

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Room 100, 21 S. Fruit Street, Concord, 9 AM – 12:30 PM
September 10, 2010 Meeting

***Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.**

Members in Attendance: Richard Ober of NH Charitable Foundation, Jack Ruderman of NHPUC, Meredith Hatfield of the OCA, Joanne Morin for Eric Steltzer of NH OEP, Mike Fitzgerald for Robert Scott of DES, Alan Linder for Daniel Feltes of NHLA, Wes Golomb of NH SEA, Beth Fischer for HBRANH/Build Green NH, Ben Frost for Dean Christon of NH Housing & Finance, Bob Reals, Jr. of NH DRED, Representative Jim Garrity, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Ken Walsh of NH State Fire Marshalls Office, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Susan Olson of the NH Municipal Association
Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, Jim Grady of Lightec, Inc., and George Gantz from Unitol Energy Systems, Janet Ackerman of Ocean Bank, and Charlie Niebling of New England Wood Pellet

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting commenced at 9:07am.
2. **Previous Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the August meeting were approved unanimously.
3. **Municipal Energy Programs Update.** Three program recipients of the first round of RGGI grant funding gave short presentations about the program and its results/impacts.
 - a. Tom Rooney gave the first presentation on the EnergySmart Schools program, which can be viewed [here](#). More information can be found at www.nhschoolbenchmarking.com.
 - i. Question: Would there be sufficient funding to do all NH schools (c. 400)?
Answer: yes.
 - b. Christa Koehler presented next on the Roadmapping for Municipalities program. The presentation is found in the above link beginning at slide 4.
 - i. There were a few positive comments about this program from meeting attendees, including a man from Hollis that vouched for the great improvements that were made there as a result of the program and work by SDES.
 - c. Eric Halter presented next on the Energy Technical Assistance and Planning program (ETAP), which can be found in the above link beginning at slide 6. More information can be viewed at www.etapnhc.org.
 - i. Key meeting attendee comments included the critical role of Regional Planning Commissions in this program, a general concern over awareness of local market services and local demand/awareness of these services, and overlapping the program with existing services, e.g. utility programs and existing design build community.
 - d. Chairman Ober called to revisit the 3 guiding principles: coordination, measurability, and sustainability and the three above presenters returned to the power point presentation

(see above link slides 8-12). Key themes included information sharing, building one-on-one relationships, and financing.

- e. Post-presentation discussion and questions ensued. Key points included:
 - i. There is a huge unmet demand for EE services, financing is always an issue.
 - ii. There will never be enough public money to meet the demand for services
 - iii. There isn't a cookie cutter roadmap that can be used uniformly across all NH communities. Flexibility and consumer choice will play a large role.
- 4. Outreach and Education Committee Update on 9/8 Planning Day.** Beth Fischer gave an update on the strategic planning day held on 9/8 convened to develop a coordinated communications plan for expanding EE and RE in NH:
- a. The planning day included 25 participants and as many observers/volunteer scribes. The participants were from all over the state and were new voices to the energy field.
 - b. Great outcome and special thanks to Mary Tebo, Charlie French, PSNH, NH Solar Stores, and Roger Stephenson
 - c. Next steps include a .PDF file from Charlie French in time for the next EESE Board meeting and to determine a plan forward with an associated budget.
 - d. General discussion followed expressing strong enthusiasm as a result of the planning day and desire to channel this momentum into concerted action, reducing barriers to adoption. Dick Henry expressed serious concerns over jettisoning the discussion of climate change as part of the final communications strategy.
 - e. Contact Beth Fischer or Meredith Hatfield to learn more or to become involved in the committee.
- 5. SB323 Study Committee Update.** This committee is tasked with coordinating an RFP for an independent third party to review NH energy policy issues and working with the selected contractor thereafter as appropriate.
- a. The RFP was released on 8/25/2010. The bidders conference will be held on 9/14/2010 followed by a due date for responses by 9/24/2010. There is a working group committee meeting scheduled for 10/6/2010.
 - b. More information on the RFP can be found [here](#).
- 6. Funding Updates.**
- a. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Jack Ruderman gave an update on all related RGGI funding topics, including:
 - i. The review process for the RGGI grant awards for 2010 is nearing the final stages; the review committee will be giving the PUC Commissioners its recommendations on awards.
 - ii. A new RFP will be released in September or October, focusing on the municipal sector.
 - iii. The quarterly RGGI auction of allowances yielded \$2.186 million. 25% of the allowance did not even sell; those that did sold at the floor price.

- iv. Barbara Bernstein and Jack Ruderman have conducted 4 site visits to 2009 RGGI grant awardees, including Crotched Mountain, Fraser Paper, SAU 46, and the Gorham fire department.
- b. Renewable Energy Fund. Jack Ruderman gave an update on the REF and its programs:
 - i. A commercial and industrial (C&I) rebate program is under development and the final Order is forthcoming.
 - ii. A fuel-neutral RFP for the C&I sector will be released this winter, in time for the legislated deadline of March 2011.
 - iii. The residential solar electric and small wind program has been very successful (over 460 systems participating) and now the funding is drying up. Therefore the PUC staff has recommended that the rebate be reduced by half. The root problem is that the program is inconsistently funded by Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) alternative compliance payments (ACPs). A public hearing was held on 9/1 and an immediate Order is forthcoming to reflect the change in this program.
 - iv. The solar thermal program needs to accelerate its spending per DOE pressure, which may lead to an increase in the federal portion of the rebate (State Energy Program-Stimulus funds from the Office of Energy and Planning).
 - v. The wood pellet central heating system program has received 4 applications. Participation is predicted to increase in the autumn when the colder weather force people to consider heating needs.
- c. Stimulus Funding (ARRA). Joanne Morin gave an update on the stimulus funding/DOE, specifically:
 - i. OEP is getting pressure from DOE to spend money faster. OEP is struggling with this given their original goals of the funding. There has been some re-scoping of some programs (money added to Green Launching Pad program, residential programs, and administrative staff has been added to help with compliance reporting).
 - ii. Michael Pais (sp?) has been hired as the Better Buildings (formerly known as Beacon Communities) program manager. This program is on track however DOE still wishes for faster implementation.

7. Focus Discussion. This discussion was an unstructured conversation based upon Chairman Ober's memo entitled, "*Reflections—Assessing where we are and next steps,*" found [here](#). The first 30 minutes of the discussion was open to only EESE Board members, thereafter all meeting attendees.

The intent of the discussion is to look back at the planning session from last summer, identify obstacles and barriers and how these are being addressed through current programming. How could they be better addressed in the near term versus the long term?

See Deborah Schachter's (Senior Program Officer of the NH Charitable Foundation) notes [here](#) for the full details of this discussion.

8. Other Business.

- a. Chairman Ober recommended that the October meeting be held at Crotched Mountain. He will contact the site regarding logistics.
- b. The Retail Merchants Association (A RGGI grant recipient) will be requested to present at the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm