



**Energy Efficiency Board February 10, 2021  
1:00 – 3:30 pm**

Documents for the meeting are located here:

<https://app.box.com/s/p04o3zlyry6z2sugzffonzqav01yjdnf>

1. Process

- A. Roll call - Board Members present: Neil Beup, Amy McLean, Ron Araujo, Steve Bruno, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Joel Kopylec, Mike Li, Bruce McDermott, Elizabeth Murphy, Jack Traver, John Viglione, Brenda Watson, Scott Whittier, and John Wright  
Others in attendance: Claire Sickinger, Daniel Robertson, Glenn Reed, John Kibbee, Kyle Huston, Danny Anderson, John Kibbee, Kate Donatelli, Michelle Long, Philip Mosenthal, Randy Vagnini, Russell King, Steve Cowell, Dan Mellinger, Donna Wells, George Lawrence, Lawrence Rush, Richard Faesy, Jordan Schellens, Kyle Booth, Patrice Gillespie, Rose Croog, and Timothy Fabuien
- B. Minutes – Approve minutes from January 2021 Board Meeting  
**Minutes from January 2021 were approved. (Recording is missing)**
- C. Vote: Approval of Consultant Comments to DEEP on treatment of Energy Efficiency in draft IRP  
Mr Reed and Mr. Mellinger summarized the consultant comments to DEEP on Connecticut Draft IRP. All who voted were in favor of approval with no objections or abstentions. [We do not have a vote count on the record.]
- D. Update on Executive Secretary’s position and transition plan  
Mr. Huston provided an update on the transition plan for the Executive Secretary previously occupied by Linda King. Linda will still be working with The Energy Group through the end of February, but the responsibilities will be passed on to Emily Rice on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Huston will serve as a backup to Ms. Rice during this time. Changes at this moment are temporary as The Energy Group evaluates their future plans and how they can most effectively fulfill the duties of executive secretary. Mr. Huston and Ms. Rice both have access to Ms. King’s email, so anything that gets sent to her will be received and handled.
- E. Public Comments  
No public comments

2. Programs and Planning

A. 2020 Year-end Savings and Expenditures

Mr. Bruno provided budgetary data from 2020. Revenues were \$39 million over spending which leads to \$9.9 million being added to the 2021 budget with the remaining \$29.1 million

being returned to customers. \$11 million will be returned over a 14-month timeframe which started January 1<sup>st</sup>, with the remainder being returned after the filing in March.

Savings as a percentage of goal were much higher in residential sector than they were in C&I. The overall MMBTU savings goal of \$1.6 million was met (\$1.7 million). The companies did very well in regards to active demand response savings. Residential savings was driven by WI-FI Thermostats.

There have been challenges with the C&I SEM program mainly due to COVID-19, and there have been discussions with Mr. Lawrence on how to improve performance in that area.

#### B. DEEP 2021 Plan Update Conditions of Approval

Ms. Wells gave an update on conditions for plan approval. She discussed 17 different conditions and mentioned they would like feedback by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Beup questioned if DEEP had data which led them to these conditions, or if market research would be required as part of developing these plans. Wants to make sure if time is being spent developing programs that work has been done to ensure they will be worthwhile. Mr. Li responded that work has been done to ensure that these are viable programs. Mr. Reed add that the consultants have reviewed these conditions and didn't think any required board comment.

#### C. 2021 Plan Update (March 1 filing)

##### i. Proposed 2021 Equity metrics

**Residential** - Mr. Faesy presented on proposed residential equity metrics for 2021. The goal will be 2.1% participation, which is 391 projects for Eversource and 52 for UI.

**C&I** – Mr. Lawrence presented data showing participation rates among customers and how those are being used to address spending equity. Original focus was on participation rates, however additional data including dollar amounts will be added in the future. There will be an e-vote once the additional data is compiled.

##### ii. Savings, Revenues, and Budgets

Mr. Bruno gave an update on company financials going into 2021. A motion to approve the 2021 plan update for the March 1 filing including the 2021 residential equity metric was moved by Mr. Traver and seconded by Ms. Watson. The motion passed. Approval of the C&I equity metric will be voted on when additional data is available.

#### D. 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan: C&I Opportunities

Mr. Lawrence gave an update on the planned savings in 2021 broken out by program. The majority of electric savings will come from lighting (77%). Gas savings will be expected to come from heating (62%). Ms. Murphy discussed a number of different types of equipment and programs which will be focused on in over the next 3 years.

Ms. Murphy discussed opportunities and challenges they expect in regards to retrofits as well as Business and Energy Sustainability.

Mr. Kibbee shared the focus of Small Business Energy Advantage. Restaurants were the highest percentage of customers in arrears, and contractors have shown the ability to pivot and help customers in need when directed to do so. Availability of financing will be important in increasing participation.

Mr. Faesy asked if residential contractors could be used for C&I weatherization programs. Mr. Kibbee responded that it is something they are considering. There are issues due to contractors having work booked months in advance, but it is something they are pursuing.

Mr. Beup questioned if there is a market for financing, because he noted that in the past it hasn't been very successful. Mr. Kibbee mentioned that there are certainly some that don't need the help, but they will be focusing on those that do and decisions will be driven by data.

#### E. ACEEE State Scorecard: CT's Ranking and change from prior Scorecard

Mr. Reed gave an update on CT's ACEEE scorecard rankings. Connecticut scored 36.5 in 2019, and dropped to 33.5 in 2020 which caused a drop from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Connecticut performed very well in building efficiency and lead-by-example efforts. The overall state scorecard includes categories which the board does not have any control over.

#### F. Weatherization Barriers Workshop (1/20)

Ms. Sickinger presented a summary of the event which included 77 participants across many different groups. She discussed the details of the event, as well as the feedback received on how it could be improved in the future.

#### G. Company Updates

##### i. Annual Legislative Report

Mr. Bruno gave an update on the legislative report. It is currently being worked on, and will be sent out for review before being finalized. The goal is to have comments back by Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Beup mentioned how the report could be a more effective tool. It is supposed to be a report from the board to the Legislature, not from the companies to the Legislature. He feels the board should have more input than they do at this point. Many of the board's priorities have been missed or devalued in the past due to this issue. He would like the process to start earlier in the future. Ms. Fargo-Johnson agreed with Mr. Beup and questioned what commitment there could be to make sure the process changes in the future.

Mr. Bruno recommended putting it on the formal agenda in November. Ms. McLean agreed with Mr. Bruno and questioned if there should be someone in charge of making sure this is handled correctly in the future. Mr. Beup believes it should be the responsibility of the chair, vice chair, and consultants. Ms. Fargo-Johnson mentioned that after Mr. Reed gives his final plan update then focus is immediately moved toward the annual report.

##### ii. Energize CT Center Alternative

Ms. Murphy gave an update on the Energize CT Mobile RFP. Contract negotiations will begin soon and an update will be given at the March EEB meeting along with a schedule.

##### iii. EnergizeCT Website

Mr. Araujo gave an update on the new website updates. There will be a new smart thermostat webpage. New content is being added. Existing energy articles and tips are being updated as well.

The website has been switched to a new platform, which was switch on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. The consumer-facing content and functionality has been taken care of, which leaves just backend optimizations are left to work on. These back-end updates will be completed by early 2022.

Ms. Fargo-Johnson questioned why it will take until 2022 to get the whole update completed. Mr. Araujo clarified that almost everything the customer sees has already been updated and is complete. The only things left to update are things that happen behind the scenes to make sure everything runs efficiently.

iv. Community Engagement Plan

Mr. Araujo mentioned that they have arranged meetings with the people who provided comments during the December input session. Budget for the community engagement plan has been increased from \$150,000 to \$500,000.

H. Other

No other items addressed

3. Closing Public Comments

Mr. Robertson brought up how DEEP was recognized for its response to the pandemic and if it's too late to include on the legislative report maybe it should be highlighted on the website. Should look at not only energy efficiency but also how we've made businesses more competitive.

4. Adjourn

It was motioned by Ms. Watson to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Fargo-Johnson. The Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.