

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
RSA 125-O:5-a

Tenth Annual Report

Prepared for:
The Governor
President of the New Hampshire Senate
Speaker of the New Hampshire House
Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chair of the House Science, Technology and Energy Committee
Public Utilities Commission

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I. Introduction

This annual report provides an update on the activities of the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board and its recommendations for action, pursuant to RSA 125-O:5-a IV.

II. Background

The Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board (“EESE Board”) was created in 2008, by RSA 125-O:5-a. The EESE Board was “created to promote and coordinate energy efficiency, demand response, and sustainable energy programs in the state.” RSA 125-O:5-a I. One purpose for establishing the EESE Board was an increasing awareness that energy efficiency is the least expensive and cleanest energy resource, and that New Hampshire must do more to promote and utilize energy efficiency and sustainable energy resources as a means to bolster the state’s economy and spur business innovation, improve energy security, reduce customer costs, and protect the environment. To this end, the EESE Board’s statutory duties include to develop a plan to achieve the state’s energy efficiency potential for all fuels as well as the economic and environmental sustainability of the state’s energy system, including development of clean energy resources, and to ensure that the state is providing leadership on energy efficiency and sustainable energy matters. *See* RSA 125-o:5-a, I (b), (c), and (g).

The Chair of the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) convened the first organizational meeting of the EESE Board on October 1, 2008, and the EESE Board has since met roughly nine to twelve times per year. The EESE Board is administratively attached to the PUC, which provides administrative support.¹ The PUC hosts a comprehensive webpage for the EESE Board and other interested parties where all meeting materials and background information can be found:

www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm.

¹ Administrative Support and Contact for the EESE Board is the PUC: (603) 271-2431, EESEBoard@puc.nh.gov.

III. Statutory Duties

The EESE Board's duties are broad. *See* RSA 125-O:5-a, I (a) through (j). They include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing available energy efficiency, conservation, demand response, and sustainable energy programs and incentives and compiling a report of those resources in New Hampshire;
- Developing a plan to achieve the state's energy efficiency potential for all fuels, including setting goals and targets for energy efficiency that are meaningful and achievable;
- Developing a plan for economic and environmental sustainability of the state's energy system including the development of high efficiency clean energy resources that are either renewable or have low net greenhouse gas emissions;
- Exploring opportunities to coordinate programs targeted at saving more than one fuel resource, including conversion to renewable resources and coordination between natural gas and other programs which seek to reduce the use of nonrenewable fuels;
- Developing tools to enhance outreach and education programs to increase knowledge about energy efficiency and sustainable energy among New Hampshire residents and businesses;
- Expanding upon the state government's efficiency programs to ensure that the state is providing leadership on energy efficiency and sustainable energy including reduction of its energy use and fuel costs;
- Encouraging municipalities and counties to increase investments in energy efficiency and sustainable energy through financing tools, and to create local energy committees;
- Working with community action agencies and the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) to explore ways to ensure that all customers participating in programs for low-income customers and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have access to energy efficiency improvements, and where appropriate, renewable energy resources, in order to reduce their energy bills; and
- Investigating potential sources of funding for energy efficiency and sustainable energy development and delivery mechanisms for such programs, coordinating efforts between funding sources to reduce duplication and enhance collaboration, and reviewing investment strategies to increase access to energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

IV. Members and Public Participation

The members of the EESE Board, designated by RSA 125-O:5-a, II, include representatives of business and non-profit organizations and associations, legislators, state agency heads, consumer representatives, as well as several non-voting members representing electric and natural gas utilities, banking, and businesses in relevant energy efficiency and sustainable energy industries.

The members represent a wide range of interests that help inform the EESE Board's work.

Members as of December 2017 are:

Chair:

- Ben Frost – Housing Finance Authority designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (o)

Voting Members:

- Karen Cramton – PUC Chair designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (a)
- Joseph Doiron – Office of Strategic Initiatives designee, RSA 125-O:5-a,II (b)
- D. Maurice Kreis – Consumer Advocate, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (c)
- Rebecca Ohler – Department of Environmental Services designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (d)
- Taylor Caswell – Business & Economic Affairs designee, RSA 125-O:5-a,II (e)
- Katherine Garfield – Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire designee, RSA 125-O:5-a,II (f)
- Theresa Swanick – New Hampshire Municipal Association designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (g)
- Raymond Burke – New Hampshire Legal Assistance designee, RSA 125-O:5-a,II (h)
- Scott Emond – New Hampshire Homebuilders and Remodelers Association designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (i)
- Rep. Herbert Richardson – House Speaker appointment, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (j)
- Rep. Robert Backus – House Speaker appointment, RSA 125-O:5-a II (j)
- Sen. Kevin Avarad – Senate President appointment, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (k)
- Ryan Clouthier, Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc. – not-for-profit appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, II, (l)

- Kate Epsen, New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association – not-for-profit appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (l)
- Michael Mooiman – The Jordan Institute. PUC Chair non-profit appointment, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (1)
- Donald Perrin – State Energy Manager – Department of Administrative Services designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (m)
- Jeffrey Cyr – Fire Marshal designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (n)

Non-Voting Members:

- Cindy Carroll, Unitil/Northern – utility appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (a)
- Eric Stanley, Liberty Utilities – utility appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (a)
- Carol Woods, New Hampshire Electric Coop – utility appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (a)
- Kate Peters, Eversource – utility appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III(a)
- Michael Bruss, Bruss Project Mgt.,LLC – PUC Chair energy svcs co. apt, III (b)
- Michael Behrmann, Revolution Energy, LLC – renewable energy business appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (c)
- Scott Maslansky, New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority – PUC Chair investment community apt, III (d)

The EESE Board has since its inception appreciated and encouraged attendance and participation of the public at its meetings. Business, municipal and nonprofit leaders and other stakeholders regularly attend the EESE Board's monthly meetings and are encouraged to bring relevant energy experience to the EESE Board's discussions. In all, roughly 100 people are on the EESE Board's email distribution list, not including EESE Board members. The EESE Board recognizes that energy consumers, business leaders, municipal officials, energy efficiency and sustainable energy professionals, and other concerned members of the public and private sectors are all crucial to achieving our state's energy goals.

V. Description of 2017 Activities

The EESE Board met nine times in 2017: in January, February, March, April, , June, July, September, November, and December. Meeting agendas, minutes, presentations, and other materials from all of the EESE Board’s meetings can be found on the PUC’s EESE Board webpage: www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm.

Committees

In addition, the EESE Board has utilized a committee structure to meet its broad statutory goals, enabling work between EESE Board meetings and opportunities for participation from both EESE Board members and non-members. The EESE Board has two active committees: the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) Committee; and the Outreach and Education Committee. The EERS Committee was re-commissioned by the EESE Board after the PUC issued its Order² on EERS in August 2016. During 2017, the EERS Committee undertook the bulk of the EESE Board’s work as the stakeholder convener and advisor to the PUC as stated in the Order. In particular, during June and July of 2017 the EERS Committee conducted a series of weekly meetings to discuss specific aspects of the draft EERS implementation plan circulated by the utilities. This led to specific recommendations transmitted to the EESE Board itself, which were adopted in July. Of possibly even greater significance was the value of these discussions in developing common understandings among all stakeholders (including the utilities) so as to reduce the extent to which there were issues to be litigated at the PUC once the utilities submitted the final version of their plan in September.

² Available at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Orders/2016orders/25932e.pdf>.

Meetings and Presentations

The EESE Board frequently solicits presentations from projects and programs working on issues of interest to the Board. In 2017 the EESE Board heard updates from several existing New Hampshire programs as well as presentations from outside experts on energy policy.

