CPI) Update

Ms. Devan Willemsen shared a presentation on the CPI, located in the [materials folder](#). Ms. Willemsen's presentation highlighted the status of current projects as well as provided details for Round 2.

Regarding Page 3, Ms. Melissa Kops, asked for specific recommendations the DEI Consultant provided. Ms. Willemsen outlined specific recommendations, including more inclusion for serving the communities, applying for the CPI, specifically in environmental justice communities. Mr. Richard Faesy asked when a Round 2 would kickoff. Ms. Willemsen indicated that this may happen in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Ms. Kathy Fay asked if Round 2 would have a greater focus on Home Energy Solutions Income Eligible (HES-IE). Ms. Willemsen indicated there is an emphasis on reaching HES-

IE in the current round, and for Round 2 some of the goals have been further tailored to benefit HES-IE customers.

Mr. Bernie Pelletier asked if the Companies are still accepting feedback for development of Round 2, on size of awards and timing. Ms. Willemsen said the Companies are continuing to learn from Round 1 and are incorporating those lessons, as well as input from the DEI consultant, into the design of Round 2. Ms. Willemsen didn't directly address how stakeholders can provide feedback, but they can email the [Executive Secretary](#) who can pass along those suggestions.

Ms. Willemsen was asked about how any unused funds can be used in future rounds. \$500K had been allocated for Round 1, but just \$220K was spoken for. Ms. Willemsen indicated she would need to look into this further to provide more details.

Ms. Fay asked if the Companies are considering an open application, which would allow participants to apply at any time rather than a fixed time schedule. Ms. Willemsen said the plan is to release the application and solicit interest, then work with applicants on the timeline that makes sense.

b. [2023 Program Changes and Enhancements Plans](#)

The Consultants have been working with the Companies on 2023 Program Changes and Enhancements, and Mr. Richard Faesy and the Companies provided a presentation summarizing those. The presentation included an overview of budget changes by program, as well as a summary of incentive and rebate changes by program, and some information on realization rates and cost-effectiveness. Mr. Faesy's presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#). Mr. Faesy noted that a proposed change is to shift funds around to allocate more funds to HES-IE.

Mr. Nick Jones provided a presentation, which is in [materials folder](#), on the All-Electric Residential New Construction Program. Mr. Jones presentation included an overview of current incentives, objectives for "Generation Two" of the All-Electric program (Page 5), details on federal and regional programs that are available (Page 6), the proposed incentives included in the 2023 Plan Update for the program (Page 7), and training strategies (Page 8). Ms. Melissa Kops asked if the Companies have assessed the 2021 International Energy Code Compliance (IECC), and how they calculate the difference between code and incentive. Mr. Jones said the HERS Index Score is aligned with the base compliance option. In an attempt to get builders to buy in, this was based on the Base Model code for 2021 IECC.

Ms. Kathy Fay asked what the roadblocks to all-electric participation are for builders. Mr. Jones said that this may be a separate conversation to have as there are all sorts of barriers related to technology, perceived risk, cost, etc.

Ms. Kops is concerned that all-electric builders may still be using gas cooking appliances and fireplaces, and asked if that has been considered. Mr. Jones spoke with ENERGY STAR and EPA about this issue and said induction cooking is promising. Mr. Jones indicated that training on electric alternatives for these "lifestyle" measures will be important.

Ms. Kops asked what measures are being taken to bring this program to those disadvantaged. Mr. Jones noted a 25% adder to low-income or affordable housing projects and program offerings can be layered with other programs those customers are eligible for.

Ms. Diane Del Rosso provided a presentation on recommended changes to the HVAC Program. Ms. Del Rosso's presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#). The presentation covers recommended changes to gas midstream rebates, heat pump incentives, and information on the heat pump qualified installer network.

Ms. Dianne Del Rosso shared another presentation summarizing the HES-IE Add-On Coordinator Roundtable that was held July 12. Ms. Del Rosso's presentation includes slides from the roundtable itself, potential delivery updates like an add-on coordinator (Page 4), breakout session questions and discussion points from the roundtable, identified concerns, and next steps for program design. Ms. Del Rosso's presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

Regarding the add-on contractor network, Ms. Melissa Kops asked how the Companies would ensure equity for contractors that might not be aware of this process or program. Ms. Del Rosso noted that traditional advertising pathways as well as direct outreach to associations for those contractors would be utilized.

Mr. Richard Faesy suggested the HES-IE Add-On Coordinator Roundtable as a topic for the CTAC meeting.

Many questions were provided in the chat during the meeting. Those questions and answers can be found in the Appendix of these minutes.

6. DEEP Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided a slide deck with updates on the following topics. This presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

a. EEB members

- Residential Committee member (Slide 2) – DEEP received 10 applications for this position and the Commissioner will be making an appointment soon.
- Environmental Organization member (Slide 3) – Ms. Amy McLean's position will need to be filled. DEEP will be issuing a Notice of Vacancy and Request for Applications soon.

b. Comprehensive Energy Strategy

DEEP issued a Notice of Technical Meetings on August 1. These meetings allow stakeholders to present and provide public comment. Ms. Donatelli shared the schedule for technical meetings (Slide 5). Sessions two and three on September 23 will cover building thermal decarbonization heat pump barriers, market strategies, and support strategies. Please note the schedule has changed and more information on the CES can be found on [DEEP's website](#). DEEP is seeking written comments: [Request for Written Comments on the Comprehensive Energy Strategy](#).

c. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) RFP Results and Coordination Plans

Ms. Donatelli said the WAP team just underwent an RFP process for vendors. The RFP process has concluded and both community action agencies received multiple bids. There was a mandatory bidder's conference. The WAP team is conducting audits of the RFP contracting process and is looking for more HVAC vendors.

d. CTAC Meeting Agenda Preview

The last meeting was August 8. Ms. Donatelli shared the topics that were discussed and next steps (Slide 7). Ms. Donatelli noted that DEEP heard concerns during this meeting from contractors about the impact a HES-IE Add-On Coordinator could have on their current business practices and continuity. The next meeting is September 28 1:00PM-3:00PM EST.

e. Weatherization Barriers Program Operator

Ms. Donatelli said DEEP is currently piloting a handful of customers to test the program. DEEP is in the process of developing marketing materials.

7. Federal Funding Opportunities and Plans

a. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) overview – Steve Cowell (E4theFuture), Skip Wiltshire-Gordon (AnnDyl Policy Group), and Leticia Colon de Mejias (Efficiency For All)

The National Building Performance Association, the national trade association of Home Performance Contractors, provided an overview of the IRA funding. Mr. Steve Cowell, Mr. Skip Wiltshire-Gordon, and Ms. Leticia Colon de Mejias provided a presentation on opportunities for Connecticut to leverage the IRA. A complete overview of the Residential portion of the law, including funding level and timeline, can be found on Slide 4.

The presentation included an outlook of Federal policy, including an overview of the IRA (Slide 3), information on HOPE for HOMES (Slide 6) and the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (Slide 8) programs, a summary of energy efficiency tax credits (Slide 9), and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Slide 9). Ms. Colon de Mejias shared information on State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants (slide 7).

The presentation also included key challenges and opportunities in Connecticut and other states (Slide 11). Mr. Cowell noted that coordination and training will be key to avoid confusion and capitalize on these opportunities. Mr. Cowell shared three key proposals for Connecticut on Slide 12 and some ideas on braiding funds on Slide 13.

Mr. Cowell suggested that Connecticut prepare a proposal for the Department of Energy as they develop program guidelines. The National Association of State Energy Offices (NASEO) will have a meeting October 11 in Florida to discuss these issues extensively. Mr. Cowell recommended the Board and DEEP engage at this meeting.

Ms. Kate Donatelli said that DEEP would like to discuss the next steps for engaging the Board and stakeholders at the Board level.

b. Weatherization Assistance Program Funding and Administration – DEEP

Ms. Kenyetta Risser-Lovings provided an update on the WAP program. Ms. Risser-Lovings said that DEEP is in the process of forming the state plan and developing a Notice for a Public Review Process. The WAP bill allocations amount to \$46,215,781. To-date DEEP has received \$7 million for planning, staffing, and building out infrastructure.

Ms. Risser-Lovings' update includes information on staffing plans, program details and focuses, current program progress and activities, as well as next steps. The Notice for Public Review is tentatively scheduled for September 27. More information can be reviewed in the [meeting recording](#) at 2:08:00.

c. How can CT capitalize on all of the upcoming funding? – Discussion

Ms. Melissa Kops said one question to answer is how IRA funds will work with existing state funds; can they augment and is double-dipping allowed. Mr. Wiltshire-Gordon stated that double dipping of federal programs is prohibited, but there is no provision in the law that prohibits combining federal funding with utility funds and rebates, or federal rebates. When DOE releases more guidance, there will possibly be more details on prohibitions. Ms. Leticia Colon de Mejias said that Connecticut, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency, and the Board's partnership with Building Performance Association can help guide this path forward to ensure that Connecticut gets the most

bang for its buck. Ms. Colon de Mejias suggested the Board be proactive in engaging with DOE so that guidance can be tailored to fit Connecticut's needs.

Ms. Kathy Fay asked if the EPA funds were in a similar state of not having guidelines. Mr. Cowell said he is following up on this. Ms. Colon de Mejias noted that NYACK is the environmental justice body that advises the EPA, and this group is meeting now to determine how best to use the EPA funds. Ms. Colon de Mejias noted the \$27 billion must be distributed sooner than the DOE funds through grant programs for low-income and disadvantaged communities. Ms. Colon de Mejias added that 55% of the funds must be used in coordination with a local non-profit representing a disadvantaged community. Ms. Colon de Mejias invited Ms. Fay to reach out with further questions.

8. Future Agenda Topics – Consultants

The Committee did not have time to discuss this, but a slide deck summarizing potential topics is available in the [materials folder](#).

9. Public Comments

The Committee did not have time to hear public comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Appendix: Questions and Answers from Chat

Alycia Jenkins: All the other state depts are open. Shouldn't the state be open to people? Are there other state meetings that could be utilized?

EEB Response: We are waiting for DEEP to finish upgrading their meeting rooms for hybrid in-person and virtual meetings before reconvening.

Mike Uhl: Have customers that utilized the Heat Loan in the last year been contacted and loans reset?
Companies' Response:

Mike Uhl: For HERS Raters in RNC, what reviews are done of the ratings and the actual energy usage of homes?

EEB Response: This question was addressed in the meeting and noted in the minutes above.

Mike Uhl: Typically, we understand that HERS raters are checked ~10%, but not every model. The question is based on our experience that some RNC HERS ratings have predicted 2x electrical consumption in the future of a typical pre-2000 home, leading to very large PV installation contracts.

I'd like to speak with you, Nick, more about this offline.

Companies' Response:

Comment (Lillian Brough): To ensure the point of Equity and Inclusion is made clear. CT has data which shows that those who are most impacted by energy and climate impact issues are least likely to have internet access, or a PC. That means having ONLY online meetings is systemic exclusion. This was also addressed by GC3 Equity- which provided a full report on the proper way to be inclusive ensuring in person options for meaningful engagement. Quarterly is not enough to provide communities opportunities to have a voice. Thank you. That energy equity climate action planning guide is on DEEP's website. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-2022-agendas-and-minutes/Centering-Equity-in-Climate-Change-Resilience-PlanningA-Guide-for-Connecticut-Municipalities672022.pdf>

EEB Response: We recognize these challenges and are waiting for DEEP to finish upgrading their meeting rooms for hybrid in-person and virtual meetings before reconvening.

Bernard Pelletier: Is there still an opportunity to talk about how the program (CPI) runs - i.e. size of awards, time of campaigns

Companies' Response:

Patrice Gillespie: Will the unused funding from Round 1 (of CPI) be added to the Round 2 allocation? \$500K had been allocated for Round 1, but I think that just \$220K was spoken for.

Companies' Response:

Lillian Brough: Will HERS only be the new CT tool, which will be used for new construction; or are you using HERS in CT now, to go beyond code? I ask because EnergizeCT is not using HERS in residential programs at this time.

EEB Response: HERS has been used in the RNC programs for years in CT. It's generally only used for new construction and not existing homes for program compliance.

Lillian Brough: (Regarding All-Electric Program Update) How will that impact contractors who are looking to work in CT? Will that be confusing for contractors or customers? HOW will we ensure it is clear, and that residents know what to expect and how to connect to these? WHAT types of residents do you expect to connect to these services and resources? Will this program have an Equity Lens? HOW will this program connect with our support At risk or disadvantaged communities? CAN IT? Have the utilities (Nick) connected with CTAC on this, or other contractor associations to gather information on - "areas that may be bumps or scrapes for contractors?" to help ensure a smooth roll out which will ensure the resources can reach more residents of our state.

Companies' Response:

Lillian Brough: How do we communicate the "ALL electric" Offerings to residents of our state in a way that is inclusive for those who may not have even had the chance to engage in EE or CE, but who may find his technology amazing- and safer- and healthier-? These are the unseen opportunities to support expansion of who has access to "great tech" that saves lives and lowers both indoor and outdoor pollutants.

Companies' Response:

Lillian Brough: What cooking accessories (are included)?

Companies' Response:

Lillian Brough: [How are we reaching] LMI that live in SF housing? Working families that are low income but own a home? Those folks also need help and are the biggest sector that has been missed- 1-4 unit is SF in CT.

Companies' Response:

Mike Uhl: (Regarding All-Electric Requirements) Does it also align with NEEP Cold Climate expectations?

Companies' Response:

Bernard Pelletier: Would natural gas customers also get the 1000 per ton? Is there a requirement that dual fuel thermostats be part of the offering?

Companies' Response:

Mike Uhl: (Regarding HES-IE) Will the "calculation" of these incentives and magnitude of value be made available to the public? Or will it be treated similar to the IQT, such that customer/community advocates cannot clearly know what a resident will receive?

Companies' Response:

Mike Uhl: [What is the] correlation of gas incentives with LMI?

Companies' Response:

Mike Uhl: Will this program require HES/HESIE contractors to become GCs, or will some remain as HES-only contractors and instead externalize AddOn coordination to the Utilities? Is there an expectation that one Coordinator (third-party company) that will service the entire state, or will multiple be selected?

Companies' Response:

Lillian Brough: (RE: Roundtable and RFP - on "Navigator") How will the EEB and DEEP ensure this does not Harm contractors which have been serving CT, and who live in CT, and who are ratepayers as well as employers. HOW has DEI - consultant addressed any DEI impacts on contractors or programs?

Companies' Response:

Mike Uhl: Are the Utilities already discussing this HESIE Coordinator role with currently contracted service providers?

Companies' Response:

Bernard Pelletier: (Regarding Federal Funding) Will these funds augment the RGGI /Public Benefit funding to guarantee that HES and HES IE programs keep going OR will it be a different stream. Should people wait to install Heat Pumps until next year to be eligible for IRA funds - or is "backdated" to projects done this year too?

EEB Response: The EEB is working with DEEP, the Companies and the Green Bank to plan for the infusion of the IRA funding. We will be developing "principles" to present at the October EEB meeting. We expect these principles to include a goal of utilizing existing programs and the delivery infrastructure in order to simplify delivery to customers and minimize market confusion. Regarding heat pumps, we believe that the tax credits cannot be back dated and would need to be installed in 2023 to receive that tax credit, but we are still waiting for final guidance from the DOE on all of these IRA rules.

Richard Faesy: (RE IRA) Are there any prohibitions for stacking federal funds on top of C&LM, RGGI, FCM, WAP or other existing funding sources?

EEB Response: Current understanding is that these funds can be braided and stacked on top of existing C&LM program and other existing program funding sources.

Leticia Colon de Mejias (RE IRA) This seems to be focused on MF housing vs 1- 4 units where we see the most barriers to upgrades is SF 1- 4 unit homes. MF housing has other supports via other state entities, whereas SF 1- 4 units do NOT have support at this time- how will we address that in CT?
Companies' Response: