



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 2022 | 9:30AM - 12PM (Webinar Only)

Meeting Materials: <https://app.box.com/s/296k9x0hvzarfq7t07xhawcozjsiydwp>

[Meeting Recording](#)

Minutes

1. Welcome – Amy McLean

a. Roll Call of Committee Members:

Board Members: Amy McLean, Kathy Fay, Melissa Kops, Ron Araujo, Shubhada Kambli (DEEP), Donald Mauritz, Hammad Chaudhry, Joel Kopylec, John Viglione

Board Consultants: Stacy Sherwood, Liza Skumatz, Glenn Reed, Philip Mosenthal

Other Attendees: Brenda Watson, Andrew Isaacs, Emily Rice, Eugene McGowan, Ghani Ramdani, Jesus Pernia, Kate Donatelli (DEEP), Lawrence Rush, Samuel Manning, Alyssa Alves, Alysse Rodrigues, Amanda Stevens, Anne Hulick, Bernard Pelletier, Bob Wirtshafter, Brendan Thomas, Dana Forrester, Diane del Rosso, Devan Willemsen, Erin Engelkemeyer, Glen Eigo, Jared Powell, John Figlewski, John Karyczak, Kiersten von Trapp, Logan Taricani, Madeline Priest, Michael Cresta, Michelle Long, Rebecca Dube, Richard Olisky, Sharon Guarino, Shubha Jaishankar, Stephanie Weiner, Tammy Wilson, Tanya Mulholland, Tasha Perreault, Tim Fabuien, William Wesson

b. Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. Amy McLean reviewed the process and procedures. A copy can be found in the [materials folder](#).

c. Recognition of Brenda Watson’s contributions

Ms. Amy McLean commended Ms. Brenda Watson on her contribution to the Board and Residential Committee and indicated that Ms. Watson’s work will continue to make an impact for years to come. The Committee thanked Ms. Watson.

2. Approve 5/11/2022 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Kathy Fay motioned to approve and Ms. Amy McLean seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 5-0.

3. Public Input/Comments

There were no public comments offered.

4. Responses to Previous Stakeholder & EEB Questions – Companies

a. Would including solar programs under EEB require legislative change?

Mr. Ron Araujo provided an update to this question from the April Board meeting. The EEB does not have a role in the Residential Renewable Solution Program (RRSP). The Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority ([PURA established RRSP 2021](#)), directing electric distribution companies to create the program, but did not mention the EEB. Additionally, the Connecticut PURA decision implementing the program does not mention the EEB or outline a role for the EEB. Finally, the [statute](#) creating the EEB does not grant the EEB a role in the Residential Renewable Solution Program.

The EEB has an indirect role from the perspective of Home Energy Solutions (HES) or Home Energy Solutions Income Eligible (HES-IE) visits, which are required by the solar program. Mr. Araujo indicated that PURA could grant or request input or involvement from the EEB.

Mr. Bernie Pelletier noted that this does leave a question of recourse for customers. And Mr. Pelletier added battery storage as an area of significance.

Ms. Melissa Kops asked if there is an equivalent way for the public to get involved in the development of the solar program, similar to the EEB's C&LM Plan. Mr. Araujo shared that the PURA process is public, but couldn't recall the specifics of that process. The Committee discussed that the PURA process does not include monthly meetings, so public engagement opportunity is different.

Ms. Kathy Fay said the Board should consider sharing comments stemming from the Committee's discussion of intersecting issues with PURA. Mr. Araujo agreed and noted that the Board's public input process does influence programs outside of the C&LM Plan. Mr. Araujo added that the Connecticut Green Bank has a battery storage program and there may be an opportunity to engage through any process they have. Mr. Araujo suggested this topic be added to the Joint Committee Meeting.

Ms. Fay asked who the customer talks to if they have issues with the solar or battery storage program. Mr. Araujo shared that the Green Bank would be the place to direct issues with the program, and equipment issues directed to the electric distribution company serving that customer.

b. Is the on-bill financing calculator working correctly for heat pumps?

The [Heat Loan Calculator](#) accurately portrays the savings from projects inputted, but it often results in either a loan amount lower than the program is designed to offer or is unable to offer a loan. Mr. Ron Araujo discussed the loan terms and program qualifications for the on-bill financing program. Mr. Araujo shared a flow chart of the program administrator roles related to calculating the loan and determining eligibility, which can be found in the [materials folder](#). The Companies conducted extensive testing on the calculator, and found it to be working, but wanted to further investigate whether there was an issue with the data transfer. The Companies are still waiting for results of that investigation and will report on the results in the July meeting.

5. HVAC Equipment Incentives Program Investigation Report (COA #3) – Companies

In the proposed 2022-2024 Plan, the Companies committed to investigating the continued need to incentivize certain high-efficiency natural gas furnaces and boilers. Mr. Jesus Pernia, Eversource, and Mr. Ghani Ramdani, Eversource, presented on the HVAC Equipment Incentives Program; their presentation included an overview of the program, findings from a Massachusetts study, and proposed next steps for the program. Mr. Araujo noted that the Companies are still investigating the impact on distressed communities and will report on that when this is complete. A copy of the presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

Regarding statewide sales versus midstream rebates (Slide 4), Mr. Bernie Pelletier asked (1) whether mail-in means the customer has to file the paperwork and (2) whether midstream means the contractor receives the rebate on behalf of the customer. Mr. Ron Araujo stated that mid-stream is an instant discount applied by the distributor at the point of sale, which reduces the cost of the equipment.

Ms. Amy McLean and Mr. Ramdani discussed the difference between condensing and noncondensing boilers or furnaces. "Condensing" means higher efficiency (typically ~90%+) equipment vented through a plastic vent pipe.

Regarding the comparison with Massachusetts (Slide 6), Ms. Melissa Kops suggested it would be useful to see a similar comparison to other aspects of the program to evaluate effectiveness. Ms. Kathy Fay asked if the incentive is based on the exact Annualized Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) of the equipment being replaced, and Mr. Ramdani said the incentive was based on the prescribed baselines, shown in Slide 6.

The Companies suggest moving the Residential HVAC Gas Program to downstream incentives, which could negatively impact participation. Mr. Glenn Reed and Mr. Ramdani also discussed the possibility of higher free ridership under this scenario.

Mr. Araujo explained the reasoning behind this change. Mr. Araujo noted that this change will require significant investigation and the Companies are seeking Board input early on, including how this change would impact low- and moderate-income customers is still forthcoming. Ms. McLean asked when the Companies would like to receive input by and Mr. Araujo referred to the Plan Update Schedule that will be shared later in the meeting and at the EEB meeting. Mr. Araujo suggested including this topic item on

the July Residential Committee Agenda.

6. SCG HES Budget Issue – Companies and DEEP

Mr. Larry Rush, Avangrid, shared a slide deck highlighting the savings and budget progress in Avangrid territory for its residential portfolio; a copy can be found in the [materials folder](#). Mr. Rush's presentation includes projections for 2022, an explanation for the cause of budget depletion, a program performance comparison between Avangrid companies, Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG), United Illuminating (UI), and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), as well as Avangrid's plan for 2022 to address these issues (Slide 10).

Ms. Melissa Kops asked whether the ARPA funding could help with the HES and HES-IE budget issues. Mr. Rush shared that we are still in the early stages of determining how ARPA will work. While the Companies are in conversations with DEEP about the ARPA funds, Mr. Rush stated that he was focused on what Avangrid can do now, noting a potential \$1.6 million RGGI allocation from unanticipated auction funds that came in higher than expected can help substantially.

Referring to the \$1.6 million to be added to the SCG budget from RGGI, noted on Slide 5, Ms. Amy McLean asked how the additional RGGI funds happened? Mr. Rush shared that there was overage on what was budgeted versus what was collected.

Ms. Kathy Fay said it can be confusing for customers when program incentives change during the middle of the year, and suggested the Board consider how to mitigate this through marketing or other means. Ms. Fay asked if the Companies are asking customers why they participate or how they learned about the program. Mr. Rush noted that the landing pages and analytics, the call center, and other tracking mechanisms are used to track customer demographics. Mr. Rush indicated that these questions aren't directly asked.

7. DEEP Legislative and Regulatory Updates:

a. New Residential Committee EEB member

With Ms. Brenda Watson's resignation, DEEP has launched its process to solicit applications for Board membership. Applications are due on June 30. The Commissioner will review and appoint a member. Notice of EEB vacancy and request for applications can be found on [DEEP's website](#).

b. Review Final DEEP Determination and Conditions of Approval (COA) for 2022-2024 Plan

The [Final DEEP Determination](#) and Conditions of Approval were issued June 2. There will be a presentation at the EEB meeting today to review changes from the draft to final.

c. Weatherization/Health & Safety Barriers Program Operator Plans

DEEP is working through the contracting process with the Program Operator.

d. Comprehensive Energy Strategy

The CES team is working on a Technical Meeting Schedule. Additionally, DEEP is scheduling Technical Meetings for the C&LM Plan, specifically for advanced applications for demand response and barriers to heat pump adoption. DEEP will announce those meetings when they are scheduled.

e. CTAC Meeting Review

During the May CTAC meeting, the HES-IE vendor scorecard was discussed and there was a robust discussion with vendors around some of the SCG budget issues outlined by Mr. Rush earlier in the meeting. The next CTAC meeting will be July 27th. DEEP will be reaching out to Committee members for agenda items.

f. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Coordination (COA #15)

There is a Condition of Approval that dictates a coordination process between WAP and the utilities. DEEP will be issuing a draft RFP for WAP vendors soon and it will be shared with the EEB distribution list. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment.

8. Case Studies and Technologies

a. CT R1965 Heat Pump/Heat Pump Water Heater Baseline and Market Characterization & R2027 HP/HPWH Reliability Studies – Evaluation Consultants /Contractor (NMR)

Mr. Sam Manning and Mr. Eugene McGowen, NMR Group, discussed the results of two studies: R1965 which evaluated heat pump and heat pump water heater baseline and market

characterization and R2027 which focused on reliability, results and recommendations. Mr. Manning provided a presentation that included an overview of research objectives, heat pump definitions, an overview of the heat pump market and barriers in Connecticut, and program recommendations around this equipment. The final report can be found on the [EEB website](#) and a copy of the presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

Regarding heat pump adoption barriers in Connecticut (Slide 8), Mr. Donald Mauritz asked if the study provided insight as to why some installers are skeptical of performance. Mr. Manning shared that the study had an opportunity for open-ended responses. Mr. Manning indicated confidence in system performance during the winter months was an issue and the report has more details.

9. 2023 Plan Update Calendar – Consultants

The Committee did not have time to discuss this item, but there are materials in the [materials folder](#).

10. July EEB Focus Area: EE Funding in CT and Surrounding States – Consultants

The Consultants will be focusing on energy efficiency funding in Connecticut and surrounding states. This will identify funding for the C&LM Plan and will include limitations of those funding sources and a comparison of those funding sources with other states. The presentation will also include how the Conservation Adjustment Mechanism (CAM) charges are assessed and an overview of the charges per customer and by customer class. An outline of this focus area can be found in the [materials folder](#). Input regarding this topic and questions around this topic can be provided to [Stacy Sherwood](#) or [Richard Faesy](#) in the next few weeks so Consultants have time to address them.

11. Future Agenda Topics – Consultants

Mr. Glenn Reed led a discussion of future agenda topics. Below are options that were presented.

- a. 2022-2024 Plan Final Determination and Conditions of Approval (July)
- b. 2022 Program Plans (July)
- c. DEI Consultant Engagement and Recommendations – DEI Consultant (July)
- d. Heat Pump Installer Network & Consulting Services (COA #6) (July)
- e. Concierge Services (COA #2) (July)
- f. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding Opportunities (COA #1) (July)
- g. Workforce Development Progress
- h. Energy Code Training Plans
- i. Heat Pump Pilot Expansion
- j. 2023 Program Ideas and Planning
- k. Case Studies and Technologies Topics

12. Public Comments

Mr. Andrew Isaacs with Allegheny Science and Technology, a Department of Energy contractor, said he works with 36 utilities, the programs in Connecticut are great, and commended the Board. Mr. Isaacs said he was interested in learning more about low-to-moderate income focus outside of the WAP and is also interested in seeing tracking and reporting of carbon metrics.

13. Adjourn

Ms. Melissa motioned to adjourn and Ms. Kathy Fay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned.