



MINUTES

Joint Committee of the CT Energy Efficiency Board and the Connecticut Green Bank Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 29, 2022
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, all participants joined via the conference call.

In Attendance

Voting Members: Lonnie Reed, John Viglione, Brenda Watson

Non-Voting Members: Stephen Bruno, Ron Araujo, Joel Kopylec, and Bryan Garcia,

Members Absent: Victoria Hackett (DEEP), John Harrity, Claire Sickinger, Donna Wells; Bert Hunter (Non-Voting)

Others: Giulia Bambara, Hammad Chaudry, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Julie Datres, Kate Donatelli, Richard Faesy, Brian Farnen, Melanie Franco, Isabelle Hazelwood, Ricky Jordan, Anne-Marie Knight, George Lawrence, Cheryl Lumpkin, Ralph M, Tiffany Murphy, Madeline Priest, Larry Rush, Ariel Schneider, Stacy Sherwood, Mike Weissmann, and Devan Willemssen

Unnamed Callers: 02, 04

1. Call to Order

- Brenda Watson called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

2. Public Comments

- At the end of the meeting, Leticia Colon de Mejias asked about the Green Bank's mission or efforts to ensure reliability in energy efficiency programs which employ people of color are stabilized and continue to run without stop-starts, as was indicated in Ned Lamont's energy transition including the two points of consensus: 1) to stop diverting funds and to expand programs, and 2) to return the \$176 million in diverted resources. She asked if the Green Bank's mission or vision could include a program to ensure that working families are not turned away from energy saving services.
 - Bryan Garcia responded that the Green Bank focuses on public policy to "foster the sustained orderly development of local..." He sympathized about the difficult stop-start nature of some programs, including HES and HES-IE, and said he is happy to discuss it more offline. He noted that the Green Bank and EDCs should try to design programs with a sustained orderly development mindset and is happy to provide advice on how to do so. Leticia Colon de Mejias commented that the Joint Committee would consider the impact on the market rate on residential ratepayers through taxes on their energy bills and hopes that the

issues facing the EEB Residential Committee could be brought to the Joint Committee and hopes to get a more thorough response before the budget runs out.

3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the March 23, 2022 meeting.

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 23, 2022.

Upon a motion made by Brenda Watson and seconded by John Viglione, the Joint Committee voted to approve Resolution 1. None opposed or abstained. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Energy Jobs Report – Report Out and Next Steps

- Bryan Garcia summarized some key highlights and comparisons from the US and CT Energy Jobs Reports. He noted that he will include versions of the report in the materials following the meeting.
 - Brenda Watson commented that she thinks the Unions are one of the pathways that could promote more diversity within the workforce.

5. Opportunities and Challenges

- a. Shared Clean Energy Facilities – Potential Opportunity for Additional Energy Efficiency
 - Bryan Garcia provided some background information about Connecticut’s SCEF policy and other public policies regarding energy, affordable housing, and vulnerable communities.
 - Isabelle Hazelwood from Eversource summarized the SCEF Program Model, which is similar to Community Solar and is structured around the energy company to manage. Each customer in the program will receive a bill credit based on their average monthly electricity consumption for up to 20 years. She reviewed the customer enrollment requirements and process and eligibility and subscription allocation.
 - Bryan Garcia noted that PURA requested that the Green Bank, in collaboration with the EDCs and others, redline the program manual.
 - Isabelle Hazelwood noted the enrollment process is still being finalized and so some documents are being submitted to PURA for approval in order to determine how to incorporate grid-tied energy systems and reduce customer’s energy burden further. Bryan Garcia elaborated more on the SCEF Subscriber Savings Value theoretical calculation of how to increase the savings. He summarized a concept to raise capital for upfront incentives especially for weatherization and vulnerable communities and some examples or further improvements that a customer could use those savings for.
 - Bryan Garcia reviewed some ideas for consideration and the group discussed potential ideas.
 - Brenda Watson asked how the program would affect renter versus tenant relationship and how to overcome that barrier. Bryan Garcia responded in the case of SCEF, it is a lottery system and then noted a couple possible solutions and alternatives. Isabelle Hazelwood also commented about how the SCEF

credit could be considered and applied. Bryan Garcia commented that these ideas could be communicated to PURA as well.

- Brenda Watson asked for more information about the potential of increased demand for energy efficiency programs putting strain on the C&LM budget. Ron Araujo commented that it may also depend on how many customers would come through for the upgrades but given what he's seen for the level of participation for other programs, he doesn't see that part as an issue. However, he does have concerns for the challenges for serving rental properties properly. Brenda Watson commented that it may be worth it to actually poll the customers to get their direct feedback and data.
- Brenda Watson asked how the SCEF benefit will appear on the bills for clarity. Isabelle Hazelwood responded yes, there will be a written explanation about the credit on customer bills.
- Stephen Bruno asked if there are other measures that may need to be considered. Bryan Garcia responded that to the extent that the broader policy objective to benefit a given participant, the Green Bank would look to the C&LM, EDCs, and DEEP to design options for customers that made sense to achieve the policy objectives.
- Stephen Bruno asked about how SCEF proceeds would be directed, and Bryan Garcia responded that the economic benefits could not be directed to other options, since the customer has expressed their desire to be awarded those benefits.
- Lonnie Reed commented that she thinks the program needs a Community Outreach element with friendly ambassadors to thoroughly explain the program to customers.
- Brenda Watson asked if arrearages could be included as a benefit to customers to lower their energy bill directly. Bryan Garcia responded there is a possibility, but the details would have to be worked out by DEEP, EDCs, and others in order to best meet policy objectives.
- Bryan Garcia, Stephen Bruno, and John Viglione discussed the possibility of applying the subscriber benefits to another program, such as the Heat Loan, for example.
- Bryan Garcia commented that he could set something up to take the feedback and doing a Joint Committee memo that would be submitted to PURA as part of the docket, since the manual would be redlined anyway, but to communicate the things PURA should consider side from the technical details.
- Brenda Watson asked what else from members here would be helpful to include, and Bryan Garcia responded that the discussion today was itself very helpful, but a forum to work out other details would be as well. The group discussed other ideas and requirements prior to submitting to PURA, including involving the voices of the recently assembled Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

6. Plans for the 2022 Legislative Session

- Brian Farnen gave an update to the 2022 Legislative Session, summarizing several items related to C-PACE, the Clean Energy Tariffs, the Zero-Carbon Electric Sector, the Hydrogen Task Force, EDC Storage and Reliability, and the CT Clean Air Act. Bryan Garcia elaborated on the Hydrogen Task Force which is launching on July 12, 2022 as well as the CT Clean Air Act especially in relation to electric school buses, since a portion of RGGI proceeds to the Green Bank will be directed to support electric school buses in environmental justice communities.

7. Plan Coordination

a. Input to FY 2023 Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Plan

- Bryan Garcia summarized the Green Bank's recently progress, which includes the Board of Directors recently approving the Green Bank budget for FY 2023. He reviewed some of the targets for Incentive Programs, Financial Programs, and Investments. He reviewed the progress to incorporating the Environmental Infrastructure mission expansion. He noted in July there will a draft Comprehensive Plan presented to the Green Bank Board.

b. Input to 2022-2024 Conservation and Load Management Plan

- Stacy Sherwood from the Energy Futures Group introduced herself and summarized the Energy Efficiency Board updates, which includes a vacant Board position, onboarding of two new members, and the start of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Consultant which began in June. She reviewed the 2022-2024 Plan priorities and goals, and the review and approval progress, including that the Plan was approved by DEEP on June 1, 2022. She reviewed the 2022-2024 Plan timeline and coordination efforts with the Green Bank.
 - Stacy Sherwood asked for feedback as to how to continue to improve the ways in which the EDCs can coordinate with the Green Bank and ideas for financing opportunities which could be explored. Bryan Garcia responded that some policies and programs are administered or co-administered by the EDCs and the Green Bank has been the lead advocate to require energy efficiency within the programs. He summarized some of the other efforts made and noted the Green Bank's goal in those coordinating efforts. Stacy Sherwood noted they could also evaluate how research opportunities are helping reach C&LM goals, especially financing programs for small business.

8. Other Business

- Madeline Priest summarized the upcoming Smart-E Loan Special Offer for the summer, launching July 1, 2022.
 - Ron Araujo asked about other technologies and if those would be covered by the Smart-E Loan. Madeline Priest answered yes, they are though they are currently not very popular.
- Stephen Bruno noted the Green Bank and Amalgamated Bank loan for SBEA has been extended to the end of 2024 and they are examining EV Charging Stations and battery storage financing to be included as a request to DEEP.
- Brenda Watson summarized Bridgeport's Phoenix Rising program being recently accepted into the Communities LEAP program to develop locally based solutions to drive down energy burden and make the community greener.

9. Adjourn

Upon a motion made by Brenda Watson, the Joint Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Watson, Chairperson