



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wed, June 9, 2021 10AM - 12PM (Webinar Only)

Meeting Materials: <https://app.box.com/s/cg6mdfsgrwud4vzh9ksxz1ulyyxgkzg>

Minutes

1. Welcome – Amy McLean
 - a. Roll Call of Committee Members: Brenda Watson, Donna Wells, Amy McLean
Attendees: Art St. Armand, Bryan Garcia, Claire Sickinger, Devan Willemsen, Emily Rice, Enoch Lenge, Joseph Roy, Kate Donatelli, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Michael Li, Mike Li, Richard Faesy, Ron Araujo, Rose Croog, Andy Frank, Augusta Miller, Bernard Pelletier, Brendan Thomas, Damaris Velez, Diane Del Rosso, Elizabeth Murphy, Emily Basham, Glenn Reed, Guy West, Jerry Graham, Joe Buonannata, John Karyczak, Joel Kopylec, Jon Velasquez, Lawrence Rush, Michael Cresta, Michelle Long, Mike Gray, Mike Uhl, Natalia Sudyka, Rebecca Baez Castro, Richard Olisky, Sheri Borrelli, Stephanie Weiner, Tammy Wilson, Tanya Mulholland, Tasha Perreault, Tim Fabuien, Violette Radomski, William Wesson
 - b. Meeting procedures and process update: Ms. Amy McLean called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting procedures and process, which can be found in the materials folder. Ms. McLean requested that speakers share their video when they are speaking or presenting if possible.
2. Approve 4/14/2021 & 5/12/2021 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Brenda Watson motioned to approve April and May meeting minutes. Ms. Watson seconded. The motion passed unanimously with two votes.
3. Public Input/Comments

There were not public comments.
4. Legislative Update – DEEP

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided updates on the following pieces of legislation:

 - a. Stretch Code (HB 6572), Home Energy Score (SB 882), Expansion of EEB Membership (SB 856)

Ms. Donatelli indicated that she did not have an update on these bills but today is the last day of the legislative session. Ms. McLean noted that it was disappointing these did not move.
 - b. Affordable Housing Weatherization (HB 356)

Passed both the Senate and House last week. The bill gives steep the authority to provide grants using federal American Recovery Plan funds for a wide range of measures, including weatherization, efficiency, distributed generation and EV charging infrastructure, and notably, the grants can also be used to mitigate health and safety barriers. This program can provide a comprehensive suite of services for affordable housing. The grant program prioritizes households that qualify for utility hardship

programs or are occupied by a person who receives some other kind of means tested assistance. It also gives priority to contractors that pay workers and prevailing wage. There is an amendment to the bill that calls for the inclusion of multi-family affordable. This program will likely require two new FTE staff at DEEP. Ms. McLean added that this bill was drafted by advocates and commended the advocacy and work for all the hard work done to get this bill passed. Ms. McLean acknowledged that the partnership between DEEP and advocates is important. This is a real victory.

5. DEEP Updates

a. Weatherization/Health & Safety Barriers Remediation Update & Next Steps – LIHEAP Plan & Gov. Lamont’s ARPA Plans

Ms. Claire Sickinger indicated that work is ongoing and DEEP is working on an RFP for an administrator for a weatherization barriers program that would be funded by LIHEAP. Ms. Sickinger also thanked contractors and advocates that brought these issues to DEEP’s attention. Ms. McLean asked for more details regarding the LIHEAP and ARPA funds; who will be the administrator for the program, how will the ARPA funds be allocated? Ms. Sickinger responded that she did not have details on ARPA funds but noted that the administrator would be responsible for managing the LIHEAP funds. Ms. Rose Croog added that the current plan is to confirm how the funds can be used. DEEP is working with HHS and DSS on final details, but DSS will be the official recipient of the funds. Ms. Croog added that the details for the ARPA funds are still getting smoothed out. Ms. Croog solicited input for the RFP process. Ms. McLean asked about the timeline for the RFP rollout and the best way stakeholders can provide feedback. Ms. Croog responded that DEEP is aiming for a late summer, early August RFP issuance. Ms. Sickinger indicated that there is not a formal input process for input at this time.

b. Equitable Energy Efficiency (E3) Proceeding

Ms. Kate Donatelli noted that DEEP released the draft determination and the public comment period is open until June 18. Since the last committee meeting, DEEP conducted two public input sessions regarding the content of the recommendations and action items included in the draft determination: one technical meeting and another for a broader audience. Those that missed the meetings can find the recording on the DEEP website. DEEP is in the process of organizing and recording all the feedback that we’ve received so far and aim to finalize the determination in July. Ms. Donatelli reminded attendees that the draft determination is the first phase in a multi-phase process. Stakeholders can reach out to Ms. Donatelli or Ms. Croog.

c. CTAC

Ms. Donatelli indicated the next meeting will take place on June 23rd and will likely be covering health and safety guidelines as well as potentially some technical questions arising from the proceeding that are specific to residential contractors. DEEP is open to additional agenda items from participants, and both committees, to ensure they are covering all the relevant issues. Information to register will be out soon.

6. CT Green Bank Update – CT Green Bank

Mr. Bryan Garcia provided a presentation on the residential market outlook. First, Mr. Garcia noted that more information on the Green Bonds comprehensive plan can be found on the Green Bank website. The Governor's Council on Climate Change dug into several equity issues which informs the comprehensive plan. Green Bank has relocated its headquarters from Rocky Hill to the Connecticut Non-Profit Center near many social service organizations. Mr. Garcia discussed the demand for weatherization that is being created by policy and regulatory structure and CT Green Bank’s (CTGB) role in protecting HES and HES-IE programs. Mr. Garcia

discussed dockets 20-07-01 (BTM renewable energy tariff policy) and 17-12-03 (equitable modern grid proceeding). Connecticut will be moving to tariff-funded solar projects. The Green Bank will no longer provide incentives for solar PV starting January 1, 2022, as the EDC takes over administering the programs. Mr. Garcia provided an overview of easy and affordable capital options: incentives, co-investment, credit support, and “warehousing”. The Green Bank will be administering performance-based incentives for battery storage. Mr. Garcia reminded attendees that the Green Bank has an open RFP for financing large projects or large batches of projects. Mr. Garcia shared federal and state opportunities, including HB6441 which seeks to expand the scope of environmental infrastructure and HR 806 which is a clean energy and sustainability accelerator. CTGB has been working on the Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator for approximately three years, which is modeling the Connecticut Green Bank to create a National Climate Bank that would loan low-cost, long-term debt to States, local governments, regional governments, to do essentially what CTGB has been doing for the last decade. Mr. Garcia overviewed Green Liberty Bonds; CTGB has \$100 million worth of demand. CTGB provides a community match fund for campaigns, future workforce and art. A copy of the full presentation can be found in the materials folder.

Ms. McLean noted that this information is important, and awareness of resources like those provided by CTGB, is a consistent challenge.

7. Community Engagement Initiative – Companies

Ms. Devan Willemsen provided an update on the CEI. The Companies are continuing to build relationships with external stakeholders who will be critical to the success of this initiative. The Companies welcome suggestions. The Companies are in the final stages of creating the application document and process, following the completion of a legal review. The Companies anticipate releasing the application this month or early July. The Companies will be holding a Webinar for Interested applicants about 10 days after they release the application so applicants have a chance to digest it and think about questions they may have. The webinar will be held twice during that day, around midday and evening. The application will be hosted on ICT. More content that will explain the application, the application documents, FAQ, etc. will also be available on the site.

Ms. McLean asked if non-profits or municipalities could apply. Ms. Willemsen said the program was designed for community-based organizations, non-profits and municipalities and they welcome applicants that are partnering with a fiduciary agent organization.

8. COVID Health and Safety Guidelines – Companies & DEEP

Mr. Ron Araujo shared that the Companies sent an update on the Health and Safety Guidelines out to all contracted vendors on May 28th. The Guidelines roll back many of the requirements that were previously in place. Normal business clothing and glove requirements can be utilized, - no extra double gloving or anything along those lines. With respect to technicians that have been fully vaccinated, they are no longer required to wear facemasks or face Shields, however if they are partially or non-vaccinated, then they would still be required to wear that when working within the home. Guidelines included definitions of what fully vaccinated and partially vaccinated mean. Disinfection of the work surfaces tools, and clothing is no longer required, regardless of the vaccination status. Mr. Araujo noted that DEEP still has requirements in place and asked if DEEP could provide those.

Ms. Kate Donatelli noted that DEEP is considering retiring the DEEP protocol, although they still need to go through a formal process with the legal team before that happens.

9. 2022-2024 Plan – Companies

a. Multifamily Deep Dive

Mr. Enoch Lenge provided a presentation on behalf of the Companies. The multi-family initiative targets five or more-unit properties, market rate and income-eligible, and provides incentives, financing, and technical assistance for improvements to existing buildings. The Program reviews projects that are comprehensive, looking at all different types of opportunities, both in dwelling units and the whole kind of property, central systems, common areas. Properties can work with any contractor they prefer, which works well because many property managers have existing relationships with contractors. Mr. Lenge shared program documents and examples of case studies the program uses for outreach, which can be found on the Energize CT website. Mr. Lenge provided an overview of measures that are included, including direct-install, prescriptive and custom. Mr. Lenge noted that when applicants have a single measure, the program administrators encourage a comprehensive look and installing additional measures that are feasible. The Companies have partnered with CHFA/DOH since 2016 which enables the program to capture opportunities, - \$7.8 million in total investment since 2016. Mr. Lenge shared details about how this partnership works, including workflow and documentation. It has been a successful process and partnership. Mr. Lenge highlighted a few measures the program has had success with: triple-pane windows, gasketed AC covers, HPWH installation guidelines, and electric resistance to heat pump conversions. Mr. Lenge shared that the Companies plan to conduct direct outreach for the program. Eversource will participate in a roundtable with DOE for its initiative “Partnership for Advanced Window Solutions (PAWS) on June 17. The Companies will be hosting landlord roundtables aimed to understand participation barriers on June 15 and June 17.

Mr. Richard Faesy asked how the proposed ARPA and other affordable housing funds coming to CT could be used to support the MF initiative? Mr. Ron Araujo stated that they expect there will be some coordination with DEEP but do not have enough details at this time.

Ms. Amy McLean asked for the link to the landlord roundtable and whether there were incentives for landlords to participate in it. Mr. Lenge indicated that participants receive a \$50 Amazon gift card. Ms. McLean asked for an invite or one-pager so stakeholders can share with their networks. Mr. Araujo stated that they can share the invite for distribution. Ms. McLean suggested the Executive Secretary, Emily Rice, indicated could distribute to the Residential Committee list. Mr. Michael Li stated that the goal of the roundtable is input and suggested caution at casting a wide net as it could yield a high cost for little insight.

b. Opportunities for Heat Pump Adoption

Mr. Lenge provided an overview of a pilot for Heat Pump Adoption and the slides are at the end of the presentation for the Multifamily Deep Dive.

10. Secondary Metrics – Consultants & Companies

Mr. Richard Faesy shared a presentation on the Secondary Metrics created by the Consultants. The Consultants have been working with the Companies to put together secondary metrics. Secondary metrics aim to encourage the Companies to focus on key areas and meet established and negotiated goals and objectives. The metrics Mr. Faesy provided are the same that the Consultants shared in previous months with the addition of three columns which are the themes for the upcoming Three-Year Plan: equity, decarbonization, and deeper savings/comprehensiveness. A penalty metric has been in place, but it may not be needed going

forward given the track record. Mr. Faesy's presentation includes current recommendations for secondary metrics, but Mr. Faesy indicated that this is a work in progress and the Consultants and Companies are open to discussion and feedback. A copy of the presentation can be found in the materials folder.

11. Agenda items for future Residential Committee meetings – Consultants

- a. 2022-2024 Plan
- b. Secondary Metrics/ Performance Management Incentives
- c. Weatherization/Health & Safety Barriers Remediation Plans
- d. The Integration of Solar and CL&M Programs
- e. Low Income Deep Dive
- f. Equity Metric Performance (Q2 report or later)

12. Public Comments

Ms. Leticia Colon de Mejias asked for clarification on the health and safety barriers because contractors have received conflicting messaging, referring to a notice sent out. Mr. Ron Araujo added that the Companies have updated their safety guidelines but DEEP hasn't and added that the notice indicated that if any state, local, or customer requirements are more stringent than the Company's guidelines, the contractors are responsible for following the more stringent guidelines. Given that, contractors should continue to follow DEEP guidelines because they are more stringent. Mr. Michael Li agreed that was a correct interpretation.

13. Adjourn

Ms. Amy McLean motioned to adjourn, seconded and the meeting was adjourned.