

EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Minutes

1. Welcome – Melissa Kops
 - a. Roll Call of Committee Members

Board Members: John Viglione, Kathy Fay, Melissa Kops, Hammad Chaudhry, Larry Rush, Karraine Moody, Shubhada Kambli
Board Consultants: Emily Rice, Stacy Sherwood, Richard Faesy, Baharah Van Boekhold
 - b. Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. Melissa Kops reviewed the [Meeting Procedures](#).
2. Approve February Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Kathy Fay moved to approve the February Minutes and Ms. Shubhada Kambli seconded the motion. The motion passed and minutes were approved 4-0.
3. Public Comments

Tim Fico and Ralph Fico, Duct Diagnostics, shared that the Aroseal incentives are putting them out of business because customers can get the service for free through the HES/HES-IE programs. Mr. Fico asked the Committee to get rid of including advanced duct sealing in the incentive program to make it equitable to everyone in the business. Mr. Fico shared that Duct Diagnostics employs 22 people and those jobs are at risk. Ms. Kops indicated the Board has heard Mr. Fico's concerns and is working on addressing them.
4. DEEP Updates

Ms. Shubhada Kambli introduced [Ben McMillan](#), who will be the main contact for DEEP's Conservation and Load Management efforts going forward.

 - a. 2023 Plan Update Approval

DEEP is working on the approval but does not have an update for the release.
 - b. Residential Energy Preparation Service (REPS)

Ms. Becca Trietch indicated that referrals are coming in through ICAST and the program is up and running.

Ms. Kathy Fay asked for clarification on the qualifications for participation, specifically whether the program only accepts owner-occupied and/or single unit homes. **Ms. Trietch indicated that she will need to follow up.**

Ms. Melissa Kops asked who is determining eligibility for the program. Ms. Trietch said that DEEP is working with the Companies and iCAST to shape program rules, but ultimately DEEP has final say. Ms. Trietch said the goal is to make the program as equitable as possible and is reaching underserved

customers.

Ms. Gannon Long asked whether program data (location, type of home, number of projects, etc.) will be shared publicly. Ms. Trietch said there will be an annual report to the legislature. Ms. Fay said she would like to get reporting quarterly and Ms. Trietch said DEEP planned to provide verbal updates but can work on a more formal format.

Ms. Long asked when multifamily homes will be included? Ms. Trietch said she will need to follow up.

Ms. Kops asked if DEEP has worked through the kinks identified during the program pilot. Ms. Trietch said that DEEP has worked out many, but further tweaks will be needed as the program proceeds to improve it.

c. Federal Funding Coordination Update

Ms. Trietch provided an update on the [Inflation Reduction Act Funding](#) coordination efforts, specifically the following:

- i. WAP, HES-IE & IRA Coordination (including new RFP issued for written comment)
- ii. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) WAP Multifamily Funding
- iii. Customer and Program Eligibility Efforts
- iv. Green Storm Meeting
- v. CTAC Meeting Preview

The presentation includes a summary of building-specific federal funding opportunities, focused programs for funding and timelines, information on how funding can be stacked with other funding sources, and a general timeline and workplan to braid, document, and optimize funding.

DEEP is coordinating with Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs), Connecticut Green Bank, EEB and is working internally to determine how best to use the funds. Ms. Trietch shared steps that DEEP has taken and will take (slide 6) as well as DEEP-led workstreams and forums for on-going discussion (slide 7). DEEP will discuss challenges and brainstorm at the next CTAC meeting on March 29. Individuals or groups are encouraged to reach out to DEEP with their ideas.

Questions and comments should be directed to [Becca Trietch](#).

Ms. Trietch shared that DEEP is investigating barriers for both customer and contractor participation in the programs.

Ms. Bahareh Van Boekhold asked how the [Justice40](#) requirements will be met. Ms. Trietch indicated that the Justice40 requirements do apply and explained the requirements DEEP is aware of but noted that further details need to be worked out pending federal direction.

Ms. Kops asked if there's a way to ensure the federal funding is prioritized. Ms. Trietch said that DEEP's priority is to use 100% of the funding. Funds need to be expended by 2031 but the multifamily weatherization funds will be used across a four-year timeline.

Ms. Gannon Long asked what GreenStorm is? Ms. Trietch explained that GreenStorm has a broader focus than WAP as it includes renewables and other funding outside of energy-related funding.

Mr. Mike Uhl asked if GreenStorm is going to work with the public during planning? Will they respond to questions publicly and how will those responses be shared? Ms. Trietch shared that updates and discussions will be found in CTAC and Res meeting minutes so DEEP can leverage existing structures.

Ms. Long asked what are the different income guidelines for WAP? When is it 60% SMI and when is it 80% AMI? Ms. Trietch will have to follow up on this.

Mr. Bernie Pelletier suggested that CT perform evaluation and site visit work in one step like MASS and RI.

Mr. Mike Uhl asked whether DEEP's review of WAP vs HESIE projects match the feedback received through CTAC members? Ms. Trietch said DEEP is committed to take input from everyone.

DEEP's next steps are summarized on slide 17. Ms. Kops commended DEEP on the progress so far and observed that DEEP has been creating a framework that will serve as a starting point for public engagement.

5. Company Program Updates

a. Hancock MINT Mobile Tool/eTrack+ Status

Ms. Amy McLean, Avangrid, indicated the rollout has been scheduled in phases, prioritizing HES/HES-IE. The eTrack+ program closed on schedule and vendors have been invoiced monthly since January. Integration between Hancock and eTrack+ is working well. eTrack+ is releasing automated lead approval/rejection emails. Program savings are still being tested, but expect to be released by the end of the month.

A customer report regarding Hancock has been released, but the Companies are still working on the Department of Energy Home Energy Score release. The customer report for past customers prior to March 8th do not have a report yet, but the Companies are working on an IT process to migrate the data. More recent customer reports can be downloaded and sent to the customer and are available on the Hancock cloud. Mr. Mike Uhl shared that some customers are not able to access their reports and asked when customers can receive their full report. Mr. John Karyczak and Mr. Uhl will connect offline, Ms. Rice can make the virtual introduction.

b. HES & HES-IE Program Plans

The Companies provided an [update on HES/HES-IE](#). Ms. McLean shared information (location, audience, dates) on the upcoming Insulation Boot Camp training (page 3) for HES/HES-IE lead technicians and third-party inspectors (one-day training) as well as installers (four-day in person training). Training dates and location can be found on slide 3.

Ms. Kops asked for more information on the format of the training and whether training is required. Ms. Del Rosso said there will be a one-day

mandatory training. The second four-day training is also mandatory for installers, field managers, and team leads with insulation contractors.

Ms. Kops asked if there would be compensation for training (there is not) and whether there is a way to get funding to provide a stipend to contractors given the time requirement. Ms. McLean noted that this is a question for the Board. Ms. Del Rosso added that attendees will earn CEUs, which is required, and the training provides lunch. Mr. Faesy suggested exploring workforce development funds, and will follow up off line.

The presentation also included feedback received during the program participation roundtable as well as proposed changes and next steps (pages 4-8). A Principals Meeting will be held March 22.

Mr. Uhl asked whether homes that received courtesy air sealing but never received a blower door test will still receive a full visit with a blower door test. Ms. Diane Del Rosso said that if a home did not receive a blower door test because of a barrier, that barrier would need to be remediated in order to receive a blower door test. If a home was able to remediate barriers, and did not receive courtesy air sealing, they will receive a full site visit with blower door test and will not have to wait 6 years.

Ms. Fay remarked that blower door tests should be performed after windows are installed and Ms. Del Rosso said she would bring that to the team.

Mr. Bernie Pelletier suggested that if the period a customer can receive a return visit is extending from three to six years, that the incentives should also be extended to six years. Ms. Del Rosso explained that the Companies are working on designing a path for these customers.

Mr. Glenn Reed asked if blower door testing was being addressed in the training mentioned above. Ms. Diane Del Rosso said it would be.

6. Residential New Construction (RNC) Program

a. RNC All-Electric Program Plans for July 1

[Mr. Nick Jones](#), Eversource, provided a presentation on the [RNC All-Electric Program](#). Mr. Jones discussed electrification efforts and areas that the All-Electric program is focusing on (slides 4-5). Ms. Alysse Rodriguez outlined training efforts around electrification and Passive House, shared training participation metrics, and announced upcoming trainings. A summary of the different types of trainings that are offered can be found on slide 8.

Ms. Rodriguez shared details on all-electric and passive house incentives (slides 12-17). Regarding slide 15, Ms. Kops asked whether Tier One required a balanced mechanical system in addition to the ventilation requirements. Mr. Jones indicated that the term “balanced” is intended to encourage buildings to look at balanced systems, but that the ventilation and International Energy Code Conservation (IECC) route is acceptable.

Mr. Jones provided trends in the all-electric program participation and discussed considerations for the program (19-24). Mr. Jones shared a comprehensive [sell sheet for all-electric residential opportunities](#). Mr. Faesy

suggested this be provided on the Energize CT Website and Mr. Jones indicated he would make this request.

Ms. Fay asked for the training portion of the recording so she can share with contractors. Ms. Rice will follow up.

Mr. Glenn Reed asked if participation in the all-electric program going to allow a builder to get the first \$2,500 tax credit. Mr. Jones explained that if they meet Tier 1, yes, but explained there are now two tracks. In EnergyStar 3.1 the HVAC certification requirements were eased. Mr. Jones noted that he would have to investigate whether the certification is necessary for Track 2.

b. Habitat for Humanity RNC Case Study

Mr. Kris McKelvie provided an overview of Habitat for Humanity's (HH) all-electric program, a summary of energy efficiency features in HH homes, performance data, benefits and challenges, and lessons learned. ([Slides 26-40](#)).

7. Future Agenda Topics – Consultants

Mr. Richard Faesy provide an outline of [agenda topics for April and May](#).

Mr. Pelletier requested a report from the Companies on Clean Energy Community data next month.

8. Public Comments

Mr. David Wright wanted more information on the Passive House training, and those details were shared with him in the meeting chat.

Mr. Tim Fabuien shared that EnergyStar considers Connecticut a “shining star” in terms of air sealing and that many other utilities are looking to Connecticut as a model. Mr. Fabuien attended a meeting last week and shared some metrics on the growth in number of customers receiving air sealing through the C&LM program.

Mr. Tim Fico, Duct Diagnostics, said that his company is being impacted negatively by the Aeroseal rebate and finds it unethical. Mr. Fico has contacted the Board and is looking for closure regarding his concerns. Mr. Fico asked if he was communicating through the right channels. Ms. Kops said she believes he is working through the right channels. Mr. Fico asked for a timeline and Ms. Kops indicated the Board is working on it.

9. Adjourn

Ms. Kops motioned to adjourn and Ms. Fay seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned.