



## MINUTES

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

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

1:30 – 3:30 pm

#### In Attendance

Voting Members: John Harrity, Becca Treitch, Brenda Watson

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

Members Absent: Joseph DeNicola, Melissa Kops, John Viglione,

Others: Diane Del Rosso, James Desantos, Richard Del Soldato, Marriott Dowden, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Kathy Fay, Philip Jordan from BW Research Partnership, George Lawrence, Sarah Lewis, Elizabeth Lodge, Cheryl Lumpkin, Patrick McKenna, , Benjamin McMillan, Sophia Nelson, Bernard Pelletier, Madeline Priest, Ariel Schneider, Stacy Sherwood, Rudy Sturk, Mike Turaj, William Wesson, James Williamson, "JF"

#### Unnamed Callers:

##### 1. Call to Order

- Brenda Watson called the meeting to order at 1:30

##### 2. Public Comments

- None.

##### 3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the December 20, 2024 meeting.

#### Resolution #1

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

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

##### 4. Clean Energy Jobs Report – Update

- Philip Jordan from BW Research Partnership summarized the research overview of the Clean Energy Jobs Report for 2023. The overall employment trends show a 3.9% new growth in

2022-2023 and that clean energy jobs represent 2.7% of total jobs in the state of Connecticut as of 2023.

- John Harrity asked how the 2.7% compares to other states in the regional or nationally. Philip Jordan responded it is above the national average, but regionally isn't as high due to various factors.
- Brenda Watson asked in the chat how many numeric jobs does the 2.7% represent. Philip Jordan responded it is about 46,000 jobs. Brenda Watson asked how many vacant jobs there are. Philip Jordan responded that is a difficult question to answer as the survey doesn't ask about vacancy numbers compared to asking how difficult it is to find workers.
- Becca Treitch asked for clarification about the definition of "jobs." Philip Jordan responded that it is based on the definition used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the quarterly Census of Employment and Wages and then explained the different categories it covers.
- Philip Jordan summarized the regional comparison of Connecticut to other nearby states and technology sector employment breakdown, stating that Connecticut has not yet returned to the pre-pandemic employment numbers but is close.
  - Becca Treitch asked in relation to efficiency jobs, how many are connected with the C&LM Plan directly versus indirectly, or not at all. Philip Jordan responded that he doesn't have that exact data based on the questions they ask, but he could look into collecting it and send it along.
- Philip Jordan summarized the employment statistics and demographics across several sectors for 2023.
  - John Harrity asked if there are some states that have a significantly better diversity ratio and if there are things being done that Connecticut should consider. Philip Jordan responded that in terms of ethnic and racial minorities and mixed-race workers, the Clean Energy sector is consistent with the workforce of the state overall, but in terms of women other states haven't really figured out how to improve that inclusivity and then expanded on why and other factors regarding diversity in the workforce.
  - Brenda Watson asked how the report can be used to promote the findings and improve diversity in the workforce. Philip Jordan responded that there are several ways that other states utilize the report and its findings and gave a few examples.
  - John Harrity suggested making sure this report gets to the leaders of the state Senate and the House.

Brenda Watson left the meeting at 2:09 pm. Bryan Garcia proceeded as the Chair for the meeting.

## 5. Update on Federal Funding – DEEP, Green Bank, and EDCs

- Becca Treitch summarized the HER and HEAR rebates programs, which equate to about \$100 million that has been obligated to DEEP, and DEEP is working on drafting implementation blueprints to the DOE.
  - John Harrity asked if there has been any interruption to receiving the funds or if things are progressing normally. Becca Treitch responded there is a contract in place with the federal government and DEEP is working to meet those obligations. She then explained how agreements with the federal government normally occur but stated at this point, things are progressing well. Bert Hunter added that they are not just contractually provided, but are statutorily provided.
- For the New England Heat Pump Accelerator, Becca Treitch stated it is federally funded under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. DEEP recently issued a request for proposals for

a regional implementer to help with getting the program going and that proposals are due by April 4, 2025.

- Bert Hunter asked in terms of an implementer, does it have to be a single entity or if more than one would be acceptable. Becca Treitch responded that it can be made of multiple contractors but one needs to be the prime.
- Richard Faesy asked if DEEP received any funds from the IRA funds or if there were any reimbursements. Becca Treitch responded that the state is able to put forth drawdowns for the funds. She doesn't have all the details except that she does believe drawdowns have been made on both funds.
- Becca Treitch summarized an update for the Solar For All program. The work plan was approved by the EPA this past January, and then DEEP requested written comments with responses due by March 13, 2025.
- Bryan Garcia summarized some other tax credit options under the Inflation Reduction Act and possible expectations under the new administration. He then reviewed the status of some of the other federal funds, including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and the Clean Investment Fund.

## 6. Plan Coordination

- a. Update on FY 2025 and Input to FY 2025 Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Plan
  - Bryan Garcia summarized the update to the FY25 Comprehensive Plan including program targets and challenges for Incentive programs and Financing Programs.
    - Bernie Pelletier asked given all the contingencies with federal funding, is there a manner in which the Green Bank can help with projects which had expected and relied on federal funding or tax credits which become no longer available. Bryan Garcia responded the Green Bank has its own programs and in the event that a project were to become eligible for additional credits later, the team would go to the property owner or tenants and provide those benefits later when the federal resources become available. He explained that outside of the programs, the Green Bank is not playing the role of facilitating to the ITC.
  - Bryan Garcia continued to summarize the Green Bank's targets, goals, and the recent release of the Waste and Recycling Primer. He then summarized the Green Bank's involvement in bills that are part of the current legislative session.
    - John Harrity asked if there are statutory regulations that require Affordable Housing be energy efficient or use renewable energy to promote energy savings. Bryan Garcia responded that the Green Bank is working with the Utility companies to make Affordable Housing have more measures like that and more, but there is no statute that requires it.
- b. Update on 2025 in Conservation and Loan Management Plan
  - i. Update on EDC Performance Management Incentive to Coordinate with Green Bank
    - Stephen Bruno reviewed the overall Budget, Savings, and Benefits expected for the next 3 years. He stated there is a small increase from the last C&LM Plan due to some extra revenues. Stephen Bruno summarized the changes made since the November 1<sup>st</sup> filing. He reviewed the new PMI for Electric Companies to coordinate with the Green Bank, which is hoping to kick off in April.

## 7. Opportunities and Challenges – Healthy Housing

- Mackey Dykes summarized the targets for the Solar MAP for Affordable Housing program this year. It consists of 4 projects from the first portfolio.

## 8. Update on the 2025 Legislative Session

- James Desantos summarized an update on the current legislative session.

## 9. Other Business

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

- Mackey Dykes summarized the update to the Small and Medium/Large Business agreement, which will continue for another 3 years. Stephen Bruno added that since the original purchase in 2000, customers have repaid about \$90 million of the \$116 million loans. He explained the changes to the definition of Small Business and what it has grown to cover.

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

- Bryan Garcia summarized the continued Smart-E loan program which has expanded to include some resilience and storage measures. Mackey Dykes summarized the update to the Multi-Family program in which the Green Bank is seeking approval to extend the LIME partnership with Capital for Change.

- Becca Treitch asked if there has been any increase in the Smart-E loan due to the Heat Loan expiration in 2024. Madeline Priest responded that under the Smart-E loan for the last few years the majority of the loans have been for heat pumps, HVAC, and Weatherization related improvements, but that the program isn't inundated or overburdened currently.

- d. Other Business

- None.

## 10. Public Comments

- John Harrity commented that James Desantos's work with the legislature has been very positive, and that he does well to explain all the energy issues to relevant people.

## 11. Adjourn

**Upon a motion made by John Harrity and seconded by Becca Treitch, the Joint Committee adjourned at 3:04 pm.**