



Energy Efficiency Board
June 8, 2022 | 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Documents for the meeting are located here:
<https://app.box.com/s/4it7u30wkpjsknzitiej406gpgzcbgab>

[Meeting Recording](#)

MINUTES

1. Process

A. Roll call of Board Members

Board Members: Shubhuda Kambli (DEEP), Neil Beup, Amy McLean, Ron Araujo, Stephen Bruno, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Joel Kopylec, Donald Mauritz, Anthony Kosior, Kathy Fay, Melissa Kops, John Viglione, John Wright, Hammad Chaudhry, Anne-Marie Knight

Board Consultants: Deirdre Sanders, Emily Rice, Pete Jacobs, Stacy Sherwood, George Lawrence, Glenn Reed, Lisa Skumatz, Phil Mosenthal, Bob Wirtshafter, Ralph Prah

Other Attendees: Dana Mowry, Diane Del Rosso, Ghani Ramdani, Glen Eigo, Jordan Schellens, Kate Donatelli (DEEP), Lawrence Rush, Violette Radomski, Alex Sopelak, Amanda Stevens, Barb Roderick, Brenda Watson, Brendan Thomas, Brian Sullivan, Colleen Morrison, Daniel Robertson, Devan Willemsen, Erin Cosgrove, Erin Engelkemeyer, Greg Caggiano, Hammad Chaudhry, Heather Deese, Jay Goodman, Jesus Pernia, Kenyetta Risser-Lovings (DEEP), Madison Donahue, Michelle Long, Mike Weissmann, Rebecca Dube, Ricky Jordan, Rose Croog (DEEP), Stephen Cowell, Tiffany Murphy, Timothy Fabuien

B. Minutes – Approve minutes from May 2022 Board Meeting

Mr. John Wright motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed 9-0, with Neil Beup abstaining.

C. Board Member Update – Brenda Watson Resignation

Mr. Neil Beup commended Ms. Brenda Watson for her work on the Board, specifically acting as a voice for low-to-moderate income customers. Ms. Amy McLean added that Ms. Watson’s work has been impactful and will continue to benefit customers for years to come.

DEEP released a [Notice of EEB Vacancy and Request for Applications](#). Applications are due June 30, 2022.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments offered.

2. Programs and Planning

A. Focus Area: Residential and C&I Program Updates – Companies

The Companies provided a presentation summarizing 2022 updates and changes to programs,

the impact of the recent DEEP Determination, and future program changes. Ms. Jordan Schellens, Eversource, and Mr. Joel Kopylec, Avangrid, covered the Commercial and Industrial changes while Mr. Lawrence Rush and Ms. Diane Del Rosso covered the Residential portfolio. The presentation also addressed Board priorities of equity, decarbonization, and affordability. A copy of the presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

Regarding the reference to changes to Distressed Communities (Slide 4), Ms. Melissa Kops asked for clarification on the definition. Mr. Ron Araujo shared [a link](#) to criteria and a list of towns under this category. Ms. Kops noted that New Haven was delisted as a distressed municipality but it has a [majority of census blocks](#) where 30% or more of the population lives below the 200% of the federal poverty level. Ms. Kops asked whether those areas would be covered. Mr. Araujo stated that the C&I customers would not be covered under the C&I Distressed Municipality offer but the residences would qualify for the HES-IE program.

B. Plan Update Schedule – Companies and Technical Consultants

Mr. Stephen Bruno shared a 2023 C&LM Plan Update Schedule, which included a summary of anticipated areas for updates and a timeline. The Plan Update aligns the Plan with DEEP's Final Determination and incorporates updates to programs. This can be found in the [materials folder](#).

C. SCG HES Budget Constraint – Companies and Technical Consultants

Mr. Larry Rush, Avangrid, shared a slide deck highlighting the savings and budget progress in Avangrid territory for its residential portfolio; a copy can be found in the materials folder. Mr. Rush's presentation explained the cause of budget depletion in Southern Connecticut Gas's Home Energy Solutions (HES) and HES Income-Eligible (HES-IE), and Residential HVAC programs. The Presentation included program participation and budget projections for 2022 and a program performance comparison between Avangrid companies, which includes SCG, United Illuminating (UI), and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), as well as Avangrid's plan for 2022 to address these issues (Slide 10).

Referring to the main drivers of this (budget cuts, price increases, and demand), Mr. Beup asked if the program budgets were what Avangrid submitted or if they were cut further from what Avangrid had forecasted. Mr. Rush noted that the 2022 budgets were lower than the 2021, partially due to lower budget but also overspending in 2021 due to increased program interest in the latter half of 2021. Mr. Beup noted he understood the challenges resulting from price increases and the demand changes but pointed out that the budget is a matter of program administration. Mr. Beup observed that this seems to be a SCG-specific issue as it's not one experienced elsewhere in the Energize CT programs.

Mr. Glen Eigo explained that the budgets are determined by revenue forecasts, based on the collections from the combined benefits charges on customer bills. Mr. Eigo explained the top-down process utilized to determine what can be achieved within the budgets and noted that while Avangrid can plan, for example, how much can be achieved but is unable to predict how long that will take. Mr. Eigo clarified that Mr. Rush is running into hitting 100% of target earlier than expected. Mr. Beup asked why this wouldn't be the same across the Companies and Programs. Mr. Eigo explained that there are many variables across territories; for example, vendors assigning more work in one area or another. Mr. Eigo explained that nearly all of UI customers line up with SCG customers, so when serving UI customers, they also can serve SCG customers.

Mr. Beup said Mr. Eigo's explanation is more insightful than the presentation offered because

it better explains why the budget issue happens. Mr. Beup said the Board would like to see a historical spend rate for SCG going forward, adding that if it's proven out in the data then it must be factored into SCG's Plan. Mr. Eigo said SCG hasn't run an analysis on spend rates and offered that this issue is somewhat unprecedented. Mr. Beup said the Board needs to understand why the budget issues described would happen so it can ameliorate the chances of this not happening in the future, as it's harmful to the programs when they are discontinued, paused, or scaled back and it's harmful to the vendor community as well. The Board wants to maintain consistent budgets and workforce.

Mr. Beup also pointed out that the spend rate is up but the savings are not commensurate with that uptick. Mr. Rush said there is a lag in savings because the May numbers are not included. Mr. Beup asked when those numbers would be available, and Mr. Rush noted that this would be ready by July. Mr. Beup said the Board would like to determine whether this is an anomaly or a trend for SCG, and what the drivers are. Mr. Eigo said they would need to investigate this further. Ms. Kathy Fay said she is looking forward to finding out more.

Ms. Fay noted that the effects of climate change could continue to drive demand and the Board should consider other sources of revenue so that budget constraints don't hinder necessary progress. Ms. Melissa Kops echoed Ms. Fay's sentiment, that if demand for programs is increasing the Board should explore funding sources to support this additional demand. Ms. Amy McLean shared that the Technical Consultants are working on a presentation that explores funding to be presented in July.

Ms. Sherwood suggested that managing vendor workloads is something to consider. Mr. Ron Araujo shared that he sounded the alarm to watch Eversource's gas budget, which had decreased approximately 4 million dollars from 2021 to 2022. Mr. Araujo discussed the challenges on the gas side as it relates to planning. Mr. Eigo noted that SCG's gas budget reduced approximately 2 million from November to March. Mr. Eigo noted that as it gets warmer, the Companies collect less dollars from heating. This also causes an increase in gas prices and demand for programs.

Mr. Beup said this will have to remain on the Agenda going forward.

D. Mid-Year Evaluation Update – Evaluation Administrator

Ms. Lisa Skumatz and Mr. Pete Jacobs shared a presentation summarizing the Evaluation Committee's progress and upcoming evaluation items. The presentation highlighted evaluation areas directed by Conditions of Approval (Slide 3), the Performance Savings Document (PSD) process, updates to the PSD, and evaluation study examples. Ms. Skumatz and her team also highlighted upcoming studies. A copy of Ms. Skumatz' presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

E. DEEP's Final Determination – DEEP

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided a brief overview of the [DEEP Final Determination](#); including components of the Final Determination and Attachments and highlights of changes from the Draft Determination. Please note that Attachment D is still a Draft as the Evaluation Team is still working on a study that will inform the Weatherization standard and was a topic that received a lot of public comment. A copy of the presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#). The headers in the slide deck reflect the corresponding sections in the Final Determination.

Ms. Amy McLean expressed an interest for some Board members to sit with DEEP to review

some of these change to deepen their understanding, perhaps in July. Mr. Beup said we can find time to address this at a future meeting.

F. Marketing Calendar and Website Update – Companies

Ms. Violette Radomski provided an update on the website; including completed tasks, ongoing tasks, what's coming up, a budget summary, and a timeline for completion. The presentation also included some screenshots of the new look for the site.

The Companies have shared public event calendars in the [materials folder](#), which highlights the marketing events sponsored by the Energize CT utilities. Board members and stakeholders are encouraged to attend these events. Ms. Radomski pointed out the upcoming Energy in Action Mobile Exhibit Media Event that will be 1:00PM June 23rd at the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library. Note the start time for that event is incorrectly listed as noon in the material, but Ms. Radomski will get an updated version in the materials folder.

3. DEI Consultant Introduction – DEI Consultant

Ms. Deidre Sanders (ILLUME), the Board's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Consultant, introduced herself and her team. Ms. Sanders provided a slide deck that included both Ms. Sanders and Ms. Allison Carlson's background information, ILLUME's mission, and examples of equity work. The presentation summarized ILLUME's planned approach for the Board's focus areas around DEI. Ms. Sanders shared how she would assess progress (Slide 13). A copy of the presentation can be found in the [materials folder](#).

4. Closing Public Comments

There were no comments offered.

5. Adjourn

Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Anne-Marie Knight seconded the motion. The motion passed after no further discussion 10-0.