



C&I Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 13, 2023 | 1:00PM – 3:30PM

[Meeting Materials](#)
[Meeting Recording](#)

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Board Members: Anthony Kosior, Walt Szymanski, Larry Rush, Ben McMillan (DEEP), Anne-Marie Knight

Board Consultants: George Lawrence (Lead C&I Technical Consultant), Bahareh van Boekhold (DEI Consultant), Leigh Michael (DEI Consultant), James Williamson (Executive Secretary-in-training), Emily Rice (Executive Secretary), Stacy Sherwood (Lead Technical Consultant), Phil Mosenthal (Technical Consultant).

2. CT DEEP is looking for someone to fill the Environmental Advocate seat on the EEB

Mr. George Lawrence reminded attendees that DEEP has reissued its [Notice of Vacancy and Request for Applications](#) for the Environmental Advocate seat on the Energy Efficiency Board. Mr. Ben McMillan added that applications are due June 27th.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. C&I Benchmarking with Energy Star – Dr Thompson, UCONN

Dr. Thompson, UCONN, provided an [overview of the SmartBuildings CT Program](#). This presentation includes highlights of the team, details on the program, participants, and what can be learned from using ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager. Dr. Thompson provided highlights of ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager Capabilities on slide 7.

Mr. Lawrence asked if the platform still requires data centers within buildings to be sub metered when benchmarked. Dr. Thompson said this is still the case. Mr. Lawrence asked if a computer server room at a school, for example, should be treated as a data center. Dr. Thompson explained that to receive an accurate, higher score, sub metering this equipment is often necessary.

Ms. Jordan Schellens asked to hear about some challenges associated with running this program. Dr. Thompson explained that there are two types of challenges: getting participants to complete their portfolios and getting data to build the portfolios. Dr. Thompson reiterated that the data exchange program with the utilities has helped to remove data collection barriers, though it continues to be a challenge. Buildings with solar can be challenging as well as getting customers to act on the information provided by the portfolio.

Mr. Peter Ludwig, Green Bank, asked how long the program will continue and what is the next goal for the tool. Dr. Thompson noted that the goal was to benchmark 10-15 non-public buildings and there are 15-20 in the pipeline. Dr. Thompson said the goal would be to exceed the 15-20.

Mr. Kosior asked if SmartBuildings CT was partnering with the Industrial Assessment Center? Dr. Thompson said there is coordination between the two. Dr. Thompson is the director for both the Industrial Assessment Center and SmartBuildings CT. Dr. Thompson discussed some of the coordination that occurs.

Mr. Lawrence shared that in Vermont the Consultants shared an anonymous ranking for a group of hospitals that was motivating for participants to improve energy efficiency. Dr. Thompson shared that the SmartBuildings CT program has the data to do something similar in Connecticut, but is not using the data for that purpose.

5. DEI metric(s) for C&I – DEI Consultants

The Board's DEI Consultant Team provided [update on the EEB's Equity Vision development as well as a summary of the brainstorm results](#) that were collected last month from Board members, Company staff, and Technical Consultants. Ms. Leigh Michael and Ms. Bahareh van Boekhold led the Committee in a discussion around the updates to the draft Equity Vision and the draft 2024 DEI PMI metric to get feedback. The next step will be to propose the Equity Vision and PMI metrics to the Board for feedback and then ultimately approval. Stakeholders and Committee members can send further input to [Ms. Michael](#) by June 22nd.

Mr. Lawrence asked for an explanation of structural inequalities. Inequalities or disparities in customer experience caused at a structural level; i.e. housing policies like redlining, discrimination that has impacted voting rights, etc. Ms. Michael explained that structural inequalities are not necessarily things that the utilities or the programs have created but are underlying issues that impact the experiences of customers.

Regarding slide 5, Mr. Larry Rush asked if a baseline would be clearly defined for the goals and how some would be measured. Ms. Michael said that organizing data around what is being done and what needs to be done can help to clarify where the programs are today and what needs to happen.

Ms. Michael outlined the draft proposed 2024 PMI Metric and led the Committee in a discussion around the two-part approach described in the presentation on slide 7. Mr. Lawrence believes that Part 2 would be better fit under the evaluation purview rather than as a metric. Ms. Michael explained that this method is used in other states and said that it would be a pass/fail metric. Ms. Schellens added that it might take a while for Evaluation to integrate this study given the existing process and the Committee discussed the independence of Evaluation and the limitations that could create in terms of DEI Consultant and Board influence. Ms. Schellens suggested that existing evaluation studies could provide insight in lieu of the study. Mr. Phil Mosenthal agreed that Part 2 is not a great metric for financial performance incentive, as financial incentives are best provided for performance, but noted there is value in doing it. The Committee discussed the merits of this approach, Ms. Michael provided the reasoning behind the approach. Mr. Lawrence shared that location versus account are significant factors for the commercial space.

Mr. Mosenthal suggested that the size of the business be a consideration for Part 1, given that many large businesses in distressed communities could be larger chains and therefore

experience less of a burden than small businesses. Mr. Lawrence added that knowing more about small businesses struggling outside of Energy Justice communities would be useful. The Committee discussed the merits of using location and size to identify underserved businesses. Ms. Schellens shared that the micro-business program is not location-based.

Mr. Anthony Kosior asked what metric will be used to measure an increase in participation (referring to slide 8). Keeping the EEB's focus on mind, Mr. Kosior suggested weighting the participation goal by the savings achieved. The Committee discussed savings-based and enrollment-based approaches for measuring participation.

Ms. Michael asked if the Programs have data on business customers in EJ communities and the participation within those communities compared to non-EJ communities. Ms. Schellens suggested the DEI Consultant contact the Evaluation Administrator to find out what information is already known. Mr. Mosenthal added that the Evaluation Team could consider different net-to-gross ratios in EJ communities.

Ms. Bahareh asked the Committee what disadvantage(s) the Part 2 study would have, adding that Massachusetts uses this approach. Mr. Lawrence clarified that he doesn't see this as a disadvantage, but that it just doesn't fit the mold of PMIs for the programs. Ms. Sherwood indicated that the DEI Consultant will need to make a recommendation to the Board in time for the upcoming Annual Planning Meeting on June 28. The Committee further discussed the study and where it would fit. Ms. Anne-Marie Knight said that it is critical the study is conducted, and that it should be specific to Connecticut, though acknowledged the uncertainty of where it fits. The Committee agreed to move forward on Part 1, and to decouple Part 2 so further conversations can be had around it in the next couple weeks.

Ms. Michael will work with the Technical Consultants regarding an ad hoc meeting with the Companies to further discuss the metric around participation in EJ communities and whether a business-size approach would make sense. Ms. Schellens emphasized the importance of getting input from larger companies and considering new construction.

6. 2024 Plan Updates – Tech Consultants and Companies

The Technical Consultants and the Companies shared an [update on the 2024 Plan Updates](#), including efforts that are already underway, things in the Three-Year Plan not underway, and details on ideas for 2024 updates. Mr. Lawrence led a discussion around the ideas for 2024 to get an idea on what to include, exclude, or continue development of.

The Committee discussed the Deep Energy Retrofit proposal outlined on slide 5. Ms. Schellens shared that there are technical resources in place to help a customer with Deep Energy Retrofits. Mr. Paul Tangredi asked what can be gained with this kind of program. The Committee discussed different approaches for this program; including RFP, multi-year plans, and performance-based goals.

The Committee discussed an Early Retirement Program. There are tools in place to calculate savings and includes a streamlined HVAC track and custom track for other measures. Mr. Lawrence indicated this idea could be excluded given what is already available.

The Committee discussed Main Streets for Small Businesses. Mr. Tangredi and Mr. Lawrence shared what the Companies are doing now for this segment and a few logistical changes they are considering. The Committee decided that understanding more about customer decision-making in this segment and how to get to more robust opportunities would be valuable.

The Committee discussed including Wi-Fi thermostats as a demand response measure for Small Business. The consensus was that finding ways to incentivize the demand response side for Wi-Fi thermostats has merit.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Dave McIntosh shared that a Memorandum of Understanding could be considered for the Deep Retrofit Program that was discussed in item 6.

8. Planning for August

Mr. Lawrence discussed topics for the next C&I Committee meeting in August. There will be no July C&I meeting. Ms. Schellens asked if the Board would be talking about the PMI metrics and the Dashboard and Ms. Sherwood indicated yes.

The Committee will address the following topics during the August C&I Committee meeting.

A. 2024 Plan Update

B. PMI and Quarterly Metrics: Adjust current metrics, delete metrics, and/or new metrics

Ms. Rice shared that the Annual Planning Meeting will be in person and registration for [in person attendance](#) is due by Friday June 16 at 5PM.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31PM.