



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2022 | 9:30AM - 12PM (Webinar Only)

Meeting Materials:

<https://app.box.com/s/53dm5xis6f4xgn4uoj0f456nhieuje0k>

[Meeting Recording](#)

Minutes

1. Welcome – Amy McLean

a. Roll Call of Committee Members

Board Members: Amy McLean, Hammad Chaudhry, Kate Donatelli, Kathy Fay, Melissa Kops, Ron Araujo

Board Consultants: Emily Rice, Richard Faesy, Allison Carlson, Glenn Reed, Stacy Sherwood

Other attendees: Alycia Jenkins, Bernard Pelletier, Diane Del Rosso, Erin Engelkemeyer, Larry Rush, Meghan O'Connor, Mike Li, Nicholas Burstein, Tim Kendzia, Heather Deese, Amanda Stevens, Andrew Isaacs, Christopher Haringa, Devan Willemsen, Doug Presley, Jade Joiner, Jeff Howard, John Figlewski, John Karyczak, Joseph Roy, Lillian Brough, Madeline Priest, Kara Marshall, Mia Lombardi, Michael Cresta, Michelle Long, Natalia Sudyka, Nick Burstein, Patrice Gillespie, Pete Carlson, Ralph M, Rebecca Baez Castro, Rebecca Dube, Richard Olisky, Rose Croog, Ryan Kristoff, Sharon Guarino, Shubha Jaishankar, Stephanie Weiner, Tammy Wilson, Tanya Mulholland, Tasha Perreault, Tiffany Murphy, Violette Radomski

b. Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. McLean reviewed the meeting procedures and process. A copy of can be found in the materials folder. Ms. McLean notified attendees of the Public Input Session immediately following the Residential Meeting.

2. Approve 6/8/2022 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Kate Donatelli motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Amy McLean seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Minutes were approved in a vote 3-0.

3. Public Comments

Ms. Alycia Jenkins, Sierra Club, shared that the 2022-2024 Plan falls short of equity and requires more funding that will target energy burdened households and remove barriers to receiving energy retrofits and weatherization. Ms. Jenkins connected energy burden with redlining. The Sierra Club is asking the Board to (1) identify and prioritize the highest-need areas by engaging with stakeholders in the process, (2) target and achieve a minimum of 40% state and federal energy efficiency, renovation, and weatherization dollars to the homes with the highest need, (3) evaluate solar and battery power for every project, (4) pair low-income discount rate under development at PURA with energy and clean energy programs and do not cap the low-income discount rate, and (5) develop measurable equity targets for workforce development.

Ms. Kathy Fay appreciated these comments and encouraged the Board to do what it can to act on these requests. Ms. Emily Rice, Board Executive Secretary, encouraged Ms. Jenkins to submit these comments during the Public Input Session or in writing by Friday at 5PM for DEEP and EEB's consideration as they develop the 2023 Plan Update.

4. DEEP Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided a slide deck that covered the following items. A copy can be found in the [materials folder](#).

- a. New Residential Committee EEB member
Ms. Brenda Watson stepped down from her role on the Board. Ms. Watson's position statutorily represented residential customers. DEEP released a call for applications for a new Board member serving in that same capacity May 31 and closed June 30, including evaluation criteria and appointment details. (Slide 2)
- b. Final DEEP Determination & Conditions of Approval (COA) for 2022-2024 Plan
Ms. Donatelli reminded the Committee that DEEP's Determination on the Plan with Conditions of Approval was released June 2 (Slide 3). Companies will be submitting responses and those can be reviewed on the DEEP Energy Filing page. Ms. Donatelli showed a screen shot of this page to help stakeholders find this information (Slide 4).
- c. Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES)
Ms. Donatelli discussed the CES and shared that it will be informed by a series of Technical and Public Input meetings. There will be a schedule for meetings this fall coming out soon. Ms. Donatelli encouraged attendees to participate.
- d. CTAC Meeting Preview
The Contractor Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) met in May and Ms. Donatelli shared the discussion items from that meeting (Slide 6), including the new HES-IE vendor scorecard, an RFQ that was released, and the budget status for certain programs. Ms. Donatelli noted that DEEP continues to work with utilities on the budget issues discussed and a presentation is expected at the Board meeting later in the day. The next meeting will be July 27 at 1:00PM.

Ms. McLean asked how many vendors typically attend. Ms. Donatelli said she could check the number from the registration list, but provided a guesstimate of 50-60 on average. Ms. McLean asked whether there are minutes from the CTAC meetings. Ms. Donatelli indicated that there are not minutes, but the meetings are recorded. The recordings can be provided upon request. Stakeholders can reach out to the Executive Secretary at ExecutiveSecretaryCTEEB@theenergygroup.biz to get a link. Ms. McLean said that Board members get questions, and they don't have enough information to address them. Ms. McLean asked if minutes or a synopsis can be shared along with the verbal updates. Ms. Melissa Kops noted that minutes, or information on attendees and a synopsis of comments from vendors, would be helpful for Board members that are unable to attend. Ms. Kops also said that she would like to see results of vendor surveys or other details of that sort. Ms. Donatelli said she could discuss further what the best next steps are.

Ms. Donatelli noted that stakeholders were surveyed to narrow the focus on priority topics and developed a tracking document to keep track of progress. Ms. Donatelli suggested sharing this information with the Board.

Ms. Kathy Fay asked if the CTAC meetings included discussions of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Ms. Donatelli said the primary focus of the CTAC meetings is the C&LM Programs. Ms. Donatelli acknowledged overlap between the C&LM Programs and WAP and WAP has come up in the past. Ms. Donatelli anticipates more discussion of WAP during these meetings as the Board has a goal to improve coordination across the programs.

- e. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Coordination (COA #15)
Ms. Donatelli provided an update that DEEP's WAP Program Coordination team is getting ready to release RFPs to procure contractors. DEEP accepted comments on draft

RFPs for vendor procurement through July 7. Mr. Faesy asked if DEEP received feedback in response to the RFI that informed the RFP. Ms. Donatelli wasn't sure but said she would follow up with details she's able to share.

5. Programs and Planning

a. HES and HES-IE Funding and Demand for 2022 – Companies

Ms. Diane Del Rosso, Eversource, said the Residential programs for both HES and HES-IE are overperforming. Ms. Del Rosso noted that Eversource is not curtailing any programs. Ms. Del Rosso reported that the second quarter update will be provided at the Residential Committee meeting in August.

Mr. Larry Rush, Avangrid, reported that demand for HES and HES-IE are strong and programs are performing well. Avangrid will also be providing the quarter two update in August. Mr. Rush said that Avangrid is holding vendors to the purchase orders to keep to the established budgets. Mr. Rush noted that additional [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative \(RGGI\)](#) funds will be used to serve more Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG) customers.

Ms. Kathy Fay said there were issues about one of Avangrid's budgets (SCG) discussed last month. Ms. McLean asked the Companies to update the Committee on the budget issues. Ms. Del Rosso said that Eversource has not had budget constraints or issues and added that demand is strong. Mr. Rush noted that the funding is set and that there has been a ramp up in demand and slight decrease in budgets. Mr. Rush noted that Avangrid is managing towards the budget and is correcting the overspend from the start of the year. Mr. Rush will be providing an update to the EEB this afternoon about historical trends related to SCG's budget and participation.

Ms. Fay noted that she has been hearing from customers that have been asked to wait until 2023 to submit applications; Mr. Rush offered to meet with the vendors regarding their purchase orders and staging. Mr. Rush noted that Program Managers have had many meetings with vendors discussing planning and managing to the budget.

Ms. Melissa Kops asked what the HES budget is looking like through the end of the year. Mr. Rush noted that SCG had overspent at the beginning of the year, but more RGGI funds have been added to its HES budget. Ms. Kops noted that if there's extra funding in the HES budget, would there be ways to help more HES-IE customers. Mr. Rush noted that the HES-IE customers are being prioritized.

Mr. Faesy asked what sort of messaging is going out to HES customers regarding the budget in the SCG territory. Mr. Rush said Avangrid is providing guidance for messaging to vendors and noted there is a rotating lead list. Avangrid is trying to serve customers as fast as possible but there is a high demand, and some delays are happening. Mr. Faesy asked for clarification on the delay period. Mr. Rush noted that the delay varies by vendor, its capacity, and their PO, and Mr. Rush will have to look into this more and follow up.

b. HVAC Program Impacts on LMI Customers (COA#3) – Companies

Ms. Diane Del Rosso shared the impact of removing gas HVAC rebates on the low-to-moderate income (LMI) customers, which was requested last month. A copy of the slide Ms. Del Rosso shared can be found in the [materials folder](#). Ms. Del Rosso noted that there would be a significant impact on LMI customers if these incentives were eliminated. Eversource is moving from a midstream to a downstream rebate and is

recommending that rebates be provided for non-condensing to condensing equipment only.

Mr. Faesy asked how many condensing heating equipment is replacing condensing equipment, noting there is little savings in these cases. Ms. Del Rosso said Eversource does not have this detail. The midstream program was not capturing that data. Ms. Del Rosso suggested that moving to downstream methodology will help to capture that information.

Mr. Faesy asked what the plan for non-condensing incentives will be. Ms. Del Rosso indicated it would be to provide incentives for condensing equipment replacing non-condensing equipment. Mr. Faesy asked how the numbers vary in Avangrid territory. Mr. Larry Rush indicated that Avangrid will need to collect additional data and will respond to DEEP, but doesn't have the information at this time.

Mr. Faesy asked whether moving from midstream to downstream, and only offering incentives for non-condensing equipment to condensing equipment would be statewide. Ms. Del Rosso said yes. Mr. Rush added that would be the only way to monitor the transition between non-condensing to condensing.

Ms. Kathy Fay asked whether the Companies are discussing heat pumps with customers in the instances that condensing equipment is replacing non-condensing equipment. Ms. Del Rosso noted that this depends on the installers. Ms. Fay asked if there was quality control on what the installers are suggesting. Ms. Del Rosso said controlling the recommendations by vendors was not part of the current program design. Ms. Fay said that the Programs should ensure that vendors are recommending the most appropriate equipment, which she considers as being heat pump applications.

Ms. McLean asked how this can be changed – and suggested that more funding may be needed.

c. Heat Pump Support Services Update – Companies/Abode

Ms. Erin Engelkemeyer, Eversource, provided an update on the heat pump services; including strategic engagement and support strategies, plans to increase customer and contractor support, customer support and marketing. Ms. Engelkemeyer's presentation also discussed educational resources available for both customers and vendors, some of which are already live on [EnergizeCT website](#) and others that are forthcoming. Technical Trainings will be conducted, starting this week on July 14. The presentation also covered the Connecticut Heat Pump Installer Network, satisfaction surveys, and engagement with vendors. A copy of the presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

Ms. McLean recommended the invitation to trainings be sent to the EEB distribution lists.

Regarding incentives for heat pumps, Mr. Ron Araujo, Eversource, said that the Companies are planning on eliminating the central AC rebate for 2023 and recommending those customers purchase central ducted heat pumps instead.

Regarding the qualified vendor list, Mr. Faesy asked whether the Companies are considering qualifications that would exclude vendors or provide customer ratings or feedback. Ms. Engelkemeyer said that this is still in development but will take this note for consideration.

Ms. Fay asked how participants would be connected with the program. Ms. Engelkemeyer said that they connected through the site and Ms. McLean noted the referral process could also contribute to referrals.

Ms. Fay asked if the on-bill financing calculator has been fixed, as participants in this program may need to use it. Mr. Ron Araujo said the [Connecticut Heat Loan](#) webpage has been updated and the calculator for ducted heat pumps has been corrected, but the calculator for ductless is still being corrected. Mr. Araujo hopes to have an update at the August meeting.

Ms. Engelkemeyer noted that this offering is downstream and is a standard rebate. Ms. Engelkemeyer noted that building envelope improvements are not required prior to heat pump installations, but it is encouraged. Ms. Del Rosso added that marketing weatherization to any heat pump customer that has not participated in HES prior to the heat pump installation. Ms. Fay asked if the recommendations include all building envelope measures or energy modeling and feedback. Ms. Del Rosso said all customers will be provided information. Ms. Del Rosso said Eversource did not want to limit heat pump adoption by requiring building envelope measures but is encouraging those measures where applicable.

Ms. McLean asked if the energy auditor is discussing heat pumps with homeowners, as she experienced in her home that they did not. Ms. Del Rosso said that training is provided to home performance technicians and other vendors across the program.

- d. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Consultant Introduction – Illume
ILLUME was not able to attend the meeting and this item was not discussed.

6. DOE Federal Funding Update – Mike Li

Mr. Mike Li, Department of Energy (DOE), shared information about a newly created Federal Office he is administering: The Office of Community Energy Programs. CEP will be focused on [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) funding](#) that will support public schools and the Infrastructure Block Grant Program.

Mr. Li shared a presentation on a number of federal funding streams. A copy can be found in the [materials folder](#). Mr. Li's presentation includes information on the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program, a public-school facilities program, and an energy auditor grant training program. The presentation also includes a list of other Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunities (Slides 9-10).

7. Future Agenda Topics – Consultants

Mr. Richard Faesy led a discussion of future agenda topics for the Residential Committee. The following topics are upcoming:

- a. Q2 Reporting (August)
- b. Program Funding Opportunities (August)
- c. 2023 Program Changes, Enhancements and Budgets (August)
- d. Weatherization Barrier Remediation Program Operator Plans – DEEP & ICAST (August)
- e. Community Partnership Initiative Update
- f. DEI Metrics
- g. All-Electric Residential New Construction Plans
- h. EnergizeCT Dashboard Review
- i. Workforce Development Progress
- j. Energy Code Training Plans
- k. Case Studies and Technologies Topics

[Mr. Faesy](#) encouraged attendees to suggest case studies and technologies by emailing him.

8. Public Comments

Mr. Bernie Pelletier, People's Action for Clean Energy, said the Board should aim to overperform HES and HES-IE programs. Mr. Pelletier pointed to Mr. Li's presentation for funding streams to achieve more weatherization across the state.

Ms. Leticia Colon de Mejias asserted that the Board does not have contractor representation and explained how contractors make the Programs successful in many ways. Ms. Colon de Mejias said she shared a number of comments with DEEP and the Residential Committee regarding the budget, including lack of workforce support, lack of inclusion for our comments and meaningful engagement and participating in planning of the programs or budget. Ms. Colon de Mejias said she is finding it hard to have a voice and help guide the program in relationship to heat pumps. Ms. Colon de Mejias explained the significance of addressing the thermal boundary prior to installing heat pumps, including customer satisfaction, safety, and demands on the grid. Ms. Colon de Mejias said that including contractors would add value and the contracting community would like to have a voice at the Committee level.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned prior to a vote so that the Public Input Session could begin.