

EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 10AM - 12PM (Webinar Only)

Meeting Materials: <https://app.box.com/s/eycajbd2okgavw0uhkowykxia9ldxikx>

Minutes

1. Welcome – Amy McLean

a. Roll Call of Committee Members

Board Members: Amy McLean, Brenda Watson, Kate Donatelli (for Vicki Hackett), Kathy Fay, Melissa Kops, Donald Mauritz, Hammad Chaudhry, Ron Araujo

Other Attendees: Alycia Jenkins, Bernard Pelletier, Diane del Rosso, Devan Willemsen, Emily Rice, John Karyczak, John Ruhnke, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Richard Faesy, Stephen Cowell, Tasha Perreault, Alysse Rodrigues, Amanda Stevens, Ashley Marshall, Damaris Velez, Glenn Reed, Jeff Howard, Jessica Bergman, Joe Buonannata, John Figlewski, Joseph Roy, Joyce Chai, Julia Dumaine, Larry Rush, Madeline Priest, Michael Cresta, Michelle Long, Natalia Sudyka, Nate Kinsey, Nikki Kaminsky, Patrice Gillespie, Pete Carlson, Rebecca Baez Castro, Richard Olisky, Samantha Dynowski, Sheri Borrelli, Shubha Jaishankar, Stacy Sherwood, Stephanie Weiner, Tammy Wilson, Tanya Mulholland, Tim Fabuien, Violette Radomski, Vivian Perez

b. Meeting procedures and process update

The Chair, Ms. Amy McLean reviewed the meeting procedures and process for the meeting. A slide deck is available in [the materials folder](#).

2. Approve 2/9/2022 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Amy McLean asked for a motion to approve the February 9 Minutes. Ms. Kathy Fay motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Amy McLean seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed 5-0.

3. Public Input/Comments

Mr. Bernie Pelletier, PACE, shared that town-by-town statistics on the EEB Programs will be published soon. In it, there's an HVAC bucket and Mr. Pelletier suggested that HVAC statistics by technology be shared (boilers, furnaces, ducted heat pumps, ductless heat pumps). Mr. Pelletier referenced materials he distributed, which can be found in [the materials folder](#). Ms. Amy McLean suggested further discussion to clarify what Mr. Pelletier is requesting, though acknowledged the distribution he shared provided more detail. Ms. McLean asked how the Board goes about deciding about the details provided in the town-by-town reporting.

Ms. Leticia Colon de Mejias stated that the EEB currently does not have contractor or small business representation on the Board. Ms. Colon de Mejias suggested that representation from boots-on-the-ground will improve inclusivity. Ms. Colon de Mejias said that it would also bring forward information from the contractor/small business perspective around trends in the communities, issues observed around EE programs, workforce issues, and cost implications as the economy changes. A perspective from contractors and small business can also inform on the barriers to some energy efficiency opportunities such as solar or EV. Without meaningful engagement, Ms. Colon de Mejias said, that information does not reach decision-makers in a timely manner, as it goes through a very long and extensive process and filters. Ms. Colon de Mejias said that once the information reaches the Board, it may not be in the format that contractors/small businesses originally intended it and could misrepresent their perspective, insight, or needs.

Ms. McLean clarified that Ms. Colon de Mejias is asking for small business – contractor representation on the Board. Ms. Colon de Mejias confirmed, adding that the Board does not have a Latino or Latina representation either. Ms. Colon de Mejias observed that the Board is missing diversity and many of its representatives look the same and have similar educational backgrounds. Ms. Colon de Mejias added that diversity is necessary in achieving inclusion and equity; without it, it's difficult to reach communities who have been disengaged and underrepresented. Ms. McLean agreed and noted that the Board's will need to

continue to work on its deficiency around diversity of representation.

Mr. Stephen Cowell, E4theFuture, is working nationally with the Department of Energy and there are billions of dollars coming soon from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. E4theFuture is working with multiple states to help integrate this additional funding. Mr. Cowell noted that Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding alone is \$3.5 billion dollars. Mr. Cowell suggested that consideration of these funds is needed to avoid issues between existing State funds and capitalize on the opportunity. Mr. Cowell shared that there are about five formula-based funding allocations as well as competitive grants. Mr. Cowell suggested that the Board and its stakeholders work together to figure out how to implement the formula-based funding and consider which grants to chase. Mr. Cowell said a special meeting focused on the IJA funding would be beneficial.

Mr. Cowell also shared that E4theFuture has conducted a detailed, year and a half study on residential heat pump performance and will be releasing the report soon. E4theFuture hopes it can help inform uptake of heat pumps in Connecticut.

Ms. McLean said Mr. Cowell raises a good point regarding the IJA funding and asked if DEEP had any thoughts. Ms. McLean agreed that the Board and its stakeholders, who have intimate knowledge of the Programs and market, would offer constructive insight around the IJA funding. Ms. McLean asked Mr. Cowell how Massachusetts is addressing the IJA funding. Mr. Cowell indicated that he has had meetings with Vermont, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and Connecticut's Deputy Commissioner Ms. Vicki Hackett. Mr. Cowell noted that he is providing a heads up and that each State will need to figure out its own path forward when the more details are shared by DOE. Mr. Cowell is meeting with the DOE and can provide more insight to DEEP and the EEB after that.

Mr. Bernie Pelletier supported Ms. Colon de Mejias's comments. Mr. Pelletier added that it's difficult in the Town Commission and Energy Network to get representation from small business – contractors. Mr. Pelletier suggested a standing Agenda item at the Committee level so issues from the perspective of small business contractors can be shared. Ms. McLean said that members of the public can provide input at the Committee and Board meetings and make an impact. Ms. McLean said the Committee should discuss how to make this a standing Agenda item. Ms. McLean noted that four new Board members were recently appointed, and the make-up of the Board will be consistent for the short-term. Ms. McLean said the Contractor Technical Advisory Council (CTAC) is a body that meets regularly with contractors.

Ms. Kathy Fay said that she would like to see a place on the agenda for small business contractor perspectives, perhaps in the form of a CTAC Update. Ms. Fay asked if non-Board members could be members of the Committee and asked if this is something the Board should consider improving diversity and gain more perspectives. Ms. Kate Donatelli believes that the Committee membership corresponds with Board membership but added that the meetings are open to the public and there is a process for engaging in discussion. Ms. Donatelli said she can confirm whether non-Board members can serve on the Committee.

Regarding Ms. Fay's recommendation for a standing CTAC Update Agenda item, Ms. McLean wondered if that would be best suited at the Committee level or Board level. Mr. Richard Faesy puts together the Agendas for the Residential Committee and noted that a CTAC Update is usually on the agenda but can get more time. Mr. Faesy welcomed ideas from Mr. Pelletier, Ms. Colon de Mejias, and others on what the structure would be. Mr. Faesy asked attendees to send ideas on structure, time, and topic areas to [his email](#).

4. Program QA/QC Processes and Results (HES, HES-IE, HVAC, MF) – Companies

Ms. Tasha Perreault, Eversource, Ms. Diane del Rosso, Eversource, and Mr. John Karyczak, UIL, provided a slide deck and presentation on this topic, which can be found in [the materials folder](#). The presentation covers an overview of the single family Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC), update on single family inspections that are in-progress, add-on measures and rebates and incentives in post inspections, and an overview of multifamily inspections.

Ms. Perrault discussed the implementation manual. It is a device technicians use in the field to ensure they consistently deliver quality service so savings goals can be effectively measured and met. Ms. Perrault emphasized the importance of accurate measurement for achieved savings that determine realization rates. The inspection rate goal is a minimum of 5% for each category (Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Inspections, In-Progress inspections, Post Inspections), though if issues were discovered the rate of inspections would be increased. Inspections are important because they identify deficiencies,

inform training and recognize accomplishments.

The Company's use standardized score sheets to monitor quality of service and delivery. Ms. Perrault shared an example of a Single Family In-Progress Inspection Scoring Sheet. Technicians can earn up to 100 points based on a pass/fail evaluation in each category for completing these scoring sheets. For each category, a level is assessed ranging from normal to severe, that provides specific guidelines for action. Points associated with each level are provided in the Implementation Manual, so technicians know what to expect and how to earn more points. The three assessed categories for the scoring sheet are (A) Safety, (B) Customer Service, and (C) Technical/Measures. Out of 100 points, 51 can be earned in Category A, 18 points in Category B, and 31 points in Category C. Ms. Perrault provided some examples of checklist items in each category. For example, inspecting the for asbestos-containing material, moisture, or mold is worth 18 points in Category A. The checklist of items evaluated help to ensure critical steps are taken and done well throughout the process for each category. When the Score Sheets reveal a deficiency or a pattern of low scores, the Company can collaborate with the vendor, principal, and technician to address the issue.

Mr. John Karyczak discussed communication channels for inspection results, stating that communication is critical to ensure integrity and transparency of Program results and progress. Mr. Karyczak stated that there are two channels of communication: immediate feedback at the site between inspector, technicians and customer, and the reports following each inspection that connect the Companies and contractor or vendor. Mr. Karyczak noted that the Implementation Manual includes processes and regulations around each communication channel.

Mr. Karyczak shared inspection results for each Company. For Eversource, of 17,900 inspections the inspection rate was 5.72% and the average Inspection Score 95.8 out of 100. For UIL, of 6,152 inspections the inspection rate was 5.25% and the average Inspection Score 92.2 out of 100.

Mr. Karyczak discussed the Home Energy Score (HES) Vendor Scorecard, which is an aggregate of each vendor's inspection score results. The results of this score measures where vendors fall within set goals and parameters for both Companies. Mr. Karyczak shared a sample score card. Vendors earn up to three points for each area, weighted to convert to a 0-100% scale; the less points, the higher the vendor's score. A vendor can earn a negative point if they are able to achieve one hundred points across the board for inspection results.

Mr. Karyczak discussed post-inspections, primarily done for HES, Home Energy Score – Income Eligible (HES-IE), and add-on measures. All add-on measures are subject to inspection. Post-inspections are used to measure the quality of install as well as confirm energy and cost savings. All measures submitted through Rebates are subject to inspection. Post-inspections are required for self-installation projects that go through installation rebates, a rebate is not processed until the inspection is complete and passes. All HVAC water heating measures are subject to inspection and post-inspection. The primary reason to perform HVAC post-inspections is to confirm that the equipment installed qualifies.

Ms. Diane del Rosso discussed Multifamily (MF) Inspections. Ms. Del Rosso shared that the methodology for MF inspection is aligned with single family and rebates inspections. MF has three types of inspections: in-progress inspections for in-unit direct install measures, pre- and post-inspections for communal area projects. In-unit measures include air sealing, duct sealing, and for income-eligible LED replacement. There is a 10% sampling for in-unit direct install inspections. Inspectors are present and observing during the installation of direct install measures. Pre-inspections for communal area measures are conducted for all projects with a Letter of Agreement at or above \$35K. The pre-inspection verifies the existing condition of equipment outlined in the project proposal. Post-inspections for communal area measures are conducted for all projects with a Letter of Agreement at or above \$20K. The post-inspection verifies the installation of equipment and other measures outlined in the Letter of Agreement detail. Companies communicate with the contractor and customer to correct or understand the intent of any additional project work that may need to be completed.

Ms. Melissa Kops asked if the 5% sampling for the Single-Family Program is for each contractor's work or the total of all projects. Ms. Del Rosso replied that a 5% inspection for every contractor and a 5% of each lead technician the contractors have is the goal. Ms. Del Rosso also clarified for MF that if the project includes in-unit measures, the contract is required to conduct 10% sampling of the units.

Mr. Stephen Cowell asked if we were beyond the limitations of COVID-19 related to services. Ms. Del Rosso noted that for single-family projects, the Companies were able to open up all services in 2020 with precautions in place. Ms. Del Rosso said that MF is more complicated. For buildings with five or more

units, the Companies are not performing blower door tests (BDTs) and are reviewing when or if they will be able to in the future.

Ms. Fay said one of the inspected items is the “kitchen table wrap-up” that occurs between the technician and customer. Ms. Fay noted that this is not offered for HES-IE and asked if there’s any inspection or follow-up around additional measures for HES-IE customers. Ms. Del Rosso corrected that for HES-IE projects, the technicians are supposed to have the kitchen table wrap-up to review what they found, what work was completed, and upgrade suggestions. Ms. Fay said she has never heard of this step happening for HES-IE customers and is interested in hearing more about this.

Ms. Fay asked if the inspections keep track of what additional measures the contractors have recommended. Ms. Del Rosso said that this metric is outside of QAQC, but that the Companies do have that information separately. Ms. Del Rosso said the technicians in the field are required to enter all attributes they find in the field into a field tool that is synced with the Companies’ tracking systems.

Ms. Del Rosso reiterated that the HES-IE Program requires technicians conduct kitchen table wrap-ups but added that they are then to coordinate with the appropriate contractor to develop a proposal for add-on measures. The Companies review and approve these proposals. For market-rate customers, the kitchen table wrap-up is focused on recommended projects and rebates.

