



MINUTES

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

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
1:30-3:00 p.m.

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

In Attendance

Voting Members: Eric Brown, John Harrity, Michael Li, Lonnie Reed, Brenda Watson

Non-Voting Members: Stephen Bruno, Bryan Garcia, Bert Hunter, Donna Wells

Members Absent: John Viglione

Others: Ron Araujo, Giulia Bambara, Joe Buonannata, Kate Donatelli, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Philip Jordan, Sarah Lehmann, Liz Murphy, Madeline Priest, Glenn Reed, Sam Ross, Lawrence Rush, Cheryl Samuels, Ariel Schneider, Claire Sickinger, Kim Stevenson, Nicholas Zuba

Unnamed Callers:

1. Call to Order

Eric Brown called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

2. Public Comments

No public comments.

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

Resolution #1

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

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

4. Clean Energy Jobs Report – Review of Statement of Work

- Bryan Garcia introduced Philip Jordan and Sarah Lehmann from BW Research. Sarah Lehmann reviewed the research timeline and findings. The information was compared to the 2015 data, which cumulated to +3700 jobs in 4 years and represented 2.6% of total jobs in 2019 were in clean energy, which equated to 1.2% of all clean energy jobs in the US.
- Sarah Lehmann explained the findings from the monthly research due to the impacts of COVID-19 on clean energy jobs. Currently the clean energy jobs now is about 8% below the 2019 baseline employment. Philip Jordan noted the data was not from the larger scale data collection but is still generally accurate in its reflection and useful in terms of estimates. For 2021, Sarah Lehmann explained that the draft report should be ready by April 23, 2021 and will be similar in its breakdown as compared to the 2020 Report, but with a review of the impact of COVID-19 and comparison to other states in the northeast US. Philip Jordan explained the reason as to why it may be beneficial to include the additional information.
 - Bryan Garcia asked for more context to the fixed costs in relation to the governmental data and then optional costs related to the original analyses. Philip Jordan explained what the various costs for the different data points are as well as options for how to approach the different data sets.
 - Eric Brown asked if there have been any discussions with the Governors Workforce Council, as they may already have some information about work related to clean energy. Bryan Garcia answered that there has not been any contact with that committee, but assuming it is being monitored by the Dept of Labor, he noted that the Green Bank has been working closely with the Dept of Labor so that there may already been some crossover of information in terms of job profiles. Philip Jordan also noted that the utility companies may be developing their own evaluations as well and discussed some other research possibilities in terms of optional analyses.
 - Richard Faesy asked for clarification if Illume started a workforce evaluation study recently with the EEB. He believes it has a focus on workforce development in Connecticut and wanted to highlight that for a potential coordination opportunity.
 - Lonnie Reed asked if there was a resolution in place for the Tesla-Dealership situation in relation to buying cars online. Eric Brown stated he does not believe it has been resolved yet. Bryan Garcia noted it and said it could be flagged as an element in the workforce study as an example of roadblocks that clean energy jobs may face.
 - Bryan Garcia noted that the current plan will be to continue reviewing data, including the new information discussed today, and aim to be prepared to present the draft at the next Joint Committee in June 2021.
 - John Harrity noted in relation to the round table on the Board of Climate and Jobs, they are pushing to make renewable energy jobs as desirable as possible, and hopes those efforts will help support the Green Bank's political momentum in bringing older energy workers into new clean energy jobs, as the training and shift in mentality can be a deterrent to many. Philip Jordan provided some feedback as to research that has been done in response to the points brought up by John Harrity.
 - Ron Araujo asked for more information relation to specific fields and was answered by Philip Jordan.

5. Plan Coordination

a. Input to FY 2022 Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Plan

- Bryan Garcia summarized the progress made at the last Green Bank Board Meeting towards adopting the new vocabulary and establishing new equity targets as well as refinement of FY21 targets and narrative changes. He summarized the move of the Connecticut Green Bank headquarters to Hartford, the BTM tariffs and battery storage development, and recommendation by the Governor to expand the scope of the Connecticut Green Bank from clean energy to include environmental infrastructure.

b. Input to 2022-2024 Conservation and Loan Management Plan Progress

- Glenn Reed gave a summary as to the progress made to the 2019-2021 Plan. Most of the points should remain largely in-tact for the 2022-2024 CL&M Plan.
- Glenn Reed reviewed the initial progress made to the 2022-2024 Plan from November 2020 to March 2021. He reviewed some “likely themes” for the 2022-2024 Plan which are Growth in active demand response, equity, electrification, net-zero energy new construction, impacts of Residential and C&I lighting transitions, workforce development, health & safety barriers, a continued focus on comprehensiveness and deeper savings, and delivered fuel efficiency. None of the themes have been finalized as of yet, however.
- Glenn Reed reviewed the updated slides on Lifetime Electric and Gas Savings from what was presented at the last meeting. He also summarized some possible opportunities for the CL&M Plan and the Green Bank to coordinate together more closely on various programs and focusing on growing the use of financing to support deeper project savings.

6. Update on the 2021 Legislative Session

- Bryan Garcia summarized some of the bills being presented in the current legislative session. John Harranty also noted SB 999 which focused on grid-sized projects paying prevailing wages, as renewable energy projects of certain sizes having community agreements to ensure fair workforce opportunities.
 - Eric Brown asked about SB 6571, how are concerns being addressed in relation to expanding the scope of CPACE at commercial facilities. Mackey Dykes replied that he has not heard of the specific concerns that Eric Brown asked about in relation to possible funding issues. He noted that the Green Bank is not the only CPACE lender and that the CPACE market is growing rapidly even at a national level, so there does not seem to be a concern about a shortage of capital.

7. Other Business

a. Brief Update: C&I – Government

- Stephen Bruno summarized the update to the changes to the Eversource and UI SBEA loans. The maximum loan amounts were both increased, and Eversource now has a maximum loan term of 7 years, and UI now has a max loan term of 5 years. As well, the State/Muni loan program continues to do well.

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

- Liz Murphy gave the update to the 2021 C&I Program which includes enhancements to the new construction program, a virtual commissioning pilot being launched by UI, SBEA

and BEA program changes and continuation of the Microbusiness Energy Advantage program, as well as other new programs and incentives.

- Mackey Dykes gave a brief update to C-PACE, that the first large-scale project new construction project had closed and pointed out there was more interest in the program recently.

- c. Brief Update: Residential – Single Family and Multi-Family
 - Update on Docket No. 20-07-01 (i.e. Residential Solar Tariffs)

 - Ron Araujo gave an update to the Small and Multifamily programs, especially highlighting the cost pressures due to a supply shortage as the recent storms in Texas have caused scarcity. He continued with the update to the 2021 HES Incentives which includes a copay increase to \$50 beginning April 1, 2021 and other changes. He reviewed the tiers for the different 2021 ASHP incentives.
 - Stephen Bruno gave an update to the HES Payment Plan/Micro Loan.
 - Joe Buonannata summarized the Smart-E Loan Spring Special Offer which focused on single family energy financing.
 - Ron Araujo summarized the changes to the multifamily building electric heating and cooling system incentives. Kim Stevenson also reviewed the updates to the various partnerships and programs that the Green Bank offers.
 - Bryan Garcia summarized the Docket No. 20-07-01 and key decisions from the Green Bank perspective.

- d. Other Business
 - None raised.

8. Adjourn

Upon a motion made by John Harrity and seconded by Brenda Watson, the Joint Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Brown, Chairperson