



MINUTES

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

Wednesday, December 16, 2020
1:30-3:30 p.m.

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

In Attendance

Voting Members: Eric Brown, John Harrity, Michael Li

Non-Voting Members: Stephen Bruno, Bryan Garcia, Linda King,

Members Absent: John Viglione, Brenda Watson, Donna Wells

Others: Ron Araujo, Joe Buonannata, Sergio Carrillo, Gentiana Darragjati, Kate Donatelli, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Brian Farnen, Joel Kopylec, George Lawrence, Liz Murphy, Madeline Priest, Lonnie Reed, Lawrence Rush, Cheryl Samuels, Ariel Schneider, Claire Sickinger, Kim Stevenson

Unnamed Callers: 04, 05, 06, "Giulia"

1. Call to Order

Eric Brown called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

2. Public Comments

No public comments.

3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting.

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for September 16, 2020.

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

4. 2021 Regular Schedule of Meetings

- Bryan Garcia said the schedule mimicked the schedule in 2020 as closely as possible and tried to align with legislative sessions, the Comprehensive Plan, etc.

Resolution #2

Motion to approve the 2021 Regular Schedule of Meetings.

Upon a motion made by John Harrity and seconded by Michael Li, the Joint Committee voted to approve Resolution 2. None abstained or opposed. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Energy Jobs Report – Report Out and Next Steps

- Bryan Garcia summarized the history and status of the Jobs Report in collaboration with BW Research. The US Climate Alliance released its report just last week and it included the data from the Jobs Report in their section on Connecticut. There was a successful webinar press release on November 10, 2020 with 51 attendees and had substantial media coverage.
- Bryan Garcia has begun to set initial meetings with BW Research and others on continuing the report into 2021. He said the hope is that with the incoming Biden-administration would support the national collection of clean energy jobs information by state. If this were to occur, then there should be a drop in the budget expenses to produce the report for Connecticut as the federal administration releases funds to support it which were not previously released.
 - John Harrity commented that he is happy with the report as it heavily promotes both job creation and green energy.

6. Plan Coordination

a. Input to FY 2021 Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Plan

- Bryan Garcia explained the basic timeline of the Green Bank's Comprehensive Plan including upcoming meetings and potential proposed changes. There is a focus on equity and vulnerable communities and involving those definitions within the plan as well as setting an equity target of no less than 40% of investment from incentive and financing programs by 2025. Any adjustments to the Comprehensive Plan would require support from the Budget, Operations, and Compensation Committee and approval by the Board of Directors.
- Bryan Garcia reviewed the Green Bank's FY 2021 drafted targets. The Green Bank is currently ahead of where was estimated due to COVID-19, and thus is asking staff to review and revise the upper end of targets to account for the current position.
- Bryan Garcia noted that Bond Buyers has awarded the Green Bank's Green Liberty Bonds both the Innovative Bond of the Year award and nomination for the Deal of the Year award, which Bert Hunter will be presenting during their online conference.
 - John Harrity commented that there was a certain amount of risk involved with putting together the bond program, but it is amazing to see that it has panned out so successfully. He said he never anticipated it would ever do so well and it shows the desire of the public to support green efforts.

b. 2022-2024 Conservation and Loan Management Plan Progress

- Glenn Reed briefly noted that the 2019-2021 Plan, which has been filed, is currently awaiting approval. As for the 2022-2024 Plan, the priorities have been largely intact from

the 2019-2021 plan. The C&LM Plan Board will be reviewing new definitions and values to include as well, which Glenn Reed reviewed.

- Glenn Reed summarized the 2022-2024 C&LM Plan Board schedule. He highlighted some of the programs that are linked to State statutes which the C&LM Plan aims to achieve. This includes programs that benefit low-income people, indoor air quality programs, joint fuel conservation, public education, and others. He also reviewed some data from 2021 which shows that C&I lifetime energy savings are nearly evenly matched to those coming from the Residential sector between electric, gas, and delivered fuels, and that nearly 73% of the Demand Savings are coming from C&I.
 - Bryan Garcia commented that, working with Glenn Reed, CGB and C&LMP teams would be meeting in January 2021 to dive deeper and work more closely going forward.
 - John Harrity commented that he hoped the issue of equity would also be addressed within workforce opportunities.

7. Plans for the 2021 Legislative Session

- Bryan Garcia summarized the CGB's legislative priorities which includes expanding the scope of the Green Bank via environmental infrastructure, supporting the local solar industry in requesting an extension of the Residential Solar PV program by 100 MW as a bridge to tariffs, expansion of C-PACE programs, and clarifying the Class I tax exemption to resolve confusion on third-party owned residential solar. Brian Farnen noted that it has been a long process to navigate with the few towns who are pushing back on the longstanding property tax exemption for residential solar but we are trying to maintain flexibility through the litigation process to reach a settlement.
 - Ron Araujo commented that the increase to the RSIP program would be welcome by Home Energy Solutions contractors.
 - Michael Li asked in relation to the Class I tax exemption is for all Class I resources or just for residential solar. Brian Farnen clarified that it is for all systems for on-site residential use.
 - Michael Li also asked about the solar fields and how the tax exemption may apply. Brian Farnen clarified that if the solar fields are selling the energy for commercial purposes and not intended principally for onsite consumption, then it would not be covered, but he would need more specific information to be clear. In the end, the bottom line is that budgets are tight due to COVID-19 and this issue only seems to be raised because of that.
 - Stephen Bruno asked if there are any concerns about a potential budget sweep. Brian Farnen said he believes the Green Bank and C&LM Fund should be fine for this next session, but everyone needs to be vigilant, work together and on the same page about protecting each other's interests and capabilities.

8. Other Business

a. Brief Update: C&I – Government

- Stephen Bruno gave an update about the Small Business Energy Advantage program. The loan size was expanded for state and municipal governments for both Eversource and United Illuminating. He also reviewed the State and Municipal loans recapped in 2020, which covers approximately 67 projects and \$1,700,000. As of 2018, 433 projects and \$9,100,000 have been resold/recapped.

b. Brief Update: C&I – Small and Medium/Large Business

- Liz Murphy summarized the COVID-19 mitigation strategy which includes an enhanced incentive structure. Incentive levels have been increased across the board and a distressed incentive was made available for qualifying customers.
- Liz Murphy reviewed the actions C&I took to continue to deter hardship due to COVID-19. This includes 6-month loan deferments offered to SBEA customers, virtual pre-assessment offerings transitioned fully into the program, SBEA aggregation rules relaxing, and other measures. As well, the Microbusiness Energy Advantage (MBEA) pilot was launched to target the smallest commercial customers.
- Mackey Dykes gave an update about C-PACE, and it is on track to either meet or exceed its FY21 goals. Two initiatives have been launched to push project interest: ChargeUp CT Buildings and flexible repayment offers for C-PACE projects.
- Stephen Bruno gave the United Illuminating and Eversource SBEA Updates. Overall loans are down from 2019 with both companies, however the loan recapitalization process is still going strong. As well, Eversource began offering BEA financing which has a formal roll-out slated for January 2021.

c. Brief Update: Residential – Single Family and Multi-Family

- Ron Araujo summarized the updates for the Single and Multifamily programs. For Single Family homes, HES Incentives change at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The copay has been reduced for market rate customers and incentive levels were increased for insulation. There will also be two tiers of incentives offered for heat pumps. Ron Araujo then explained the HES Incentive changes and Heat Pump Incentive plans in more detail.
- Ron Araujo continued that for Multifamily homes, the program will be similar to 2020 with some changes. He highlighted the enhanced incentives available, to Multifamily systems with electric-resistant heating and cooling systems, to convert to a heat pump system, and the cost that it would take to do the conversion. Ron Araujo also summarized the changes from 2019 and 2020 for the HES Payment Plans and Micro loans which have been expanded to include HES-IE, windows, heat pumps, and other measures.
 - John Harrity asked if there are any efforts to educate customers about air-source heat pumps, as there may not be a lot of knowledge about it. Ron Araujo said there is some educational material in the HES print on demand booklet (“POD”) but it is an area that needs more attention. Michael Li noted that DEEP is very interested in ASHPs.
- Joe Buonannata gave an update on the Smart-E Loans, which has been doing well despite COVID-19. The 2.99% special offer for heat pumps, solar battery storage, and EV chargers launched on July 1, 2020 and is expected to be available through at least Q3 of FY2021. So far, 87 loans have been closed through the special offer. He also mentioned that marketing materials used for the Smart-E 2.99% heat pump special offer include consumer friendly educational content on air source heat pumps published by Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (“NEEP”) in their “SHP Buying Guide.” For PosiGen’s Solar for All campaigns, the two campaigns run in 2020 were successful and there is an expectation that two more will launch in 2021.
- Kim Stevenson gave an update on the Green Bank Multifamily programs. Focus has been on marketing for the ECT Health & Safety Revolving Loan Fund and solar outreach. The team is in process on closing on a small multifamily project which is exciting as it is a difficult market to reach. Other updates include launching of the

new LIME market rate and supporting CHFA and the Dept of Housing Sustainability Work Group.

d. Other Business

- None raised.

9. Adjourn

Upon a motion made by John Harrity and seconded by Michael Li, the Joint Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Brown, Chairperson