



Joint Committee of the CT EE Board and the Connecticut Green Bank Board of Directors Meeting

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024 • 1:00PM



JOINT CGB/EEB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brenda Watson

Chair
Executive Director
North Hartford Partnership
(Green Bank Designee)

Hank Webster

Vice Chair
CT Department of Energy and
Environmental Protection (DEEP)
(Ex Officio)

John Harrity

Chair
CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
(Green Bank Designee)

John Viglione

Office of Consumer Counsel
(EEB Designee)

Melissa Kops

Project Manager, Architect
City of New Haven
Department of Engineering



AGENDA

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

Online

July 22, 2024
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments (5 min)
3. Review and Approval of Minutes for March 20, 2024 (5 min)
4. Update on the 2024 Legislative Session (10 min)
5. Plan Coordination – Healthy Housing (30 min)
6. Pubic Comments (5 min)
7. Adjourn

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RESOLUTIONS

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

Online

July 22, 2024
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments (5 min)
3. Review and Approval of Minutes for March 20, 2024 (5 min)

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Joint Committee for March 20, 2024

4. Update on the 2024 Legislative Session (10 min)
5. Plan Coordination – Healthy Housing (30 min)

Resolution #2

Motion for the Joint Committee to recommend to the Energy Efficiency Board and the Green Bank Board of Directors, adopt the proposed goal within their respective plans (i.e., Conservation and Load Management Plan and Comprehensive Plan, respectively).

6. Public Comments (5 min)
7. Adjourn

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Mute Microphone** – in order to prevent background noise that disturbs the meeting, if you aren't talking, please mute your microphone or phone.
- **Chat Box** – if you aren't being heard, please use the chat box to raise your hand and ask a question.
- **Recording Meeting** – we continue to record and post the board meetings.
- **State Your Name** – for those talking, please state your name for the record.



Joint Committee

Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board and the
Connecticut Green Bank Board of Directors

Online
July 22, 2024



Empowering you to make
smart energy choices

Agenda Item #1

Call to Order



Empowering you to make
smart energy choices

Agenda Item #2

Public Comments



Agenda Item #3

Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2024

Resolution #1

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Joint Committee for March 20, 2024



Agenda Item #4

Update on the 2024 Legislative Session

2024 Legislative Session - "Sine Die"

The Session by the Numbers:

- 174 Public Acts/Special Acts
- 172 Public Acts were signed by Governor Lamont into Law
- 2 Public Acts were vetoed by Governor Lamont

Where we started:

- 742 proposed bills that received a public hearing
- 328 proposed bills that received a JF out of Committee





Clean Energy Legislation

Public Act No. 24-31

House Bill No. 5232: AN ACT CONCERNING SOLAR PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

- *House Omnibus Legislation* - 7 Sections total
- UCT Study, PURA Study on Tariffs (1/1/26) , simplified process for municipal solar canopy deployment, DEEP to include solar siting in next IRP & NRES SCEF expansion (aggregate \$)
- Green Bank: C-PACE SIR exemption for renewable energy system expansions

Public Act No. 24-38

Substitute Senate Bill No. 385: AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY PROCUREMENTS, CERTAIN ENERGY SOURCES AND PROGRAMS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

- *Senate Omnibus Legislation* - 8 Sections total
- Authorizes DEEP to solicit 20MW of run-of-the-river hydropower
- Creates a Solar Consumer Protection Task Force
- Allows PURA to select Green Bank, DEEP, EDC's or Third Parties to administer PURA Programs.



Clean Energy Legislation

Public Act No. 24-151 - *Bond Bill - (Governor's Bill - HB 5052 incorporated into Sections 173-176)*

House Bill No. 5524: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO STATE AND MUNICIPAL TAX ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.

- PURA to open docket to establish a separate tariff for school projects by 1/1/25. 25MW Expansion
- Solar Feasibility Study required before project is eligible, beginning 7/1/25

Public Act No. 24-144

Substitute House Bill No. 5507: AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES AND THE MEMBERSHIP AND PROCESSES OF THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL.

- Council shall evaluate potential noise levels in order to grant a certificate. No inverter/transformer within 200 feet of property line.
- Any material change to site configuration after initial application must notify CSC & each person on record as an owner of property that abuts the proposed facility.

Environmental Infrastructure

Public Act No. 24-151 (*Bond Bill*)

House Bill No. 5524: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO STATE AND MUNICIPAL TAX ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.

- Deep Bonding Inclusions: \$10 million Solid Waste Reduction (Municipal Food Scrap Diversion), Existing Bonding of \$125 million for loans/grants to retrofit multi-family housing, \$25 million Heat Pump Rebates at point of sale, \$10 million for NEW Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund for municipalities and private entities

Public Act No. 24-59

Substitute Senate Bill No. 292: AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PFAS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS.

- Regulates the sale and use of certain products containing PFAS
- By October 1, 2024 bans any biosolid (domestic Sewage) as a soil amendment
- Beginning July 1, 2026 - permits PFAS in certain products if labeled and notice given to DEEP
- Beginning January 1, 2028 - bans the sale of certain products with intentionally added PFAS



WHAT DID **NOT** PASS



SB 11

SB 11: AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT RESILIENCY PLANNING AND PROVIDING MUNICIPAL OPTIONS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Governor Lamont legislation on resiliency efforts. Died on Senate Calendar without action in Senate or House. The act would have enhanced Connecticut's resiliency planning and providing municipalities with options to address climate resilience.

Sections 1-10: Establishes Resiliency Improvement Districts/Tax Incremental Financing

Sections 11 & 12: Plans of Conservation and Development to include climate change vulnerability assessment

Section 15: expands allowable uses of Town Aid Road (TAR) grants to include building, improving, and maintaining resiliency for roads, bridges, and related structures that may be impacted by increased precipitation, flooding, sea level rise, and extreme heat.



HB 5004

HB 5004: AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES

Top priority bill for environmental advocates. Passed the House but failed to gain passage in the Senate.
23 Sections in total.

- Declared a climate crisis and would have established an economy wide net zero GHG emission by 2050
- Centralized Data Dashboard: PURA to aggregate data on ratepayer-funded renewable energy programs
- Would have established a Connecticut Clean Economy Council to advise on strategies & policies related to climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience & sustainability efforts. Green Bank would have been on council.
- PURA to conduct study on progress of behind-the-meter energy storage deployment. 2025 & every 3 years
- DEEP to establish a heat pump system plan and rebate program. Rebate within PA 24-151 Bonding Bill.
- DEEP to prioritize utilization of Nature-Based Solutions & report progress to Environment Committee.

Legislation Process – Next Steps...



Possible "Lame Duck Session" – November 2024

Outstanding Issues from 2024 to 2025:

- BASA Solar Tax Issue (HB 5232) "DEEP/OPM conducting study to report by 1/1/25"
- Hydropower Task Force Recommendations (SB 385)
- SB 11 – Resilience
- HB 5004 – Climate Change
- Heat Pump Deployment Plan TBD (HB 5004)
- Solar Panel/Battery – End-of-Life Working Group & Solar Bill of Rights Recommendations.





Agenda Item #5

Plan Coordination – Healthy Housing

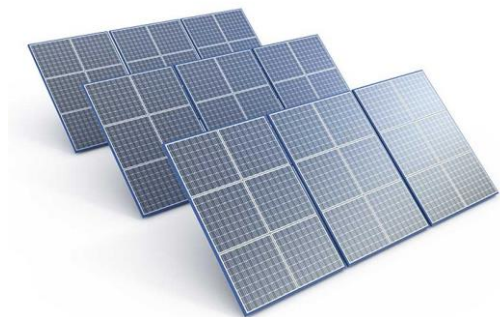
Engagement Timeline

- **December 20, 2023** – Joint Committee, at the suggestion of EEB Consultants, asked EDCs and Green Bank to assess solar PV, heat pump, and more (e.g., storage) opportunity for residential market segment
- **January 26, 2024** – EEB Consultants, Green Bank, and EDCs met to discuss state and federal incentives for solar PV, heat pumps, and storage
- **March 11, 2024** – EEB Consultants, Green Bank, and EDCs met to discuss technology findings, questions for consideration, and next steps
- **May 30, 2024** – EEB Consultants, Green Bank, EDCs, and DEEP met to discuss market segment focus (i.e., MFAH and affordable rentals), outcomes sought (e.g., reduce energy burden, increase climate resilience, reduce GHG emissions), technologies being considered (e.g., solar, storage, heat pumps), state and federal incentives and funding, and federal requirements (e.g., Davis Bacon) to provide a recommendation for a goal to be recommended by the Joint Committee to the EEB and Green Bank BOD

