



## Draft MINUTES

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

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

#### In Attendance

Voting Members: John Harrity, Brenda Watson,

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

Members Absent: Melissa Kops, John Viglione, Hank Webster (DEEP)

Others: Ron Araujo, Sergio Carrillo, James Desantos, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Brian Farnen, George Lawrence, Cheryl Lumpkin, Ariel Schneider

#### Unnamed Callers:

1. Call to Order
  - Brenda Watson called the meeting to order at 1:43 pm.
2. Public Comments
  - None
3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the June 21, 2023 meeting.

#### Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Joint Committee for June 21, 2023.

**This Resolution was tabled until the next meeting as a quorum was not met.**

4. Joint Committee – Regular Meeting Schedule

#### Resolution #2

Motion to approve the regular meeting schedule for 2024 of the Joint Committee.

**This Resolution was tabled until the next meeting as a quorum was not met.**

## 5. Plan Coordination

### a. Input to FY 2024 Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Plan (Revisions)

- Bryan Garcia summarized the progress to the current Comprehensive Plan, which should remain steady to what was planned contingent upon if Connecticut wins any of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund moneys. He highlighted the Green Bank's current project deployment success as well as the shifting mindset to keep recycling and waste management in mind as projects are created and maintained. He summarized the future goals of the Green Bank for the first half of calendar year 2024.
  - Brenda Watson asked for clarification about the 100 MW of solar energy reported to be deployed this year. Bryan Garcia responded that the Solar Energy Industry Association and Wood Mackenzie releases a quarterly study on residential and non-residential utility scale solar which allowed the Green Bank to update the Power BI system to look at megawatts so far, which is the 100 MW deployed, putting the EDCs on track for 125 to 150 MW within one year – which is twice the volume delivered under the RSIP, which itself was the most effective, efficient and equitable in the entire Northeast region.
  - George Lawrence asked about the viability and particulars of recycling solar panels given their long use life, generally. Bryan Garcia responded that much of it depends on third party owners, which is 75% of the residential solar market. However part of mitigation efforts may be to look closely at the usability of those panels being removed and see how to reuse them if possible, to keep them out of the waste stream for as long as possible.

### b. 2022-2024 Conservation and Load Management Plan

- Richard Faesy summarized the progress to the current CL&M Plan, which is transitioning into the third year in 2024. Demand for green energy programs and investments in them continues to be high resulting in significant savings across the state.
  - Brenda Watson asked how the cumulative savings translates for the average person. Richard Faesy responded that it is a system-wide benefit which affects all ratepayers but essentially they invest into the programs and as part of their electric and gas bill, and if they participate in the programs, they will individually benefit generally more than what they put in, because not 100% of every customer and every business enrolled in the program. Stephen Bruno added that average residential customer spends about \$50 per year towards energy efficiency fund but if you participate in the programs, you could save at minimum \$200 per year. Ron Araujo commented that also some of the non-energy saving impacts that the programs have to offer, and through things such as our avoided cost study, we're able to monetize those and that goes into our planning model. So when it's stated there is \$2.35 billion in benefits, some of those are going to be Direct Energy saving benefits to the customers, but some are going to be system benefits as well as non-energy benefits.
  - George Lawrence asked if the health and comfort benefits are being applied to residential customers as non-energy benefits yet. Richard Faesy responded that they are and described part of the screening process.
- Richard Faesy discussed some of the challenges and budget pressures on the residential side of programs due to the robust demand but limited budgets. Stephen Bruno summarized the Eversource budgeting challenges from 2019-2024 and meeting the current growing demand, especially in residential.
  - Bryan Garcia asked how the tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act may be able to be leveraged. Ron Araujo responded that the tax credits don't appear in the data presented but that funding is available to customers and there have been efforts to make

sure customers are informed of those programs whenever a HES or HES-IE visit is done. Richard Faesy noted the difficulty to incorporate that information due to the nature of trying to provide accurate tax information to customers.

- John Harranty commented that driving down the cost of energy is great story and hopes as much information can be distributed about it as possible and asked if there have been any marketing opportunities taken advantage of, such as Public Service Announcements, in order to further promote it. Brenda Watson agreed that there may be more marketing opportunities not being utilized.

## 6. Opportunities and Challenges – Healthy Housing

### a. Solar PV & Battery Storage

- Mackey Dykes summarized the history and progress around providing assistance in getting solar for affordable multifamily housing. The Green Bank has been working hard to get legislation passed to make the process easier in several ways, both for getting projects created and getting financing for them.

- Brenda Watson asked if there was a marketing plan in place for the programs Mackey described. Mackey Dykes responded that there is a marketing plan being developed, but there is more that can be done.

- Sergio Carrillo summarized the update on the decisions made by PURA for the battery storage docket as it related to residential customers and designations of underserved and low-income. Due to the decision, the Green Bank can now get a 50% increase in the upfront incentive for both underserved and low-income customers. As well, inspections will now be optional which will accelerate the time it takes from a project being submitted as complete to the time the installers get their payments.

### b. Weatherization and Heat Pumps

- Richard Faesy summarized the progress to the HES-IE and Weatherization Assistance Program coordination for heat pump financing as well as goals for the program. He reviewed some slides that were shared at DEEP's recent Technical Conference of the 2024 CL&M Plan some changes to the heat pump and Smart-E programs which should help make things easier for customers.

- Brenda Watson asked if the Energize CT Heating Loan payments were on customer bill payments or as a separate bill. Ron Araujo responded that it is on customers' utility bill, but the Smart-E Loan is typically invoiced direction from the credit union or bank, so that would not appear on the utility bill.

### c. Health and Safety

- Richard Faesy reviewed an update regarding the Residential Energy Preparation Services which DEEP has been heading to address weatherization barrier issues.

## 7. Plans for the 2024 Legislative Session

- James Desantos summarized the proposals coming to the 2024 legislative session, which he noted are not specifically Green Bank proposals.

8. Other Business

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

- Mackey Dykes summarized the collaboration between the EDC and the Green Bank around the Small Business Energy Advantage and Business Energy Advantage programs as the Green Bank purchased the loans from Amalgamated Bank.

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

- Mackey Dykes reviewed an update regarding the Smart-E program which is on pace to surpass the expectations put in place within the Green Bank's fiscal year.
  - Brenda Watson asked if there was a map of product and program usage to see the visual impact. Mackey Dykes responded he believes there is and can get that from the Smart-E people.

9. Public Comments

- None.

10. Adjourn

**Brenda Watson adjourned the Joint Committee Meeting at 3:15 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Brenda Watson, Chairperson