5. Energy Burden in Hartford Report – Sierra Club

Ms. Amy McLean asked Ms. Alycia Jenkins, Sierra Club, to provide context and background for the report. Ms. Jenkins is the lead Campaign Organizer for Ready for 100 Sierra Club Connecticut and is based in Hartford. Sierra Club partnered with Trinity College’s Action Lab for the report, which was conducted last year. Ms. Jenkins provided a slide deck of her presentation that can be found in [the materials folder](#).

Ms. Jenkins defined energy burden as a measurement of energy expenditure divided by household income. If the resulting percentage is above 6%, energy burden is considered high; above 10% is considered severe. Ms. Jenkins shared a chart of the National Energy Burden which demonstrated that energy burden is significant for low-income communities, particularly low-income multifamily and manufactured housing. The Native American and Black American communities have very severe energy burden.

Ms. Jenkins shared statewide low-income energy affordability data map, which was a tool Trinity College used for the study. Ms. Jenkins pointed out that Hartford’s energy burden, as well as other areas in the state, have high (6%) energy burden. Ms. Jenkins shared that Hartford County has a 3% average energy burden as percentage of income, while Hartford City has closer to 6% and the Upper Albany neighborhood in Hartford is as high as 7.6%. The report focused on the Upper Albany neighborhood. Ms. Jenkins shared a chart of energy burden by fuel type for the US, Hartford County, Hartford City, and Upper Albany.

Another component of the report put faces and voices to the data. Residents of Upper Albany shared their stories of living with energy burden, including photos. These testimonies revealed that people know how to save energy on their own and provided examples of how they do so. Ms. Jenkins acknowledged Ms. Brenda Watson’s role in the report, sharing a quote she provided.

Ms. Jenkins shared both short-term and long-term goals for the report. In the short-term, Sierra Club hopes to address the immediate problem with energy efficiency measures that lower bills and improve comfort and replacement of old appliances with fossil free versions. Long-term solutions including job training and business incubators in weatherization and clean energy areas and hiring community members to perform the work.

Ms. Jenkins summarized key takeaways from the report. First, that residents know how to conserve energy and the sacrifices they are making to conserve energy is significant. The report revealed that due to predatory scammers, community members are distrustful of markets and that community members are concerned about shut offs and reconnection fees.

Ms. Amy McLean asked if there were any plans for follow up. Ms. Jenkins said the plan was to share the results of the report. Ms. McLean said this was important documentation and that it will help the Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) create better programs. Ms. McLean noted the leakiest housing is creating greenhouse gas emissions, and the Board needs to figure out how to get energy efficiency services to the homes that need them.

Ms. Jenkins said Sierra Club has been researching how to give incentives to property owners that incentivize retrofits and weatherization projects. Ms. Jenkins also commented on the relationship between gentrification and housing upgrades, and its impact on housing costs. When improvements are made, property owners increase rent, forcing residents out of their homes. Consideration for non-gentrifying solutions that are sustainable is key to keep communities intact.

6. DEEP Legislative and Regulatory Updates:

Ms. Kate Donatelli shared a slide deck summarizing the following updates from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP); a copy can be found in [the materials folder](#).

a. Proposed Home Energy Labeling Legislation

Ms. Kate Donatelli shared bills concerning home energy affordability. Governor Lamont introduced these two bills related to home energy labeling, which require disclosure of home energy label when a residential property is listed for rent or sale. For home renters, HB5041 addresses label requirements for rental units and is being heard by the Housing Committee. For home buyers, SB14 proposes labeling requirements for home sales. SB14 is being heard by the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. Home energy labels, HERS Home Energy Score and ENERGY STAR® Score, will be the only compliance pathway. Compliance with the labeling requirements will be phased in over time, prioritizing areas with high energy burden first. The bill would give DEEP new labeling options as appropriate. DEEP provided testimony in support of these bills at the respective Committees last week.

Ms. Donatelli introduced SB292, an act concerning heating efficiency in new residential construction and major alterations of residential buildings. This is a bill that was introduced by the Housing Committee for the purpose of directing the State Building Inspector and Codes and Standards Committee to prohibit the use of electric resistance or fossil fuel combustion systems as the primary source of space and water heating in new residential construction or major renovation projects. If signed into law, this would not occur until the next code adoption cycle, no earlier than 2024. The bill would enable development of training programs for engineers, builders, contractors, etc. on alternative space and water heating measures, including heat pumps and others.

b. 2022-2024 Plan Determination & Conditions of Approval

Ms. Donatelli shared that DEEP is working on Conditions of Approval and hopes to have an update soon. A Draft Determination will be released for a public comment process.

c. Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES)

DEEP [launched a process](#) for developing a new CES at the beginning of the year. DEEP is currently in the scoping phase, which is being informed by a public process. DEEP held a Public Input Session a few weeks ago that more than 170 people attended. Ms. Donatelli thanked everyone who participated for contributing to the discussion. There was also a public comment window that closed March 3.

DEEP will now refine the scope of the CES and further developments will be shared with this group.

d. Weatherization/Health & Safety Barriers Remediation Plans

DEEP has selected a Program Operator through its competitive RFP process. DEEP is now moving into the contracting phase for that Program Operator and will share more details with this group as they become available. Getting this person onboard is an important first step to getting the program up and running.

e. DEI Consultant

The EEB recently completed a competitive RFP process, managed by its Consultant Committee, to select a Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Consultant, a recommendation that came out of the Equitable Energy Efficiency (E3) Proceeding. The Consultant Committee will be making a recommendation to the EEB this afternoon.

f. CTAC

At the last CTAC meeting a number of issues were discussed including advanced duct sealing, material cost and availability issues for installation, supply chain impacts, insulation change order process, a beginning discussion on barriers to deeper energy savings. Ms. Donatelli is summarizing some of the next steps that DEEP will take on these issues, and DEEP will be working

through those items in the intervening weeks.

For next month, there was a conflict with the standing Green Bank and EEB meeting so the CTAC meeting will be pushed back one week. Those on the distribution list should have received an email with the meeting link, but if not please let [Ms. Donatelli](#) know. The next meeting will have an extended runtime of 2 hours, which is part of a new schedule DEEP is trying out this year. This will allow more time for discussion.

DEEP has been asked to do a better job tracking progress towards addressing some of the specific issues identified jointly by utilities and the contractors. Those on the CTAC Committee should have received an e-mail from DEEP about this to gather feedback on topics for discussion. DEEP will narrow this down to set clear goals for 2022.

7. Community Partnership Initiative Update – Companies

Ms. Devan Willemsen, Eversource, provided a slide deck of her presentation and it can be found in [the materials folder](#). Six project teams have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and completed orientation. One team secured municipal approve of their project and is the process of scheduling orientation. Two project teams are moving through their approval processes. One project team declined to participate but hopes to reapply in subsequent rounds.

Discussions have begun for round two, including discussions around improving inclusivity and the process. Per discussions with DEEP, the Companies have been thinking about how the next round will incorporate input from the new DEI Consultant.

Ms. Amy McLean asked about the project teams and what that means. Ms. Willemsen said that the project team can take on different forms. For example, a project team in Branford is a joint venture with Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee and the Town, and in Waterbury the project team includes I Heart My Home and Clean Water Action. Each project team has one lead point-of-contact, but there are a number of stakeholders involved in several projects.

Ms. McLean asked if any project teams have provided feedback on how their project is going. Ms. Willemsen said feedback thus far has been fairly positive. Ms. McLean asked what the timelines were for the projects and Ms. Willemsen responded that the Company's want one year of data, but the onboarding process, including DEEPs review of the MOUs and the two-hour orientations, has caused some delays. Ms. McLean asked if the Company's will be flexible on the end of the project given these delays. Ms. Willemsen said it depends on the project and its progress, but if teams need extra time the Companies are willing to entertain that.

8. Upcoming EEB Focus Area: Combined Residential and C&I Program Update – Consultants

Mr. Richard Faesy shared a slide deck for this topic and it can be found in [the materials folder](#). Mr. Faesy reminded the Committee that the Consultants had provided a schedule of focus areas to address at EEB meetings throughout 2022. Stakeholders and Board members provided feedback and the Consultants updated the schedule. Given some input, the schedule will shift a bit. The Consultants had planned to provide a Combined Residential and C&I Program Update in April but will now focus on New England and Connecticut Energy Use, including peak demand, retail rates, and generation mix. Once DEEP releases its Determination on the C&LM Plan, the Combined Residential and C&I Program Update will be scheduled.