Technologies

Multifamily Affordable Housing and Affordable Rentals

- Solar PV



- Heat Pumps



- Appliances



- Battery Storage



- Weatherization



- Other

- Controls and DR
- EV Charging (e.g., make ready)

Incentives

Solar PV

- **State Incentives** – administered by EDCs, including:
 - ❖ Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES) includes Buy All Sell All Tariffs, administered by EDCs
 - ❑ Multifamily Affordable Housing (i.e., Tiers I-III)
 - ❑ Buy-All Tariff (i.e., \$0.3189/kWh) with adder of \$0.0275/kWh (i.e., \$0.3464/kWh) if located in distressed communities or \$0.0550/kWh (i.e., \$0.3739/kWh) for low-income households or multifamily affordable housing for 20 years
- **Federal Incentives** – through the IRA, including Investment Tax Credits (ITC) and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Solar for All (SfA)
 - ❖ ITC – 30% with adders for TPO systems of 10% for “energy communities” (e.g., MSA – Fairfield, New Haven, and Windham), and 10-20% for “low-income communities”. ITC can be between 30-60% for TPO solar PV (+ storage)
 - ❖ GGRF – federal requirements (e.g., Davis Bacon, BABA, LIDAC)
 - ❑ SfA “Project SunBridge” allows for financing (e.g., Smart-E IRB, GBCS RFP, MFAH Solar + Storage PPA, RLF with CHFA) and funding (i.e., additional incentives for associated storage and related upgrades (e.g., roof repairs – prepare homes by addressing H&S issues))

Incentives

Battery Storage

- **State Incentives** – co-administered by EDCs and Green Bank, including:
 - ❖ Energy Storage Solutions (ESS) with upfront and performance-based incentives:
 - ❑ Upfront Incentive of \$600 per kWh for multifamily affordable housing) for passive dispatch
 - Additional incentive of 50% if located on “grid edge”
 - Can receive up to \$16,000 per unit
 - Upfront incentive is lesser of 50% of installed cost or \$16,000 per unit
 - ❑ Performance Incentive of \$225/kW for Years 1-5 and \$130/kW for Years 6-10, for active dispatch
- Federal Incentives – through the IRA, including Investment Tax Credits (ITC) and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Solar for All (SfA)
 - ❖ ITC – 30% with adders for TPO systems of 10% for “energy communities” (e.g., MSA – Fairfield, New Haven, and Windham), and 10-20% for “low-income communities” (i.e., must be paired with solar PV). ITC can be between 30-60% for TPO solar PV + storage
 - ❖ GGRF – federal requirements (e.g., Davis Bacon, BABA, LIDAC)
 - ❑ SfA “Project SunBridge” allows for financing (e.g., Smart-E IRB, GBCS RFP, MFAH Solar + Storage PPA, RLF with CHFA) and funding (i.e., additional incentives for associated storage)

Incentives

Heat Pumps – Multifamily

- **Conservation and Load Management Fund** – administered by EDCs, prescriptive incentives include:

- Common Area Heat Pumps: \$1,500/Ton ASHP, \$2,100/Ton VRF
- Existing heat pump to ASHP/Mini-split equipment upgrade: \$250/Ton
- PTAC to PTHP: \$500/unit when >60% SMI and \$750/unit when <60% SMI
- Dwelling Unit Air Source Heat Pumps:

Fuel Displaced	Electric Resistance	Oil/Propane	Natural Gas
>60% SMI	\$750/Ton	\$750/Ton	\$750/Ton
<60% SMI	\$1,875/Ton	\$1,875/Ton	\$750/Ton

- ☐ Partial displacement of electric resistance system must include integrated controls
- ☐ Heat pump and integrated control installer must be part of HPIN and equipment must be listed on the QPL
- To qualify, 66% of dwelling units must meet 60% SMI

Incentives

Heat Pumps – Single Family 1-4

- **Conservation and Load Management Fund** – administered by EDCs, prescriptive incentives include:

	Air Source	Ground Source
>60% SMI	\$750/ton Up to \$15,000	\$1,500/ton Up to \$15,000
≤60% SMI	Single Family - up to \$25,000 2-4 Unit - up to \$15,000/unit	

- ❑ Insulation + Heat Pump Bonus Offer Available \$500 per home
- ❑ If an existing boiler or furnace will be left in place, a qualified integrated control must be installed for heating zones where propane, oil, or natural gas will remain in use.
- ❑ Installer must be part of HPIN and equipment must be listed on the QPL

Incentives

Heat Pumps (cont'd)

❖ Federal Incentives – IRA

❑ IRA

❑ Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) Program

- ❑ Initial application to DOE under development by DEEP

❑ Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) Program

- ❑ Initial application submitted to DOE on 7/19. An iterative process is expected with DOE for final approval
- ❑ Proposal submitted: all funds allocated to low-income households with a 50:50 split between single family and 2+ unit building types. All technologies allowed by DOE were included (e.g., heat pumps, heat pump hot water heaters, insulation, wiring upgrades, etc.)
- ❑ DEEP is actively working on the Blueprint for HEAR (the next required deliverable to DOE)

❑ Energy Efficiency Home Improvement Credit

- ❑ 30% tax credit (up to \$2,000) for HPs

Incentives

Weatherization – Multifamily

- To qualify, 66% of dwelling units must meet 60% SMI
- The incentive for dwelling unit direct install air sealing is \$200/hour for units 800 sq. ft² or less not to exceed 1 hour and 801 sq. ft² and over not to exceed 2 hours
- The incentives for custom measures including duct sealing, insulation (attic, basement, exterior walls), and windows are subject to the incentive caps below:

Custom Measures	Comprehensive Projects	Single End Use	Direct Install Measures
>60% SMI	Up to 65% of Project Cost	Up to 50% of Measure Cost	Up to 100% of Installed Cost
<60% SMI	Up to 90% of Project Cost	Up to 75% of Measure Cost	Up to 100% of Installed Cost

Incentives

Weatherization – Single Family 1-4

- HES technician will provide rebate information based on their recommendations for the home.
- Rebates may include the following:

	Insulation*	Triple Pane Windows
>60% SMI	Up to \$1.70/sq ft on approved insulation projects	\$100 per window Replacing single pane/single pane w/ storm/double pane
≤60% SMI	Incentives up to 100% off on approved insulation projects	Varies with HES-IE comprehensive incentive

*Installing contractor must be part of the CTIIN Network

Incentives

Appliances – Multifamily

- To qualify, 66% of dwelling units must meet 60% SMI
- Refrigerators
 - Existing unit's electric consumption must be ≥ 550 kWh and new units must be Energy Star rated to qualify for program incentive caps.
- Heat Pump Water Heaters
 - Equipment must be Energy Star rated to qualify for a prescriptive incentive of \$650/unit when $>60\%$ SMI or \$800/unit when $<60\%$ SMI

Incentives

Appliances – Single Family 1-4

- HES participation required to be eligible for primary refrigerator and freezer incentives
- HPWH & appliances must be Energy Star certified

	Primary Refrigerator	Primary Freezer	Heat Pump Water Heater
>60% SMI	\$50	\$25	\$650/qualifying unit
≤60% SMI	\$500	\$200	Varies with HES-IE comprehensive incentive

Financing

Solar PV + Battery Storage

Green Bank Solar & Storage Lease



- No capital requirement from property owner
- CGB owns and maintains assets (i.e., TPO system)
- Tenants & property owner receive RRES credits on their electric bill (and resiliency if project includes a battery)
- Loan option also available

Federal Requirement

Davis Bacon (Example)

Davis Bacon (DBA) was enacted in 1931 to protect communities and workers. GGRF funds are subject to DBA (i.e., prevailing wages.)

Davis Bacon applies to all GGRF projects, including single family residential homes.

What about...

- Installation of solar panels?
- Installation of heat pumps?
- Retrofits of buildings for energy efficiency?
- Pre-development work?

Yes - each of these projects, with the exception of pre-development, would meet the definition of “construction” under the applicable DBA statute and each would trigger DBA labor standards.

Joint Committee

Principle

The **Energy Efficiency Board and the Green Bank** have a shared goal to **implement state energy policy** throughout **all sectors and populations** of Connecticut with continuous **innovation towards greater leveraging of ratepayer funds** and a **uniformly positive customer experience.**

Joint Committee

State Energy Policy

- 45% reduction of GHG emissions from 2001 levels by 2030
- 100% clean electric grid by 2040
- 80% weatherization of household units by 2030
- Class I RPS of 40% by 2030 (i.e., RRES)
- 1000 MW of energy storage by 2030 (i.e., ESS)
- RRES and ESS for vulnerable communities (i.e., MFAH)
- Equitable distribution within C&LM Plan and Comprehensive Plan per CGS 16-245m and 16-245n
- Compatibility to J40
- EV Roadmap (i.e., EV charging per ZEV MOU)
- Executive Orders

Joint Committee

Proposed Goal within Respective Plans

To enable greater investment in and deployment of technologies (i.e., solar PV, battery storage, heat pumps, weatherization, appliances, and controls) in affordable rental single and multifamily properties to realize important benefits for tenants (e.g., reduce energy burden (i.e., no more than 6% of annual household income), increase climate resilience, reduce GHG emissions) through the Conservation & Load Management Plan of the Energy Efficiency Board and Comprehensive Plan of the Connecticut Green Bank Board of Directors, and through greater coordination of incentive and financing programs from state and federal sources of capital.

Resolution #2

Resolution #2

Motion for the Joint Committee to recommend to the Energy Efficiency Board and the Green Bank Board of Directors, adopt the proposed goal within their respective plans (i.e., Conservation and Load Management Plan and Comprehensive Plan, respectively).



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Agenda Item #6

Other Business



Empowering you to make
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Agenda Item #7

Public Comments



Empowering you to make
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Agenda Item #8

Adjourn



Draft MINUTES

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

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

In Attendance

Voting Members: John Harrity, Melissa Kops, Hank Webster (DEEP)

Non-Voting Members: Stephen Bruno, Bryan Garcia

Members Absent: John Viglione, Brenda Watson

Others: Ron Araujo, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Brian Farnen, George Lawrence, Cheryl Lumpkin, Madeline Priest, Ariel Schneider, Heather Deese from Dandelion Energy, Lori Baca from BW Research, Stacy Sherwood on behalf of the EEB, Kathy Fay, Anthony Kosior, Seema Alim, Hammad Chaudhry, Marc Lemenager, Brent Milardo, Lawrence Rush, James Williams, George Yeghyayan, "Anne-Marie", and 3 unidentified phone numbers.

Unnamed Callers:

1. Call to Order

- Melissa Kops called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

2. Public Comments

- Heather Deese from Dandelion Energy spoke about geothermal ground source heat pumps and their impact in Connecticut. She covered the different types of systems that Dandelion Energy installs, the type of savings and amount of savings they provide, overall grid benefits throughout Connecticut, EnergizeCT rebates in relation to ground heat pumps, financing options for customers, and more.
 - Melissa Kops asked if there is data around what the energy savings has been compared to the loan payment, how much is the savings, and if it can be quantified. Heather Deese responded there are detailed proposals for customers that lay out their expected energy bill savings. Their fuel bills for heating go away but their electric bills in the Winter will increase; their electric bills in the Summer would come down if they already had traditional air conditioning. In general, Dandelion Energy is trying to align loan payments with what the cost of carrying the loan will be. She doesn't know how much data is available in terms of having gone back and asked customers for their energy bills after a system installation.
 - John Harrity asked about the breakdown of the cost and why the heat pumps are so expensive. Heather Deese responded that the interior equipment is similar to an air source heat pump but the difference in cost is due to the exterior equipment, such as

drilling, installation, maintenance, and labor costs. John Harrity asked for more information about the equipment installation and Heather Deese explained how the tubing and pipes are installed.

- John Harrity asked if multi-home loops are able to be installed and Heather Deese responded yes, that thermal energy networks or district geothermal systems are a topic of a lot of interest. She explained that if two buildings with opposite heating and cooling needs aren't too far apart, then they can be connected with a loop that will possibly move that heat between the buildings and then have some of the vertical loops or larger horizontal loops for that exchange with the ground and those systems. She then explained the efficiency of the systems they can install, though their primary focus to date has been the single-family home residential where they install one ground loop for each building. If there are multiple buildings that have the same load, it doesn't make sense to connect them because then more piping is required and more power is being used for pumping without getting any benefit in the offset load. So in the case of developments where there are multiple townhomes in a row, they install a ground loop for each townhome.

- Anthony Kosier asked for more information about the falcon curve and how geothermal systems will help the load shape in utilizing technology that has a higher COP as it relates to other electrification technologies. Heather Deese responded with information about what the falcon curve is and how it reflects the energy demand is over a season across various COP ratios.

- Anthony Kosier commented that in addition to vertical and horizontal wells, the industry is pursuing diagonal well drilling, coming from the oil and gas industries, and mentioned that Yale University has plans to utilize that technology.

- Stephen Bruno asked about what the actual Federal Tax Credits are and Heather Deese responded that individual income tax credits, if you install geothermal at your home, is the same as if you install solar or a wind turbine on your property which is a 30% federal individual income tax credit and is uncapped. But it is not refundable, so you have to owe at least \$10,000 in federal taxes to be able to take advantage of that and many people do not owe that much in federal taxes. She added that you can roll it over for up to 5 years. The commercial tax credit is now available not just for for-profit entities that owe taxes, but also nonprofits, municipalities, and a non-tax paying entity can get a refundable federal tax credit. Commercial building tax credits are 30% as a base and as long as you're either under a size limit or using prevailing wage and apprentice labor. It is up to 40% if you meet domestic content, so made in the United States. It is up to 50% if you're located in an energy community and its made in the United States. That percentage can be paid back to you as a check from the Federal government if you are a non-taxpaying entity like a school district.

- John Harrity asked if any customers install any of the systems themselves. Heather Deese responded that they've had customers who do have acreage who may either have their own equipment or want to work with someone local to put in a horizontal loop, like with the backhoe, and asked Dandelion Energy to just do the heat pump. They don't do that as a company, she does know that there are ground source heat pump installers who will do that. She discussed options for customers to do the drilling and installation themselves.

3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the June 21, 2023 and December 20, 2023 meetings.

- With clarification from Brian Farnen, quorum was not met in the December 2023 meeting and so there would not be formal meeting minutes needed to vote on. Bryan Garcia suggested posting the minutes that were taken as a Draft publicly for transparency, and Brian Farnen agreed that was possible.

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Joint Committee for June 21, 2023 and December 20, 2023.

Upon a motion made by Melissa Kops and seconded by John Harrity, the Joint Committee voted to approve Resolution 1. None opposed and Hank Webster abstained. Motion approved.

4. Clean Energy Jobs Report

- Lori Baca from BW Research summarized the Clean Energy Jobs Report and its findings. The report found that Connecticut maintained its commitment to leading the nation in its efforts to support clean energy in 2022, via regulatory initiatives and significant investments in offshore wind. Clean energy employment has recovered from pandemic-induced losses. However, the high levels of hiring difficulties for clean energy workers may limit future growth potential absent additional investments in workforce development. Policymakers' efforts to foster innovation, manufacturing, and services are paying off, but additional investment in incentives should be considered to help bolster deployment.
 - John Harrity suggested designing recruitment in the auto technician sector for the energy sector.
 - Ron Arujo asked about the difficulty in hiring and if that is unique to the energy sector or if it is indicative of other sectors as a whole. Lori Baca responded it's difficult for her to speak to the other sectors, but this is definitely a pattern that they've seen in states all over the region. BW Research has been preparing these clean energy industry reports for Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, and others and across the board there are clean energy hiring difficulties for technicians, mechanical support, and even electricians, so it seems like a nationwide shortage due to increased competition between states for the available workforce. Bryan Garcia added that in terms of the United States Energy Employment Report which this report is based on, the Green Bank examined the different industries that the USEER Report looks at and then examined the Connecticut policy on clean energy and focused this report on the clean energy areas that they wanted to focus on in Connecticut so that there was policy alignment. However, that analysis is now 5 years old so it may be reexamined in the future to see if recalibration is needed. As well, he noted the report is reflective and does not look forward. Melissa Kops added workforce funding issues struggles have been encountered before and stated that both need to be examined and considered when trying to solve those issues.
 - Melissa Kops asked if BW Research is looking at the ACEEE information at all and if similar databases are being used. Lori Baca responded that they have not incorporated that data and has primarily been using data from the BLS or survey data that they've collected. However, they do reference it as secondary research when describing the policy environment.

5. Plan Coordination

a. Input to FY 2025 Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Plan (Revisions)

- Bryan Garcia summarized the Green Bank's Comprehensive Plan progress and revisions including the focused implementation of programs, further investigation and application for tax credits in relation to the Inflation Reduction Act and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

- Melissa Kops asked in terms of the residential sector and trying to deploy more battery storage, how lucrative is it for customers to spend money on installing a battery storage system in order to get energy bill credits and/or incentives. She also asked if there is any opportunity to align the demand response incentive with the investment in a way to guarantee that those who have less resources for batteries to get more of a demand response incentive. Bryan Garcia responded that there is another section where more information about those different types of incentives will be explained further in the Healthy Housing section of the meeting.

- Melissa Kops asked in relation to Public Act 21-48, if Connecticut received that funding for the Energy Efficiency Funds. Bryan Garcia responded that there was a section that had to deal with the RRES program and giving PURA the discretion to work with the DOH, CT Housing Finance Authority, DEEP, and the Green Bank to determine what affordable housing is, and that definition is now out in the market and the associated incentives. However, it is outside any of the Green Bank's system benefit funds.

- Kathy Fay asked with the announcement to be made, if its for several applications or one application. Bryan Garcia responded that the items listed under the Inflation Reduction Act section of the presentation are included in both applications and that the anticipation is for two different winners. Bryan Garcia explained how the awards will work further.

b. 2025-2027 Conservation and Load Management Plan

- Stacy Sherwood summarized the 2024 Plan progress to date, update savings and benefits, progress to develop the 2025 – 2027 Plan, and 2025 – 2027 potential priorities and timeline.

6. Update on the 2024 Legislative Session

- Brian Farnen summarized the major bills addressed in the recent legislative session including HB 5004, HB 5439, and HB 5438.

- Ron Arujo asked if there was an update on HB 5052. Brian Farnen responded that he isn't sure at the moment but could look into it and get back to him. Mackey Dykes responded that it is addressed in Section 1 of the Governor's Bill.

- Richard Faesy asked if the two bills related to heat pumps, that neither plan has a funding source, if there is any sense of where that money may come from, such as if it is expected to come from the Energy Efficiency Board funding. Brian Farnen responded that he does not believe so and that there is some analogy being made to a successful heat pump deployment policy in Maine so he believes that is part of what is being discussed. Melissa Kops added that at least in the Climate Bill she believes they need to develop a plan first, and Brian Farnen agreed. Hank Webster added that Connecticut is the lead state of a multi-state application that is going to go for the Climate Pollution Reduction grants through the EPA to get funding to accelerate heat pump deployment throughout the region. Although it is a competitive program, he hopes all the right things fall into place at the right time. The group discussed funding options further.

- Melissa Kops asked what changed in HB 5004 in terms of the substitution. Brian Farnen responded that he does not, but James Desantos should have that information.

7. Opportunities and Challenges – Healthy Housing

- Bryan Garcia summarized the discussions that have taken place until now including the statistics around the economics of Solar PV, heat pumps, and battery storage. He reviewed some questions for consideration in relation to these topics.
 - John Harrity commented that Connecticut hasn't seemed to much with shared solar or community solar, and asked why that is. Bryan Garcia responded that he isn't sure and provided context about the program framework for shared solar projects. Ron Arujo added that it is not an area he investigates too often either. Mackey Dykes commented that Connecticut is a bit unique in terms of the SCEF program in that the system and process for developing it is pretty disconnected from customer participation in the program.
 - Richard Faesy asked how the members of the Joint Committee would work together to implement the suggestions made for the different programs available. The group discussed the ideas around next steps, implementation, and inter-agency efforts further.

8. Other Business

- a. Brief Update: C&I – Government
- b. Brief Update: C&I – Small and Medium/Large Business
- c. Brief Update: Residential – Single Family and Multi-Family

- Ron Arujo briefly summarized requested if anyone has any questions about slides to reach out to him directly, as the slides are relatively self-explanatory. He stated the idea was to summarize changes that happen for 2024 to keep in mind what may come in the future as well as what is happening currently.

9. Public Comments

- None.

10. Adjourn

Upon a motion made by Hank Webster and seconded by Melissa Kops, the Joint Committee adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Watson, Chairperson

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