



MINUTES

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

Friday, December 20, 2024
9:00 am – 10:30 am

In Attendance

Voting Members: Joseph DeNicola, John Harrity, Melissa Kops

Non-Voting Members: Stephen Bruno, Brian Farnen, Bryan Garcia, Bert Hunter, Jillian Winterkorn

Members Absent: John Viglione, Brenda Watson

Others: Gentiana Darragjati, Diane Del Rosso, James Desantos, Richard Del Soldato, Dykes, Richard Faesy, Kathy Fay, Anthony Kosior, George Lawrence, Cheryl Lumpkin, Amy Mclean Salls, Ralph Mesite, Bernard Pelletier, Daniel Rabin, Ghani Ramdani, Ariel Schneider, Stacy Sherwood, Becca Trietch, James Williamson, Jillian Winterkorn

Unnamed Callers:

1. Call to Order

- Melissa Kops called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

2. Public Comments

- Richard Faesy asked if the Public knows the meetings exist, whether they are publicized, and how to increase public awareness. Jim Williamson responded there is a similar process for public notice to the EEB meetings, in that they are included in the subscription mailing list and it is on the Energize CT calendar. Bryan Garcia added it is on the CGB website in the calendar of events and with the Secretary of State. However, the group agreed that general public awareness and engagement could be improved.

3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the September 25, 2024 meeting.

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Joint Committee for September 25, 2024.

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

4. Joint Committee – Regular Meeting Schedule for 2025

- Bryan Garcia reviewed the schedule for 2025 and why the dates were selected. Becca Trietch added that there was a lot of coordination between the various departments and public meetings in order to make it work as best as possible.

Resolution #2

Motion to approve the regular meeting schedule of the Joint Committee for 2025, including:

- March 19, 2025
- June 18, 2025
- September 24, 2025
- December 17, 2025

Meetings will take place online from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

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

5. Plan Coordination

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

- Bryan Garcia summarized the history and process of the development of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated the Green Bank is focused on implementing various programs including incentive programs and continuing to build the energy storage market. He summarized the progress and goals for the Financing Programs including Smart-E, the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy programs, and SBEA programs, and the progress and goals of the Environmental Infrastructure programs. He summarized the plan to implement the Inflation Reduction Act programs and funds.

- John Harrity commented that the process is never ending and exhausting but the Green Bank team has been determined, persistent, and praised them for their efforts.

- Melissa Kops asked if there has been any Public Comment on the Comprehensive Plan and Bryan Garcia responded that the process is different from the C&LM plan, it is more programmatic. For example, the Green Bank invites stakeholders to participate in facilitated discussions on various topics (e.g., electric school buses, environmental infrastructure, green schools and municipalities), which feed into program goals and design.

b. 2025-2027 Conservation and Load Management Plan

- Jillian Winterkorn summarized the plan development since March 2023 and noted that implementation is coming soon. She reviewed the plan budget, savings, and benefits which is approximately \$700million for the 3 years. She summarized the Plan priorities of decarbonization, equitable access, and energy affordability.

- Stephen Bruno summarized the core Residential products which includes HVAC and Water Heating equipment, Residential New Construction, Home Energy Solutions, and more. For Financing programs, he reviewed some of the options available including the Energy

Conservation Loan, Smart-E Loan, Landlord Loan, Navigator Pre-Development Energy Loan, and more. He noted that Energize CT Heat Loan sunsets on December 31, 2024.

- John Harrity asked in relation to heat pumps, if he means a general category or geothermal. Stephen Bruno responded it is the general category.
- John Harrity asked if they see a lot of geothermal heat pumps installed and Jillian Winterkorn and Diane Del Rosso responded that there is a significant update of air source heat pumps over geothermal and ground source heat pumps. The group discussed some new financing options for heat pumps that have been in development.
- Melissa Kops asked about the status of the Revolving Loan Fund that is being established and Becca Trietch responded that there has been a lot of progress to get it set up and explained those efforts.
- John Harrity asked how Connecticut compares to other states in relation to mandates for new construction in terms of energy savings. Becca Trietch responded that the state is strongly committed to staying up to date with the latest base codes and standards. Melissa Kops added that Connecticut is pretty far ahead of much of the country in terms of putting efficiency into their base codes but is not necessarily at the very top.
- Bernard Pelletier asked where the public finds information about all the various residential financing options, as he does not see some on the Energize CT website. Stephen Bruno responded that he will double check the Energize CT website to ensure they are listed, but some of the programs are offered through Capital for Change or the Green Bank as well. The group discussed their visibility more and confirmed they are on the Energize CT website but would discuss changes with the Marketing team to ensure better visibility.
- Stephen Bruno praised the Green Bank for their negotiations for the Smart-E Loan rate to ensure customers have access to an affordable financing option. He compared to Massachusetts where interest rates are brought down, and are expensive in a high interest rate environment.
- Stephen Bruno reviewed the C&I Financing program options such as the Small Business Loan, Municipal Loan, and more.
- Richard Faesy summarized the progress and coordination between the C&LM Plan and Green Bank, highlighting some of the mission variances between the two organizations in order to develop a plan to increase the coordination across all involved. The group discussed various efforts and opportunities to better work together while remaining strategic.

6. Healthy Housing

- Mackey Dykes summarized the history and progress to combine solar and efficiency for affordable multifamily housing through the Solar Map program. He identified several ongoing projects, and the improvements planned for them.
 - John Harrity asked if there is an agreement with landlords not to raise the rent and Mackey Dykes responded yes there is an explicit measure to ensure that would not happen and to protect tenants.
 - Bernard Pelletier commented that it is such an amazing program and urged everyone to make it more well known.
 - Melissa Kops asked if the energy efficiency improvements are intended to leverage the C&LM programs. Mackey Dykes responded yes and that the measures have to meet the technical requirements of the C&LM program, specifically multifamily initiatives, and that they have to contact the utility company as part of the program.

7. Plans for the 2025 Legislative Session

- Bryan Garcia summarized the general progress that the Green Bank is going through for the upcoming legislative session and goals for it, which includes a focus on resiliency measures and support for SB-11.
- Bernard Pelletier expressed concerns that the upcoming session will require defending what the organizations have now, compared to in the past which is usually focused on asking for the means to do more. Melissa Kops agreed. The group discussed possibilities and concerns for the upcoming legislative session.

8. Other Business

- a. Brief Update: C&I – Government
 - b. Brief Update: C&I – Small and Medium/Large Business
 - Gentiana Darragjati summarized the progress of the SBEA & MUNI financing programs, which includes finalizing 3 loan tranches with a fourth planned for sale on December 31, 2024. The total funded is anticipated to be about \$15million with the next tranche and this includes about 500 loans in total.
 - George Lawrence asked if the very low default rate is still true of the Small Business loans. Gentiana Darragjati responded it has increased but it is based on the loan origination, so there were many during the COVID years of 2021 – 2023, but it is better maintained now.
 - c. Brief Update: Residential – Single Family and Multi-Family
- Bryan Garcia commented that much of the update had been hit in earlier discussions.
 - d. Other Business
 - Bryan Garcia commented that Raise Green, which supports the Green Liberty Notes program, has been acquired by Honeycomb but the transition should be good overall as they have done more in the crowdfunding market.
 - John Harrity commented that although these meetings may seem routine, he knows how importance to reduce carbon and battle climate change is, and appreciates everyone's efforts to do so and continue this line of work.

9. Public Comments

- None

10. Adjourn

Upon a motion made by John Harrity and seconded by Joe DeNicola, the Joint Committee adjourned at 10:22 am.

