



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2023 | 9:30AM - 12PM

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

Minutes

1. Welcome – Melissa Kops

a. Introduce Karraine Moody, new EEB member

Ms. Shubhada Kambli, DEEP, introduced Ms. Karraine Moody as the new Residential Customer Representative Board Member. Ms. Karraine Moody is the CEO for Habitat for Humanity.

b. Roll Call of Committee Members

Board members: Karraine Moody, Melissa Kops, Shubhada Kambli (DEEP), Kathy Fay, Larry Rush, John Viglione, Walt Szymanski, Hammad Chaudhry, Donald Mauritz

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

Other attendees: Brendan Thomas, Corey Starzman, Daniel Rabin, Devan Willemsen, Doug Presely, Jeff Howard, Jesus Pernia, Violette Radonmski, Tofeal Liton Chowdhury, Tim Kendzia, Tanya Mulholland, Tasha Perreault, Tammy Wilson, Sheri Borrelli, Seema Alim, Ralph Mesite, Bernie Pelletier, Chad Ihrig, Heather Strokes, Joy Roy, Joyce Chai, Michelle Long, Natalia Sudyka, Mike Mernick, Brian Sullivan, John Karyczak, Tim Kendzia, Logan Taricani, Mike Uhl, Claire Sickinger, Diane Del Rosso, Amy McLean, Vivien Perez, Amanda Stevens, Tim Fabien, Stephanie Weiner, Weqing Bouche

c. Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. Kops reviewed the [Meeting Procedures and Process](#).

2. In-Person and Virtual Meeting Logistics

Ms. Emily Rice provided some guidance to ensure that speakers in the room are identified and virtual attendees are able to hear discussion in the room.

a. Reminder of mailing lists sign-up

Ms. Rice reminded attendees of the new mailing lists. Anyone can [subscribe](#) or change subscriptions at any time. These lists are how the Board will be communicating with stakeholders.

3. Approve November Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Melissa Kops motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Kathy Fay seconded the Motion. The motion passed 3-0 with DEEP and Ms. Moody abstaining.

4. Public Comments

Mr. Bernie Pelletier, PACE, noted that the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Dashboard is missing HES-IE data. Mr. Pelletier contacted the Companies and requests this data to be corrected. Mr. Pelletier also requested that the HVAC data points be broken out to indicate the heat pump adoption numbers in each town. Mr. Pelletier submitted these requests to the Executive Secretary.

Mr. Walt Szymanski asked what the status of the Statewide Weatherization Barrier Remediation Program is. Mr. Richard Faesy indicated the Companies would be provided information later in the meeting.

5. DEEP Updates

Ms. Shubhada Kambli provided [a presentation](#) with the following updates.

a. Introduce Claire Sickinger

Ms. Sickinger is the new Conservation and Load Management staff member and has taken over the role previously held by Kate Donatelli. More information about Ms. Sickinger can be found on slide 2.

b. 2023 Plan Update Approval Timing

DEEP is in the process of reviewing the 2023 Plan Update and expects to release a Draft Determination later this month.

c. CTAC Meeting Review

The 2023 meeting schedule has been released and the next meeting is January 25 1-3PM.

d. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) RFP Results and Coordination Plans

DEEP will issue a RFP for WAP services providers in Q2 of 2023. The RFP will likely favor providers with large multifamily experience.

Mr. Richard Faesy asked about the 2023 RFP to expand contractor capabilities, and asked for more information about the results of that RFP process. **Ms. Kambli said that she and Ms. Sickinger can follow up with more details.** (Subsequently, DEEP responded: The CAAs selected subcontractors in Fall of 2022. CRT and NOI contracted with 5 weatherization contractors and 3 HVAC contractors each.

In addition, DEEP's AHER team continues to work on an RFP for WAP service providers to be issued this year (2023). Work is still in progress, but DEEP will continue to provide updates as we go. DEEP will work with the selected operator(s) to ensure equitable access to WAP contractor opportunities, and will keep this group informed of such opportunities.)

Ms. Kops referenced funding limitations for contractors and asked if the federal funding can be used to compensate for funding shortfalls. Ms. Kops asked for an update on how this could work. Ms. Kambli didn't have details and suggested a separate meeting with stakeholders. Ms. Kops agreed this would be beneficial. (Subsequently DEEP responded: DEEP is still waiting for federal guidance regarding IRA funding but does not anticipate it being used for this purpose. DEEP cannot fully fund contractors' businesses and encourages contractors to pursue leads outside of the C&LM programs, including through WAP.

However, additional BIL funding is expected to come to the WAP program this year. There will be an RFP process during 2023 to identify service providers for this additional pot of funds. DEEP does expect to be able to serve more customers with the addition of BIL funds through WAP, so contractors are encouraged to look out for those opportunities when they come. Service providers for WAP are limited to non-profits and government entities, so for-profit contractors will need to work with a selected service provider.)

Ms. Kathy Fay asked if municipal utility customers are getting included in these programs. Ms. Kambli said she would need to follow up. (Subsequently DEEP responded: Municipal customers are currently eligible for WAP and REPS. They do not pay a CAM charge on their bill which is why they cannot access C&LM programs.) Ms. Kops noted that municipal utilities should have access to WAP funding.

Ms. Kops asked for an update on the Weatherization Barriers Program rollout. Ms. Kambli will need to follow up. (Subsequently, DEEP responded: The Weatherization Barriers Remediation Program is now known as the Residential Energy Preparation Service (REPS). DEEP has been working with Eversource, UI, New Opportunities, CRT, and the program operator, ICAST, on a few pilot projects as the final details of the program are worked out. Eversource and UI are sending a timeline to DEEP this week for the outstanding items on their end before the program can begin accepting referrals.)

e. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Plans

DEEP issued a modified Condition of Approval #1 that asks Companies to outline how they will report and track federal funding with DEEP. There is other guidance related to the Energize CT website and more.

Regarding Condition of Approval #1, Ms. Kathy Fay asked if the EEB can receive the same information from the utilities. Ms. Kambli agreed.

Mr. Pelletier asked for the timeline on understanding how IRA funds will be handled in Connecticut. Ms. Kambli said DEEP is still working through details and will provide an update when possible.

6. 2023 Program Updates and Communication Plans – Companies

Ms. Diane Del Rosso provided a presentation summarizing [2023 Program Updates](#).

a. HVAC and Water Heating - Heat Pump Water Heaters

Mr. Faesy asked where central heat pump water heater incentives fall within the program offerings. Ms. Del Rosso said this would be a custom offering.

Mr. Pelletier asked if contractors who get the rebate on behalf of their customers have a requirement to reflect it on the invoice. Mr. Pelletier suggested this be the case. Ms. Del Rosso said that customers may not see this on their invoice in all instances. Ms. Del Rosso said she would confirm and report back. (Subsequently, the Companies responded: All Contractors are supposed to add a line to their invoice that reflects the Energize CT rebate for mistream rebates. There is no requirement for the contractor as the payee to be reflected on the invoice for downstream rebates but that information is on the rebate form which both the customer and contractor need to sign in order for it to be processed.)

Mr. Pelletier asked if IRA rebates will be in addition to or in replacement of EEB incentives. Ms. Kops believes those incentives will be treated separately and will not discount each other.

b. Heat Pumps for Space Heating

Ms. Kops asked if any more conversation has happened regarding adding a HES audit before a heat pump installation. Ms. Del Rosso noted that discussions have happened, and that the requirement could be a barrier and inhibit the state's goals for heat pump

adoption. Ms. Del Rosso added that the \$500 bonus for weatherization measures is an alternative to encourage those steps are taken.

Ms. Kops asked how the benefits for weatherization are communicated to the customer. Ms. Del Rosso said that she can follow up for a more detailed conversation with Program Managers. Ms. Kops said she wanted to keep this top-of-mind and wants to have a sidebar. (Subsequently, the Companies responded: Customers are able to get consultations on heat pumps with our Heat Pump Installer Network vendor. The consultations are a way for customers to learn more about heat pumps, how they work and how to choose the best system for their home. The benefits of weatherization are also communicated during the consultation.)

c. Residential New Construction

Updates for residential new construction are summarized on slide 5.

d. DEEP's Residential Energy Preparation Services (REPS) Program & Coordination with HES-IE

The presentation includes an overview of the REPS Program on slide 6. Ms. Fay asked who the point of contact is for this program. Ms. Del Rosso said HES-IE participants can reach out [to her](#) and [Ms. Sickinger](#) said she can be contacted with questions.

Mr. Faesy asked how backlogged customers would be prioritized. Ms. Del Rosso said that DEEP and ICAST are making those decisions. Ms. Sickinger said that ICAST will prioritize projects based on criteria developed by DEEP and ICAST.

Ms. Kops asked if the pilot program has been completed. Ms. Sickinger said that the pilot is still underway and it's anticipated that it may finish in the next month or so. Ms. Kops asked how participants will apply for the program, particularly if they are in municipal territories. Ms. Sickinger indicated that participants will most likely come from HES-IE and WAP referrals.

Ms. Fay asked for more details on customer prioritization and Ms. Sickinger said DEEP would follow up. Ms. Fay asked for that information as soon as possible. (Subsequently, DEEP responded: DEEP intends to make public the prioritization criteria for REPS but it will not be available until the program is ready to accept deferrals. See response to Question 6 for more information.)

Ms. Del Rosso said that the Companies have learned a lot from the last weather remediation barriers program, and added that field technicians find homes in which the barriers are too great and the cost too high. Ms. Del Rosso suggested this may require further discussion in the future.

Ms. Fay suggested further training for technicians to avoid mold misidentification. Ms. Del Rosso asked for specific instances, and described the criteria. Ms. Fay will follow up. (Subsequently, the Companies responded: HES and HES-IE contractors follow a detailed program guide developed over years with significant expert input that identifies the specific situations in which projects need to stop when mold or other barriers are identified.)

Ms. Fay suggested that coordination of weatherization and remediation add on measures be more mindful. Ms. Fay explained that measures which remediate health

and safety barrier should be approved prior to and separate from other measures, without requiring all identified measures to be completed.

Given that customers can receive an assessment every three years, Ms. Kops asked if those in the backlog can receive a HES audit to get into the program. And Ms. Del Rosso said that was an opportunity. Ms. Kops asked who the municipalities could contact to enroll customers in the program. [Ms. Sickinger](#) said she could connect them with the right contact.

e. Community Partnership Initiative (Round 2)

Mr. Hammad Chaudhry provided details on round two of the CPI on slide 7. Round two opened December 16 and applications will close Friday, March 3 at 5PM. There are information webinars scheduled for January 24 at 12PM and 7PM and virtual question forums will be held February 7.

Ms. Fay commended the Companies on the second round. Ms. Fay expressed a concern about HES and HES-IE customers getting work completed within the year. Mr. Chaudhry said that this CPI focuses on increasing participation in underserved communities. Ms. Del Rosso said that Eversource will ensure customers are being served.

Mr. Pelletier suggested that training should help community members market to the right population to conserve resources; for example, focusing on buildings build before 1980.

f. Insulation Boot Camp

Ms. Del Rosso provided an overview of the insulation boot camp on slide 8 and a timeline for the boot camp on slide 9.

Ms. Kops asked if air sealing will be included in the training. Ms. Del Rosso said that the field staff will learn how to identify proper installation, but it won't be a comprehensive air sealing training. [Mr. Faesy suggested having a conversation offline around air sealing training and guidance.](#) (Subsequently, the Companies responded: Testing out is required as part of HES-IE for insulation jobs. Testing out for HES projects is currently optional but will be trained on as part of the Insulation Boot Camp and encouraged to be part of HES projects.)

Mr. Glenn Reed added that the test in, test out concerns around proper ventilation post-installation could also be added to this conversation. Ms. Del Rosso noted an additional incentive is offered for test in, test out for HES and it's a requirement for HES-IE. Mr. Reed noted it is not a requirement which is not in alignment with Energy Star.

Ms. Kops asked if there are qualifications around insulation types. Ms. Del Rosso said the HES rebate covers all insulation types, and the application includes a recommendation that the installer be certified. Ms. Kops shared that the programs could encourage installation of low emissions materials. Ms. Del Rosso said she could take this to her team, and noted that there are few spray foam projects. (Subsequently, the Companies responded: Embodied carbon is not considered as part of the HES or HES-IE programs at this time.)

Mr. Pelletier asked if the training addressed identifying knob and tube. Ms. Del Rosso said technicians identify knob and tube, but it doesn't prevent the blower door test. Ms.

Del Rosso said this is likely a good topic to add to the training list.

Mr. Faesy asked who the third-party provider is. Ms. Del Rosso said it was Center for Eco Technology.

Ms. Kops discussed eligibility requirements in terms of braiding programs. Ms. Kops probed the Committee for next steps to review eligibility requirements, suggesting a task force. Mr. Faesy wondered if IRA guidance is needed first. Ms. Kambli said this is an issue DEEP would like to be involved in. **Ms. Kops asked how the taskforce would get created and Ms. Kambli said she would follow up with DEEP council.** Ms. Kops motioned to create a taskforce that will investigate program eligibility requirements to ensure they align with federal energy efficiency programs. Ms. Fay seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. (Subsequently, DEEP responded: DEEP is actively working with the EEB, Residential Committee and other stakeholders to ensure that this critical issue is addressed and progress is made towards evaluating options for aligning program income eligibility requirements.)

7. Secondary Metrics Update – Consultants

Mr. Faesy provided an update on the [secondary performance metrics](#). Mr. Faesy's presentation includes background on secondary metrics and the results for 2022. The Companies plan to include a revised metric around new construction in the March 1 filing. Mr. Faesy discussed this revision and provided details on slide 3.

Ms. Kops asked how the companies are demonstrating their achievement of number of homes weatherized, without a definition of weatherization? Mr. Faesy said that it is measured by the number of homes that take up a follow-up measure. Ms. Kops is worried that trying to achieve the secondary metric could negatively impact comprehensiveness.

Mr. Pelletier asked if there are penalties and Mr. Faesy said there were not.

8. Future Agenda Topics – Consultants

Mr. Faesy shared a list of [future agenda topics](#) and a discussed suggested topics lined up for February and March.

Ms. Vivian Perez, a contractor for the HES and HES-IE program, shared that her company is getting a 50% cut from its HES-IE budget in 2023. Ms. Perez expressed that these cuts aren't just dollars, they are people. Ms. Perez is hopeful about braiding IRA funding and volunteered to join the taskforce that will evaluate eligibility requirements. Ms. Kops asked if Ms. Perez has been engaged in the WAP funding and RFP process. Ms. Perez said she used to be a CRT contractor but chose not to continue because it was not profitable for her business and was difficult to work with. Ms. Perez offered to provide more insight offline.

Mr. Tim Fabien, CMC Energy, shared his appreciation of the 10% price increase and noted that his new budget is 42% lower in 2023. Mr. Fabien explained this reduced the number of customers CMC Energy can serve. The budget decreases will require CMC Energy to reduce staff and this is concerning, especially given the pending influx of IRA funding.

Ms. Kops said there was an anticipated 15-20% reduction, but asked for an explanation for the budget cuts far above that. Ms. Del Rosso explained that prior to 2020 the single-family programs were suffering and spending goals not met. In 2020 goals were met despite COVID challenges and a 90-day shut down. In 2021 and early 2022 budgets were exceeded, so

Eversource moved funds from other programs and accessed additionally RGGI funding. Customer demand has exceeded budgets since 2021, but funding remains limited. Ms. Del Rosso referenced other challenges, like the popularity of the solar program and changes in assessment requirements that affected 30% of homes. Mr. Chaudhry explained that the Companies need to be careful entering the second year of the Plan to ensure spending aligns with budgets.

9. Public Comments

Mr. Pelletier expressed a desire that any programs be made retroactive to 1/1/2023 so participants aren't deterred by long wait times.

Mr. Pelletier said there is nothing more important for the State of Connecticut to be doing than weatherizing homes. Mr. Pelletier said that the accelerated run rate should continue. Mr. Pelletier said that 1) the state took our money in the SWEEP - we should be strong about asking for it back, 2) we must talk about get the IRA money into this program to keep the work force going and there is nothing more important, 3) with the existing funds we need to prioritize using it as smartly as possible, and 4) recognize the CPI program is going to increase demand - we need to focus that marketing in light of this shortfall.

10. Adjourn

Ms. Kops motioned to adjourn; Ms. Fay seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.