

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board
Public Utilities Commission, Getz Room 103
9 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday, December 14, 2012

Members in Attendance:

Deborah Schachter from NH Charitable Foundation; Susan Thorne from OEP; Susan Chamberlin¹ from OCA; Jack Ruderman from PUC; Brian Ramsey from BIA; Mike Fitzgerald from DES; Rep. Naida Kaen from NH House; Alan Linder from NH Legal Assistance; Luke Benson from NH Home Builders and Remodelers Assoc; Ben Frost for Dean Christon from NH Housing Finance Authority; Dana Nute from The Jordan Institute and Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Gil Gelineau from PSNH; Bob Reals from Liberty Utilities; Mary Downes from Unitil; Carol Woods from NHEC; Michael Bruss from Bruss Construction; Michael Behrmann from Revolution Energy and Kate Peters from NH CDFA.

1. Welcome and Introduction

- The food was sponsored by Gil Gelineau on behalf of Public Service Company of NH.

2. Minutes of November 16, 2012 EESE Board Meeting

- The Board approved the [minutes](#) from the November 16, 2012 EESE Board meeting.

3. Final Report Dissemination – Update and Discussion

- George Gantz requested feedback on [key messages](#) developed and distributed by Chris Skoglund of DES for use by the Board and others to promote the Independent Energy Study and the EESE Board’s report on it.
 - Talking point #3 should state more explicitly that “...the State needs a clear energy policy...”
 - EESE Board’s Report (the Report) on the Independent Energy Study was filed and contacts with leadership have been initiated.
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- Dissemination of the Report was discussed:
 - NH House and Senate leadership and the PUC have received copies of the Report
 - Deborah Schachter, Kate Peters and George Gantz to meet with Governor-Elect's Transition team to brief them on the Report.
 - Senator Jeb Bradley has authorized the EESE Board to meet with Senate leadership in early January. A bill calling for a State energy plan has been proposed.
 - EESE Board members will set up meetings with key legislators, once House assignments have been made.
 - Mary Downes and Michael Bruss, EESE Board Outreach and Education Committee (O&E) co-chairs, presented next steps for disseminating the Report, as detailed in their [handout](#). Discussion:
 - Chris Skoglund and George Gantz will draft a blurb for organizations to use on their websites with a link to the Report. Dissemination to include the following:
 - Regional Planning Commissions and Municipal Planning group (by DES)
 - Local Energy Working Group contact list (by LEWG)
 - New England Clean Energy Council (by D. Schachter)
 - Associated General Contractors, Inc. and Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (by Kendall Buck)
 - Green Launching Pad (by OEP)
 - Mary Downes identified the priority audience as state government, municipal leaders and business.
 - EESE Board members will be tasked with briefing their own organizations on the Report and disseminating it through organizational channels. Members will be asked to report back on their efforts at the January EESE Board meeting and send a record of same to Mary Downes for inclusion in the resources matrix she is populating.
 - Use PowerPoint with individuals in face-to-face meetings

4. Better Buildings [Presentation](#)– Kate Peters – Community Development and Finance Authority

- Kate Peters from the Community Development and Finance Authority (CDFA) gave a presentation providing an overview of the Better Buildings program originally conceived by the EESE Board and now being implemented across the state. Program successes and challenges were highlighted, including:
- Through Q3 2012: 367 Residential projects completed, 17 Commercial projects completed, for annual energy savings of \$335,000. 56 Commercial projects in progress. \$2.5 million in loans made.
- Program expansion in 2012: continued to do significant volume of work in the Beacon Communities of Berlin, Plymouth and Nashua, while also calling for statewide Commercial projects starting in May. Of the 42 Commercial applicants, those with completed energy audits and seeking loans (not grants) are being prioritized.
- Program partners: Retail Merchants Association, Greener Homes, GDS Associates, The Jordan Institute, DRED, SNHS and TTCAP – Low Income Weatherization.
- First BB program in the country to partner with Utility Home Performance with Energy Star program. On track for BB program to complete 640 projects for \$2,000,000. Including 500 PSNH, 50 NHEC, 30 Unitil, 60 Liberty.
- Featured projects: Pemi Youth Center (29% energy savings), Berlin Model Neighborhood Project and Training (40% savings on energy bill), Nashua Farmers Exchange (46% energy savings).
- Lessons learned:
 - Market Transformation uncertain – providing free energy audits and grants was required to spur involvement. It was a challenge to get businesses to get involved, and to value the audit. Financing was a significant barrier for businesses – the program had to offer 25% grants to stimulate participation.
 - Hand holding and quality control were required. Customers needed technical assistance to navigate through projects. Independent third parties would ideally provide this service. Grant requirements for documentation were also a barrier for applicants.
 - Coordination is key.
- Comments:
 - Michael Bruss: providing free audits and grants for energy efficiency measures seems to have skewed the market for energy efficiency services, rather than transforming it as intended.

- Naida Kaen: create training for realtors to educate them about energy efficiency, its benefits and how it may be valued and marketed.
- Veronica Collins (CDFA): business owners are motivated by cost savings and sales pitches to those owners should be improved to address that motivation more effectively.
- Kendall Buck: cited Efficiency Vermont's realtor training
- Deborah Schachter: get the success stories out.
- Michael Bruss: the media is interested in energy efficiency success stories. We need to push it out.

5. EESE Board Agenda for 2013-2014 – Additional Discussion

- George Gantz asked Members to review [EESE enabling legislation](#).
- George Gantz distributed for review and discussion a graph of the [ISO-NE Energy Efficiency Forecast 2015-2021](#) dated 12-12-12. NH tops New England for energy savings per energy efficiency dollar spent, according to PSNH.
- George Gantz distributed for review and discussion a [Straw Proposal EESE Board Agenda for 2013-2014](#). It was organized according to *Objective, Goals and Programs*.
 - *Objective* – Discussion:
 - Caution against over-focusing on job creation as an indicator of the economic benefits or success of EE programs.
 - Mike Fitzgerald: how does NH compare with other states?
 - Chris Skoglund: the Climate Change Collaborative compared NH EEI data with other states'.
 - Gil Gelineau: not sure if EE will drive the economy in NH
 - 25% by 2025 initiative and the Climate Change Action Plan are impacting EE in NH and should be mentioned in this section.
 - [Vermont's Genuine Progress Indicator](#) was mentioned as a tool which could be useful to NH: it provides structure for quantifying EE and SE targets. The EESE Board could look at its surveys, etc.
 - *Goals*– Discussion:

- Factors affecting EESE success are related to State spending levels and how funds are spent.
- Legislative mandates drive whether utilities and States get money for EE and SE.
- Public demand drives legislation. Need for groundwork at the grassroots level, to inform and drive demand. HBRA of NH is using this strategy to promote public demand for EE buildings.
- Deborah Schachter: Consider how EESE Board may be uniquely positioned to push public demand.
- Educate the public to do EE and SE independent of State. Support this by
 - Legitimizing vendors
 - Providing how-to information, such as through Button-up NH trainings
- *Programs*– Discussion:
 - Develop committees to address this.
 - Develop Case Studies for projects brought by EESE board members
 - Develop speakers’ bureau for outreach. Julia Dundorf and Stacey Doll did this for the Climate Action Plan and it required significant resources to implement.

6. Board and Program Updates

Karen Rantamaki – State Energy Manager

- Will provide presentation for EESE Board’s January meeting on the State’s 2012 Energy Conservation Plans and the 2012 State Energy Report with Susan Thorne (OEP).

Susan Thorne – Office of Energy and Planning

- Competitive SEP grant extension has been approved by DOE and will be presented for approval by the Legislative Fiscal Committee and Governor & Council in January. This grant will work toward establishing an energy efficiency goal for the State of NH.

Jack Ruderman – PUC

- RGGI Auction proceeds: \$1.7 million.

Ben Frost – NHHA

- Greener Homes Program – Conway Pines – uses closed loop geothermal and solar PV to achieve a HERS rating of 36.

- Grant program for municipalities – regulatory implementation of building. Grant #2 opened on December 3, 2012 and applications are due by February 12, 2013. Will hold a grant-writing workshop at the LGC in Concord on January 7, 2013 and at the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem on January 9, 2013.

Julia Dundorf – Local Energy Working Group

- LEWG’s Capacity building team is developing Local Energy Solutions conference to be held April 13, 2013 at Winnisquam Regional High School in Raymond, NH. Julia is organizing the conference. To be discussed at upcoming December planning meeting.
- Local energy training series webinars are underway and incorporate a variety of offerings including conferences, workshops and presentations. Monthly series is on second Wednesday from 11am to noon. Target audience: municipalities, schools. Two sessions have occurred and the last had 59 registrants. Next webinar: getting a project to Town Meeting.
- nenergy.org web name has been donated by Clay Mitchell, of Revolution Energy for the use of the LEWG. Now studying any restrictions limiting its use.
- LEWG outreach targets engaging additional sectors.
- Providing Technical Assistance to municipalities is key for LEWG.
- LEWG is taking forward a program concept developed by CLF for OEP, which would provide self-funded [municipal energy efficiency](#) technical assistance through a revolving loan fund. Includes how towns may group together to access the services they need for EE projects.

Gil Gelineau – PSNH

- CORE – the utilities have been working with the PUC and others toward a settlement agreement due December 21, 2012.
 - The PUC will be resolving the following three items: CHP inclusion, incentive levels for gas customer homes, and the pilot program. Potential impacts would save ~0.5 billion kwh (70,000 homes or 13% of state’s power) over the lifetime of the measures.
 - 600,000 residential and 100,000 business electric customers in the state.
 - 20% of energy savings are attributable to RGGI-funded programs and the rest mainly to SBC-funded programs.

Other Comments:

- Mike Fitzgerald – Legislative Update - 22 LSR is related to energy and should be monitored.
- Bob S. – EE has saved \$20 million.

Next meetings: (second Friday of the month) January 18, February 15, March 8. A tentative schedule will be posted on the PUC web site under EESE Board.