



Draft MINUTES

Joint Committee of the CT Energy Efficiency Board and the Connecticut Green Bank Board of Directors

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, all participants joined via the conference call.

In Attendance

Voting Members: Victoria Hackett (DEEP), John Harrity, Lonnie Reed, Claire Sickinger, Brenda Watson

Non-Voting Members: Stephen Bruno, Bryan Garcia, Bert Hunter

Members Absent: John Viglione, Donna Wells

Others: Ron Araujo, Giulia Bambara, Joe Buonannata from IPC, Sergio Carrillo, Hammad Chaudry, Kate Donatelli, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Brian Farnen, Philip Jordan and Sarah Lehmann from BW Research, Shubhada Kambli, George Lawrence, Peter Ludwig, Cheryl Lumpkin, Matt Macunas, Ashley Marshall, Glenn Reed, Ariel Schneider, Stacy Sherwood, Rudy Sturk, Kenya Van Eyken

Unnamed Callers: None

1. Call to Order

Brenda Watson called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

2. Public Comments

No public comments.

3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the December 15, 2021 meeting.

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for December 15, 2021.

Upon a motion made by Victoria Hackett and seconded by Brenda Watson, the Joint Committee voted to approve Resolution 1. None opposed or abstained. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Clean Energy Jobs Report 2021 – Additional Opportunities for Consideration

- Bryan Garcia noted that the second Clean Energy Industry Report was completed recently and then introduced Philip Jordan and Sarah Lehmann from BW Research.
- Glenn Reed summarized the additional opportunities for consideration that the Clean Energy Industry Report touched on, which includes HVAC contracting, multi-family support, electrification of heat pumps, health and safety remediation, new construction and renovation contractors, and other workforce development and equity efforts. Stephen Bruno agreed with the update.
- Philip Jordan gave an overview to the supplemental research performed by BW Research including technology sector deep dives, economic impact models, various mappings, stakeholder engagement, workforce pathways, and priority populations. He gave more context as to the data examined for each topic.
 - Brenda Watson asked about the breakdown for the number of people of color who are workers compared to people of color in management positions. Philip Jordan responded that the survey parameters unfortunately doesn't lend itself well to that breakdown because it is developed by the federal government which has very limited definitions around race and ethnicity. However, even though the employer survey does break down the different groups of employees better, it doesn't have the intersectionality needed to give that detailed of breakdown. Philip Jordan did explain that the priority population research does include an employee portion and potential employee portion however, which those surveys allow for some intersectionality as well as examining other important statistics.
 - Lonnie Reed asked about the mobile units that were developed to bring training into targeted communities, and if information about that has been examined and has been compared to other states. Philip Jordan responded in other states, most of the clean energy economy is found in the energy efficiency of buildings, and that the most growth is found efficiency and electrification of buildings. However, the biggest barrier to entry is transportation and a driver's license. So, though the training is effective, the other barriers limit their ability to pursue jobs. His suggestion was to look at whether those programs are effective and then examine if there are any other barriers which need to be addressed.
 - Victoria Hackett commented that the Utilities are developing Workforce Planning programs and wanted to make sure that any work is done in coordination with them if possible. As well, she noted Executive Order 21-3 for the creation of a Clean Economy Council, which some of the proposals of this research may be examined by that Council and may be helpful to incorporate with them once formed. She also noted that there is overlap of the different programs and wanted to make sure that potential overlap is considered when programs are being developed.
 - Bryan Garcia, Victoria Hackett, and Brenda Watson discussed the ways that the CT Green Bank and Joint Committee can work with Clean Economy Council and Office of Workforce Strategy.

5. Plan Coordination

a. Input to FY 2023 Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Plan (Revisions)

- Bryan Garcia summarized the Green Bank's status for the Comprehensive Plan, which is currently in transition, though some goals have been met, and noted the changes to the Green Bank Board of Directors. Bert Hunter summarized the new Green Liberty Notes program for small denomination and short-term investments, and reviewed the debut offering and its success.

- Bryan Garcia gave an update to the Environmental Infrastructure process timeline, which is progressing well with stakeholder engagement, and a strategic retreat is planned for the near future.

b. Input to 2022-2024 Conservation and Load Management Plan

- Glenn Reed gave an update to the status of the Energy Efficiency Board, which has had several changes. He continued to summarize the C&LM Plan priorities and progress. He reviewed the Plan highlights and noted it is still in review by DEEP. As for the review and approval process, the next steps include DEEP drafts and distribution of the Tentative Determination and Conditions of Approval, public comments on the Tentative Determination, and then DEEP will issue the Final Determination. He reviewed the updates for the next few months for the C&LM Plan.
- Glenn Reed reviewed the highlights of the 2022 – 2024 C&LM Plan, its savings and benefits, and its areas of coordination with the Green Bank.

c. Comprehensive Energy Strategy

- Victoria Hackett summarized the updates to the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, which includes an update to the Scope based on recent public comments. She also summarized an update to the upcoming Technical Meeting and Request for Written Comment for Hydrogen opportunities.

Brenda Watson noted that she had to leave the meeting at 3:00 pm.

6. Plans for the 2022 Legislative Session

- Matt Macunas gave a brief update to the recent Legislative Session items. Victoria Hackett evaluated further on a few points as well.

7. Other Business

a. Brief Update: C&I – Government

- Sergio Carrillo gave an update to the Energy Storage Solutions program, which has an unprecedented and unexpected interest, pushing it to the 3-year target in just 60 days. The Green Bank has been collaborating with the EDCs and progress is going well.

b. Brief Update: C&I – Small and Medium/Large Business

- Mackey Dykes noted that for the SBEA and BEA programs, the Green Bank continues to focus on its partnership with Eversource, including a nearly finalized 3-year extension. For the SBEA program specifically, the terms may be extended, and loans increased. For Medium and Large Businesses, the program is being expanded to match the benefits of the SBEA program.

c. Brief Update: Residential – Single Family and Multi-Family

- Sergio Carrillo summarized the collaboration effort progress for the HES, HES-IE for RRES, and ESS incentive programs which launched January 1, 2022. Joe Buonannata

from IPC summarized the Smart-E Loan program for heat pumps for the last 2 years. Bryan Garcia noted that the remaining ARRA SEP funds, the Special Offer through the Smart-E program will go to that. Otherwise, the Smart-E loan support of renewable heating and cooling may have to look to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

- Mackey Dykes summarized the Residential Multi-family efforts, which continues to coordinate around the existing projects, particularly solar in the Multi-family and Affordable Multi-family sectors.

8. Adjourn

Upon a motion made by Victoria Hackett and seconded by Lonnie Reed, the Joint Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Watson, Chairperson

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