



Energy Efficiency Board Minutes
January 13, 2021
1 pm – 3:30 pm

Meeting presentations can be found here:

<https://app.box.com/s/robtqb1qso99bnf0xxrp13b9iaqqxe57>

1. Process (25 Minutes)

A. Roll call – Board Members present: Neil Beup, Amy McLean, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Brenda Watson, Eric Brown, Jack Traver, John Wright, Donna Wells, Ron Araujo, Scott Whittier, Steve Bruno, Bruce McDermott, Joel Kopylec, and John Viglione.

Others in attendance: Bernard Pelletier, Daniel Robertson, George Lawrence, Glenn Reed, Lawrence Rush, Linda King, Lisa Skumatz, Richard Faesy, Rose Croog, Steve Cowell, Brendan Thompson, Danny Anderson, DBE, Erin Kempster, Guy West, James Williamson, Kate Donatelli, Mark Thompson, Michelle Long, Mike Weissman, Patrice Gillespie, Paul Horowitz, Philip Mosenthal, Richard Olisky, Robert Auer, Russell King, Samantha Caputo, Thomas Phillips, Tiffany Murphy, Timothy Fabuien, and Vinay A.

B. Minutes – Approve minutes from November 2020 Board Meeting. It was moved by Ms. McLean and seconded by Ms. Fargo-Johnson that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion passed.

C. 2021 Technical Consultant and Executive Secretary Workplans and Budget. Mr. Reed went through the work plans and budgets for the EEB Consultants for 2021. Ms. Watson asked if any of the consultants have equity backgrounds. Mr. Reed stated that Ms. Elizabeth Chant has expertise in low-income programs. Ms. Fargo-Johnson and Ms. Wells added their support of the budget and workplan. An electronic vote to approve the workplans and budgets will be sent to the Board by Ms. King.

D. Public Comments.

Mr. Cowell appreciated the fact that weatherization barriers are being worked on by the Board and DEEP with regard to data sharing and low-income discount rates, similar to programs in Massachusetts.

Mr. Robertson asked if the change with the federal administration will impact DEEP policy? Will there be consideration for EV charging stations (EV demand response program) with the regional greenhouse gas initiative? Ms. Wells responded a specific answer is not yet available for the EV chargers; however, an EV roadmap and PURA docket has been opened regarding this subject.

2. Programs and Planning (120 Minutes)

A. Preliminary 2020 Savings and Spending and Comparison to Revised Goals – Companies.

Mr. Bruno reported Eversource's year to date summaries as of December 31, 2020 for both natural gas and electricity with the electric side being on target for spending, but with annual savings and lifetime savings below goal. Natural gas data was presented on revenue collections from the CAM, with spending, annual savings and lifetime savings below budget.

Mr. Kopylec provided year to date totals as of December 31, 2020 for Avangrid. UI electric was below goal for spending, annual savings and lifetime savings. SCG had spending, annual savings and lifetime savings below budget and CNG also had spending, annual savings and lifetime savings below budget. Increased incentives have helped the savings.

Mr. Bruno presented the preliminary combined statewide revenue summary which was close to the forecast in August. More money was collected than spent with overcollections of \$39 million. Based on the DEEP decision carry over into the 2021 Plan will be capped at 5% of the 2020 budget (~\$10 million). Returning a portion of the over collections has been started with the return of \$11 million, effective January 1, 2021. Once the CAM filing is complete in March, the balance of that will be returned to ratepayers, equaling a total of \$29 million begin returned to rate payers.

B. 2021 Plan Update (March 1 filing) – Companies and Consultants.

Mr. Reed reminded the group that the approved Plan filed October 30 included a placeholder for equity metric; one for C&I and one for Residential. What had been agreed to were the dollar amounts and percentage allocations. Discussions regarding metrics are ongoing at the Committee level with details to be presented at the February Board meeting.

i. Proposed 2021 Equity metrics.

Residential - Mr. Faesy reviewed the Residential equity metric formula of a 3-year average baseline for Eversource at 1.96% and UI a 2-year average base line of 0.45%. Also noted is that this is an electric-only funded metric and in 1-to-4-unit buildings with the recognition that multi-family is not included in this metric because those metrics are not currently available. The Companies have put forth a 0.5 percentage point increase in participation per year, relative to the baseline. Mr. Araujo stated the data does not reflect a geographic distribution. That will be done as targeted outreach efforts occur with newly enrolled or non-program participants, prior to how the program was previously marketed.

C&I – Mr. Lawrence noted discussions are on-going involving looking at existing utility data to see what is missing and could be tracked, and; if there is a common metric that can be a focus. Mr. Beup noted going through the data is a process that also includes identifying meaningful data that will create an impact.

ii. Allocation of 2020 Underspent funds. Mr. Bruno noted the 2021 carryover distribution is being finalized and will be presented at the next Board meeting of the allocation and the methods used. These are based on DEEP's conditions in the plan and parity. Eversource will have funds available from its customer engagement platforms that will be reallocated to other purpose, such as supporting local energy taskforces. Ms. Fargo-Jonson supports the municipal task force input. Ms. McLean noted the Companies are discussing in the Committee meetings how to build on taskforce and stakeholder input at the community level.

iii. Completed PSD Updates. Mr. Kopylec provided a high-level overview of the PSD Evaluation final report filed in October 2020. Over 600 recommendations or suggestions were made, noting citation errors; however, many had significant impacts on the plan with over 100 suggestions incorporated. Examples of those included savings increase in insulation and ductless heat pumps. Some decreases were in realization rates and lighting. Work continues with the team and evaluation contractor to prioritize updates for the March 2021 filing including lighting measures, heat pumps, ground source heat pumps, blower door tests, etc. The Companies are committed to working with the team and contractor to incorporate changes for the 2022- 2024 plan which will be finalized in Q3.

C. 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan

Mr. Reed discussed the following changes:

- i. Revised Three-Year Plan Board calendar. Topics for February and May will be switched with the Board activities in February will be the C&I Program Discussion and Public Input Session #1. May's Board Activities will be Review and Discuss PMI Structure, weights, etc. and identify areas for potential revision.
- ii. Public Input Sessions. Discussion centered around changing the dates from the previous dates of February and May allowing for further discussion of Residential and C&I board plan discussions to February and March. This proposed change is based on feedback by the Companies, allowing more time for their responses and incorporating comments from the public input sessions.

Ms. Fargo-Johnson preferred the February and March discussions. Mr. Traver suggested March and May after the C&I and Residential had discussions – a May session would allow to still have input in the process. Mr. Bruno stated the sooner public input is gathered, the sooner those comments can be incorporated into future plans. The comments will be taken back to the Board Leadership Meeting and a decision will be communicated as quickly as possible to the groups. Any additional input from the Board is welcomed.

Mr. Reed discussed the Board Planning meetings are typically hosted in Hartford, CT in June for 2.5 hours and requested feedback from the group to determine if changes are needed this year.

Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked the tasks to be accomplished – are those already being done? Ms. McLean mentioned planning is done at monthly Committee (?) meetings now and the public is participating in those meetings. Mr. Bruno stated the current direction has been positive receiving guidance and input along the way and would be ok without the Planning meeting. It was agreed upon that the Planning session will not take place this year with the caveat that it is incumbent on the Consultants to continue to work with the Board and leadership to find the right balance of information, structure and board feedback to the Companies and Consultants.

iii. Questions for Stakeholder and Public Input Sessions. Mr. Reed lead the discussion about potential topics, noting this is not an all-inclusive list and it may have additions as time goes on.

D. Evaluation Update – Evaluation Administrators

Dr. Skumatz introduced her team and provided an overview of the Evaluation Team as well as the number of studies and activities completed in 2020 and new projects underway. A detailed list of projects was included in the presentation spanning residential, commercial and those that are cross-cutting (impacting both sectors) for program evaluation, PSD factors and metrics. Conceptualization of projects is done with the EEB, EEB committees and utilities. Highlights for evaluation projects in 2021 are: compliance codes and standards; integrated and network controls; residential lighting tracking; new measures, and baselines. Progress on the Evaluation Roadmap was shared with a return to a research approach and interim memos in order to turn projects around more quickly.

E. ACEEE State Scorecard – Topic was tabled for a future meeting.

F. DEEP Updates – DEEP

i. Draft IRP: Public Input Process. Ms. Wells updated the Board on progress and announced technical sessions will be held on January 21 and 28 to answer questions via Zoom. Comment period ends February 15 and the final RFP will be issued on March 12. Information is available on DEEP's website on the Energy Filings page under Integrated Resource Plan.

ii. DEEP Legislative Package. Ms. Wells announced the package was submitted to the legislature related to conservation and load (?) management with possible statute changes. Ms. McLean appreciated the proposed legislative package and asked if a third party would administer programs and what role the EEB would have. Mr. Reed will send the link for the legislative package to the Board. The two additional slots proposed for Board membership would be for low to moderate income residential customers and municipalities. Mr. Beup reminded the Board itself does not take a position on or advocate with regard to legislation. Individuals may do so, outside of their Board membership.

G. Weatherization Barriers Update and January 20 Workshop – DEEP/Amy McLean

Ms. Croog shared discussion at the first workshop centered around funneling LIHEAP

money through HES-IE instead of WAP to allow a higher percentage of funding to be distributed. She also reviewed steps that have been taken since the workshop and announced the next workshop on January 20 from 9 – 11 am and shared the draft agenda. Suggestions for additional topics should be sent to Claire.Sickinger@ct.gov. Ms. McLean clarified that LIHEAP funds are federal and will be leveraged effectively if funneled through HES-IE rather than returning the unused funds.

H. Company Updates – Companies

- i. Energize CT Alternative Update. Mr. Kopylec updated the group that a vendor was selected and will be onboard by the end of January. Draft materials and mock ups will be made available for Board to review and comment on for additional input. Consultants will review and finalize the report metrics and periodic reporting to the Board will be scheduled.
- ii. Eversource Customer Engagement Platform/Behavioral Program. Mr. Bruno announced a vendor has been selected with contracts in progress. Approximately \$350,000 has been identified in savings and will work with the EEB consultants to present at the February board meeting, as well as the new platform when it is ready.
- iii. Community Engagement Plan. Mr. Araujo stated feedback was received from four entities, key feedback included: providing funding in lieu of performance goals for training in meetings the community groups would need to attend; goals and point systems were not appropriate; award should be based on population size rather than activity; and more funding for distressed or low-income communities. The Residential Committee has been asked to provide feedback and a volunteer steering committee made up of community groups is being developed to identify resources to provide service to the communities and receive consensus on how to move forward.

3. Closing Public Comments – 3 minutes per organization

Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked about the status of the RFP process to update the Energize CT website at the next meeting. She also requested another Board member is needed on the Consultant Committee. Ms. McLean and Dr. Skumatz also requested that Board members consider joining the Residential and Evaluation Committees.

Mr. Pelletier, Western Corporate Clean Energy Commission thanked the group for the opportunity to comment on the Community Engagement Plan and to continue dialog on the Plan to compliment the marketing. Also, the EnergizeCT website could use updates to keep it current. Mr. Araujo offered his assistance to escalate updates for the website. Ms. McLean offered that Eversource is hiring an individual to do community research that will work with the Community Engagement Plan and be a part of the steering committee for the Plan.

Commented [GR1]: "Connecticut"?

Commented [GR2]: ??

4. Adjourn

It was moved by Ms. Fargo-Johnson and seconded by Ms. McLean to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 pm.