- **January:** There was no presentation. The Board discussed what presentations and topics would be of interest in the upcoming year. Upcoming legislation was also discussed.
- **February:** Jake Oster of Energy Savvy gave a presentation on modern measurement and verification methodologies and software which may be used to evaluate energy efficiency program savings.
- **March:** Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager of the Department of Administrative Services presented an overview of energy efficiency projects implemented throughout the state buildings and properties. These projects were completed under Energy Savings Performance Contracts.
- **April:** The Department of Environmental Services provided an overview of the Natural Resources Defense Council report, “Driving Out Pollution: How Utilities Can Accelerate the Market for Electric Vehicles”.
- **May:** No meeting.
- **June:** Kate Peters of Eversource presented the draft 2018-2020 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan on behalf of collaborative utilities. The Board discussed the draft plan and provided direction to the EERS Committee.
- **July:** There was no presentation. The Board discussed its desire for details and explanations on EERS components such as, non-energy impacts; funding and access to capital; creation of energy measurement and verification (EM&V) working group; and recommended pilot

projects. The Board adopted a series of recommendations, initially drafted by the EERS Committee, to the utilities with respect to their EERS implementation plan.

- **August:** No meeting.
- **September:** Joe Fontaine of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) presented a “Summary of Proposed Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)” changes. Kate Peters of Eversource presented an overview of the NHSaves 2018-2020 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan filed with the Commission. She highlighted key features of the plan along with EESE Board recommendations which were incorporated into the plan.
- **October:** No meeting.
- **November:** There was no presentation. The Board discussed PUC docket updates and legislative updates.
- **December:** There was no presentation. The EESE Board approved Brian D. Buckley to serve as the EESE Board designee to the Evaluation, Measurement and Verification working group established by the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard Settlement Agreement under Docket DE 17-136. Elections for EESE Board Officers for 2018 were held. Don Kreis was nominated to serve as the Chair of the EESE Board for the coming year and Becky Ohler was nominated to serve as Vice Chair. The nomination slate was put forward for a vote and the candidates were unanimously approved by the Board.

VI. Conclusion

The EESE Board has endeavored to be a forum for collaboration and information sharing and to assist the state in the development of a comprehensive approach to energy cost savings, clean energy jobs, and a stronger and more secure energy future for New Hampshire. In addition to the main discussion items and presentations, at each meeting there is an opportunity for updates on

state programs, policy items, and activities. All attendees are welcome to share updates on issues where they have particular knowledge or interest. Through these updates members remain informed about a wide range of energy-related policy and program topics, including the status of grant and financing programs, implementation of projects, events, and policy issues such as building codes, net metering, and budgets.

The EESE Board appreciates the engagement and immense time contribution of so many interested parties, including its volunteer members, non-voting participants and many other public and private stakeholders. This contribution by so many participants in support of dialogue, inquiry, analysis and sharing of ideas has created a unique opportunity for the state to draw on a wide variety of experience and knowledge as it navigates the next steps to move its energy efficiency and sustainable energy agenda forward. To focus its efforts in 2018, the EESE Board hopes to develop a list of priorities that will be updated annually as needed. The priorities for 2018 will likely include efforts to learn more about proposed updates to the energy codes that are part of New Hampshire’s state building codes and to provide ongoing input into the implementation of the 2018-2020 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan.

The EESE Board looks forward to continuing its role as a “stakeholder board” in the development and evaluation of the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard. *See Gas and Electric Utilities*, DE 17-136, Order No. 26,095 at 15-16 (January 2, 2018); *Gas and Electric Utilities*, DE 15-137, Order No. 25,932 at 34, 60-61 (August 2, 2016). In 2018, the Board will formalize a mechanism to receive updates and provide input to its designee on the Evaluation, Measurement and Verification Working Group pursuant to the Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in DE 17-136. *See* Order No. 26,095 at 15-16 (January 2, 2018). In addition, the Board will provide a forum at its monthly meetings for regular updates from the other working groups established by the Settlement Agreement in DE 17-136. The Board anticipates that its

EERS Committee will be re-commissioned to assist the Board in developing recommendations for the filing of the 2019 Plan Update in September 2018, similar to the process conducted in 2017 for the filing of the 2018-2020 Energy Efficiency Plan.

The EESE Board looks forward to building on the knowledge gained from its previous work and helping the state to meet the next set of challenges and opportunities in energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Benjamin D. Frost, Chair