The Consultants will provide an overview of how energy is used, both in Connecticut and New England, with a focus on the building sector. The presentation will be looking at energy use by sector and use fuel type, changes over time, projected trends, especially the impact that energy efficiency plays on that. This focus area will include peak demand impacts, particularly from electrification, where the projected electricity generation mixed is going, and implications around greenhouse gas and components of retail rates.

Mr. Faesy solicited suggestions or ideas for this next topic and directed attendees. Suggestions can be sent to Mr. Faesy's [email](#).

9. Planning and Prioritizing Future Agenda Topics – EEB Members

Ms. Amy McLean asked Board members for any input on the following Agenda topic ideas. Ms. Kathy Fay said it is important the Committee address heat pumps, especially cold climate heat pumps. An overview of viability in Connecticut, applications, and what other states like Maine have done. Mr. Faesy clarified

that the list he shared in his last presentation was for the EEB, while the list below is for the Residential Committee. Mr. Faesy added that the Consultants have good relationships with the program folks in Maine and can reach out. Mr. Faesy agreed that it's important for the Board to continue to understand how this equipment works, especially as we start focusing more on heat pumps.

Ms. Kate Donatelli stated that the Consultants have presented on Maine's incentives for heat pumps and cautioned from repeating too much information. Ms. Donatelli shared that in relation to heat pumps, DEEP is interested in hearing about how Maine has developed its workforce and how their customer outreach and education works.

Ms. Kathy Fay wants to elevate defining weatherization for Connecticut, particularly given the influx of funds from the IIJA discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. McLean indicated that defining weatherization has been on the agenda a long time and the Board has struggles with it. Ms. Melissa Kops added that the State's 80% weatherization goal by 2030 is partially a responsibility of the EEB and asked if there was a plan to achieve that. Ms. Kops noted that without a definition for weatherization, it will be difficult to achieve the goal. Ms. McLean said the goal has been in statute for a while but there are not concrete paths to achieving it.

- a. Residential New Construction (Passive House, All-Electric New Construction, Update on New CT Building Code) (April) – Companies
- b. Update on CT Green Bank Financing and Battery Storage Programs for 2022 (April)
- c. HVAC Contractor Training and Certification Plans - Companies
- d. Concierge Services Offering – Companies
- e. Evaluation Results - Heat Pump Pilot and Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWH)
- f. Low Income Deep Dive (WAP and HES-IE Coordination) – DEEP
- g. U.S. DOE Home Energy Score HES/HES-IE Contractor Experience
- h. Water Utilities Coordination Efforts
- i. DEI Consultant Engagement and Recommendations – DEI Consultant
- j. Defining “Weatherization” for Connecticut
- k. Case Studies and Technologies Topic Ideas
 - i. Maine heat pump experience and insights
 - ii. ENERGY STAR Home Upgrade
 - iii. Zero Energy Now program
 - iv. Aligning programs with state goals
 - v. MyHeat (remote IR drones)
 - vi. Sizing and selecting heat pumps

10. Public Comments

Mr. John Ruhnke, Prime Energy, has been involved in renewable energy and energy efficiency for decades. A long time ago Mr. Ruhnke tried to register his apprentice in the apprenticeship program for solar thermal and was told he was the first one to try and register somebody into the solar thermal program in decades. Mr. Ruhnke is a Certified Energy Auditor and in his current role at Prime Energy he helps the solar project sales team recommend energy efficiency improvements for homes. Mr. Ruhnke said he disagrees with how the energy audits are done within the Programs. Mr. Ruhnke disagrees with the HES audit requirement for solar companies to qualify for rebates. Mr. Ruhnke would like to do his own energy audits and believes he is qualified. Mr. Ruhnke said if he can't perform his own audits, he would like to be a part of the Board to improve the Programs' auditing process.

Mr. Ruhnke disagrees with the BDT requirements, indicating that BDTs shouldn't be conducted at the start of the project. Mr. Ruhnke further explained that when measures are installed, more holes are created, and contractors shouldn't fill holes until all the work is done.

Ms. McLean said that the Board is interested in improving and suggested that Mr. Ruhnke engage with the Board to share his feedback, particularly CTAC. Mr. Faesy and Ms. Donatelli both said they would be happy to talk more with Mr. Ruhnke offline.

11. Adjourn

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Melissa Kops motioned to adjourn; Ms. Kathy Fay seconded the motion. The Motion passed 5-0.