



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (Webinar Only)

Meeting Materials: <https://app.box.com/s/9agmiwuyqv5fjlrhu03vng6sh1z791s>

1. Welcome – Amy McLean
 - a. Roll Call – Board Members – Brenda Watson, Amy McLean, Donna Wells, Mike Li, Joel Kopylec, Ron Araujo
Other Attendees - Starley Arias, Devan Willemsen, Emily Rice, Glenn Reed, Guy West Joe Buonannata, Lawrence Rush, Leticia Colon De Mejias, M. Uhl, Madeline Priest, Michael Li, Richard Faesy, Stephen Cowell, Violette Radomski, Art St. Armand Claire Sickinger, Damaris Velez, Dana D'souza, Diane Keefe, Diane Del Rosso, Jerry Graham, John Karyczak, Joseph Roy, Kate Donatelli, Michael Cresta, Michelle Long, Patrice Gillespie, Rose Croog, Shubha Jaishankar, Stephanie Weiner Tammy Wilson, Tasha Perreault, Tim Fabuien, Vivian Perez
 - b. Meeting procedures and process update were discussed by Ms. McLean.
2. Approve 1/13/2021 & 2/10/2021 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes
 - a. Ms. Watson motioned to approve. Ms. McLean seconded motion; six approved and motion passed.
3. Public Input/Comments
 - a. Mr. Cowell commended group on their work and indicated a flyer was produced describing barriers in health and safety as they relate to low-income consumers. The flyer has been added to the materials folder (link above).
 - b. Mr. Buonannata discussed EGB is launching a low-interest financing offer on Monday, March 15th. Contractors should receive notification, but may contact EGB for more information. Slides were shared that summarized the offer; including eligible projects and financing details. Special offer is fund-limited and will be available through the spring. Market and contractors will be notified two weeks before program ends. If there's a backlog those will be complete. In regards extending the loan term to six months to a year Mr. Buonannata indicated this will depend on volume and funding. This program is federally funded and 1.3 million is available for participants; more funding may become available later in the year. Mr. Buonannata anticipates that 1,000 projects will be funded but that will vary. Qualification include 580 minimum credit score is required and 50% debt-to-income maximum. Contact the EBG with questions or visit the website at EnergizeCT.com/smarte.
4. Legislative Update – Amy McLean & DEEP
 - a. Mr. Li provided an update regarding hearings for EE-related bills so far this session: (1) “stretch energy code” HB6572 gives municipalities the ability to exceed building code by 10% for buildings 40,000 SQFT or above, (2) “climate mitigation” SB882 requires disclosure of home energy label at the time of disclosure or rent.

Ms. McLean added a few other energy-related bills are in front of the legislature: (1) EV Rebate Bill, (2) EV Sales-in-State Bill.

- b. Mr. Reed notified attendees there is a Public Input Session today, March 10 at 12:30PM. The session seeks comment for the development of the 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan. Ms. Rice noted that a link to the Box.com folder would be added to the comments. Those wishing to speak should notify the Executive Secretary and provide materials in advance.
- 5. 2021 Plan DEEP Conditions of Approval Updates (due 3/1 and 4/1) – DEEP
Ms. Wells provided a presentation on the compliance conditions for the 2021 Plan Update. A copy of the presentation can be found in the materials folder. A tentative determination was provided on January 29, 2021, after written input and several conditions were modified DEEP provided a final determination of approval, with conditions, March 4, 2021.
- 6. Community Engagement Plan Update – Companies
Ms. Violette Radomski with Eversource introduced Devan Willemsen, Marketing Specialist focused on Community Engagement, to provide the update. Ms. Willemsen provided a PowerPoint, which has been added to the materials folder. Eversource continues to meet with stakeholders like Clean Water Action, CT Energy Network, PACE, and Sustainable CT. There is an upcoming roundtable meeting on March 19th. Ms. Willemsen announced the Round 1 Application Status will be released, tentatively, mid-to-late April.

Ms. McLean inquired about the March 19th roundtable, asking whether there is a way to get an invitation. Ms. Willemsen informed the group that the roundtable was already curated before she onboarded February 16th. Ms. Radomski indicated the roundtable was scheduled in response to individual requests and questions Eversource received December 2020. Ms. McLean requested an invite and noted Ms. Watson didn't receive one. Ms. Radomski said she would follow-up.

- 7. Weatherization Barriers Resources Coordination – DEEP/Consultants
 - a. LIHEAP/LIEAB Planning Progress & Workshop #3 Plans – DEEP
Mr. Li provided update DEEP is planning to submit a proposal for a program that will address weatherization barriers towards the end of March. DEEP is still in discussions with various entities working through details of the proposal. The LIHEAP subcommittee will have an opportunity to discuss the proposal and, depending on reception, vote on it.

Ms. McLean acknowledged that a lot of work has been done by DEEP, DSS and those involved. This work will help address issues that have been inhibited by limited resources, legislative or otherwise.
 - b. E4TheFuture Weatherization Barrier Efforts – Consultants
Mr. Faesy provided a presentation, a copy of which is in the materials folder, on high-level areas of the workplan. A Stakeholder Advisory Group will be established to provide input; and Consultants will work with DEEP to support previous workshops. Consultants are looking at surrounding states to learn about funding, approach, and inform path in Connecticut. Looking in the state, Consultants have created a database of existing resources like qualified contractors, programs which will inform needs going-forward. Consultants plan to review findings and develop program design elements which will be presented to the DEEP Working Group and Advisory Group.

A question in the chat regarding Ms. Ellen Tohn's involvement and whether that would lead to the use of a program like OneTouch. Mr. Faesy indicated that the group has no plans to use OneTouch. Ms. McLean stated she has worked with Ms. Tohn for almost 25 years and that her capacity will be to facilitate the process and will be strictly advisory. Ms. Tohn has worked in Connecticut for a long time and Ms. McLean believes the group is lucky to have Ms. Tohn's involvement and expertise.

Mr. Faesy indicated the Advisory Group has not been established; if anyone is interested please reach out to Mr. Faesy or Mr. Cowell. Ms. McLean stated that the function of the Advisory Group is to check the design elements and help figure out the best way to put a structure in place.

8. 2022-2024 Plan Focus Areas – Consultants and Companies

Mr. Faesy provided a PowerPoint presentation, which has been added to the materials folder. Mr. Faesy welcomes ideas and suggestions on the 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan; Consultants will be discussing this in subsequent meetings. Mr. Faesy presentation covered planned 2021 lifetime savings by fuel and by program, the cost of each program as it relates to savings for each program, and anticipated participation by program. Mr. Araujo with Eversource covered considerations for the next Three-Year Plan; including discontinuing incentives for lighting via retailers and direct installs, expanding high efficiency heating equipment incentives, and reducing delivered fuel incentives. Mr. Araujo and Mr. Rush discussed key focus areas for the next Three-Year Plan including weatherization, equity, strategic electrification, codes/standards and appliances, and demand response. Mr. Araujo noted that other key focus areas including financing, co-delivery, workforce development, and community engagement will be discussed at a future date. Mr. Faesy shared that co-delivery and financing opportunities will be developed in collaboration with CT Green Bank and other partners. Workforce Development will be a June EEB meeting topic.

Ms. Keef asked whether demand response is already offered as part of a HES audit. Mr. Araujo explained that to a certain degree, there is a demand response component, usually in conjunction with a specific technology. Mr. Araujo acknowledged that leave-behind marketing collateral could be improved. Mr. Rush indicated that certain measures, like thermostats, are tied to DR programs.

Attendee asked: How will utility programs handle fuel switching as part of electrification goals? Ms. McLean added that customers have limitations based on existing fuel. Mr. Rush noted that this is an area the utilities are seeking more guidance on; that they remain focused on the best business case for customers. Mr. Araujo added that certain technologies like heat pumps present opportunities. Mr. Rush discussed cost-effectiveness can be a barrier for certain measures.

Mr. Faesy stated that the Companies and Consultants are looking for input and welcome feedback, - what should they be considering, etc. Ms. McLean reiterated the Public Input Sessions a forum for this feedback.

9. CTAC & Workforce Update – DEEP

Mr. Starley Arias provided an update. The Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy is working with the Governor's Workforce Council to address workforce demand in the energy sector. Given interest, they are changing CTAC meeting structure which will help garner more feedback from contractors, vendors, and program administrators. March 2nd kicked off an evaluation of the last CL&M Plan and Workforce Education engagement initiatives. A final report is expected in June or July of 2021.

Ms. McLean stated that past conversations have highlighted the need to expand focus on the clean energy sector, beyond energy efficiency, and that's being done by CTAC. Ms. Watson asked if the home energy raters group, which has only one staff member in training, is on CTAC radar. Mr. Arias responded that CTAC's efforts are quite broad at the moment. Given there are so many workforce development plans and programs, they are working to eliminate redundancy. They will be taking a look at training, - he will follow up with whether they are connecting with the Northeast Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Alliance group.

Ms. McLean asked which programs have home energy scoring requirements like HERS. Mr. Araujo answered New Construction. Ms. Colon de Mejias asked if the state/utilities were going to move in another direction for testing requirements; a shift from BPI to HERS would impact many businesses like hers. Mr. Araujo noted that HERS has been used for years in the New Construction program and it's a regional standard. There are no plans to change from that.

10. Public Comments

None.

11. Agenda items for future Residential Committee meetings

Mr. Faesy added the performance management incentives will be discussed in a future meeting. This is performance-based compensation that relates to certain programs.

An attendee suggested EE Solar Connection should be added and workforce development should be discussed consistently each meeting. Ms. Colon de Mejias added that both of these topics are connected and there's many questions on tariffs, how the grants are changing, - so this would be a great topic for future discussions with this group.

Ms. McLean stated that the group will be discussing the following in more detail in the future. The group should plan to set ambitious goals that are based in reality.

- a. 2022-2024 Plan Focus Areas
- b. Weatherization Barriers Resources Coordination
- c. Community Engagement
- d. Strategic Electrification/Next Generation Energy Efficiency Direction

12. Adjourn

Ms. McLean asked for clarification on the Public Input Session at 12:30PM later today and information was shared in the comment session. motioned to adjourn and seconded. And the meeting was adjourned.