



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting Materials: <https://app.box.com/s/0cpq3ks9lxxqqqv8aigy1602a1srmyppg>

Agenda

1. Welcome The following people were in attendance: Amy McLean, Brenda Watson, Guy West, Joanne Ballaschak, Joe Roy, Joel Kopylec, Kate Donatelli, Lawrence Rush, Leticia Colon De Mejias, Meghan O'Connor, Richard Faesy, Ron Araujo, Stephen Cowell, Lisa Vallera, Art St. Armand, Brendan Thomas, Claire Sickinger, Connecticut Green Bank, Diane Del Rosso, Donna Wells, Glenn Reed, Jerry Graham, Joe Buonannata, Kara Marshall, Madeline Priest, Michael Cresta, Michael Li, Michelle Long, Peter Carlson, Richard Olisky, Rose Croog, Shubha Jaishankar, Tammy Wilson, Tasha Perrault, Vivian Perez, William Wesson.
2. Meeting procedures and process update were reviewed by Ms. McLean.
3. Public Input/Comments None.
4. Approve 9/9/2020 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes. The minutes were moved to be approved by Brenda Watson and seconded by Joel Kopylec. The motion passed.
5. Companies' program activity updates. Mr. Araujo stated an increase in activity has been seen with about a 30% increase in the lifetime electric savings over August results for September, and a forecasted 92% budget spend by the end of the year. Lagging areas on the electric side for Eversource are multifamily and new construction. Single family HES activity is strong. On the gas side there is a 34% increase in lifetime savings over August and around 19% increase in spending. HVAC and HES are doing well.

Mr. Rush provided numbers for the end of September for UI 41% spent and 45% savings. By the end of the year projections show 70% spent and 80% of savings. For the gas programs, there is a large increase in multi-family projects for SCG and they expect the spend to be about 75%, with possibly 85% savings for the year. CNG expenditures were only around 29% spent with a 42% savings through September and expect 50% spent and 60-65% of savings by the end of the year. Multifamily projects have dropped off in the territory and they are trying to overcome the lag from COVID.

6. 2021 Plan Update. Mr. Araujo noted they are working on the modification of the Plan text based on consultant feedback. They plan to include a new focus on building code and appliance standards savings with building code training and advocating for adopting more stringent building codes.

Residential portfolio changes for HES will explore HVAC bundle offers; HES-IE increased non-energy impacts (NEIs) as allowed as part of the compliance filing with DEEP; New Construction will offer Passive House training to the new construction community. Increased HES-IE NEIs will allow the Companies to pay for add-on measures such as insulation, windows, and HVAC when working with income eligible customers after the initial visit, paying for a greater share of the costs and an increase in adoption rates. This includes wi-fi thermostats and duct sealing. Ms. McLean noted when the passive house lunch and learn trainings are available please let the board know in case someone is interested in attending.

Active Demand Reduction programs are continuing in 2021 with a new EV load profiling program to understand the shift in EV charging. The other new items are natural gas demand pilots for residential and C&I Customers. Residential customers will have access to system load balancing and direct load control programs.

2021 revenue/budget and LT savings were summarized with these budgets being consistent with the 3/1/20 filing; however, savings are reduced based on higher incentive level assumptions into 2021 combined with program changes to retail lighting products. Several changes were incorporated and addressed due to EEB consultant feedback with efforts continuing.

Residential PSD program changes include: increased customer and insulation type penetration; updated lighting measure life with reflectors, etc.; updated realization rates for HES; discontinued lighting for RNC; updated ductless heat pump heating degree days and no longer supporting reflectors at market rate retailers. Under natural gas: increased customer and insulation type penetration. Waterfall charts are available to see the increases and decreases of the kWh and ccf. The appendix of the presentation slides show detailed budget and savings numbers. \$0 (no cost) co-pays will continue into the first quarter and then the Companies are looking at increasing it to \$50, however that is still in planning stages.

7. Customer Participation 2019 Study presentation. Ms. O'Connor noted the parameters of the study which included the type of building, the income level, heat source, the electric provider, and payment plan(s). Data modeling from Oracle looked at the energy burden (percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs >6%) and ability to pay (income minus housing costs). Low ability to pay is any value over 580 with the scale being 0 – 1,000.

Single families participate at a higher level than 2 to 4-unit family buildings. Renters are being served at about the same level as they are in the population (around 10.5%). Residential households with gas and delivered fuel participate at a higher level. Participants in the distressed census track are 16.4% of the population with 6.2% in payment plans. The population with a high energy burden is 14%, which is not income dependent. Distressed census tracks have a higher percentage of people who are income eligible and coincide with urban areas in 2 to 4-unit family homes and are more likely to be on a payment plan with a high energy burden.

Ms. Watson asked why the data did not include multi-family housing. Ms. O'Connor stated that it would skew the participation rates. Mr. Araujo also commented with the multi-family projects the marketing is focused on the building owner rather than the occupants in those buildings and the program approach is quite different. It was also discussed that the higher-participating towns may be those with Green Energy Taskforces and a grassroots effort that may lead to higher participation rates than others.

8. Equity Metrics discussion
 - a. DEEP Equitable Energy Efficiency Proceeding update. Ms. Donatelli stated the proceeding launched on September 3 with a deadline for comments is October 5th. The four issues were: defining and measuring progress toward equitable distribution; assessing innovative ways to enhance equity; establishing inclusive marketing, outreach and educational approaches; and addressing health and safety barriers to participation.

Common themes in responses included distributing resources based on the greatest need; improved definitions of language in the proceeding; establishing goals, timelines and baselines; remove barriers for renters; streamline eligibility for low income programs, provide a concierge service; continue to support cross-sector programs; translate materials for non-English speakers; expand outreach to where people are such as food banks; train resident to be liaisons; target market communities that are less likely to participate; tap into contractors for data on health and safety; create a whole-home program for health/safety/energy efficiency; allocate funding for health and safety barrier removal.

Additional topics from feedback: integration of equity and climate change, integrate cost-effective testing and the definition of weatherization into this proceeding.

Other logistical questions soliciting feedback were: the role of the EEB; what members of the public should be invited to participate in the DEEP proceeding and how can DEEP make the process accessible to the public for those representing LMI and minority customers given current COVID restrictions.

Next steps are to summarize and continue to compile comments; define the updated scope of suggestions/improvements to EE programs; and, set targets, timelines and workflow to accomplish changes.

b. GC3 Update. Ms. Watson reported there were seven total committees and workgroups for the Governor's GC3 plan with six public forums and the seventh forum on October 19th. Reports can be found on the DEEP website under the GC3 area. October 21st is the deadline for submission. Recurring themes included increasing solar and clean energy; access to LMI populations and planning for multi-family and renters; expanding access to EVs; active transportation infrastructure and public transit investment increases; prioritizing vulnerable communities with remediation of existing pollution; ensure facilities are equitably located; increased funding and mitigation strategies for low and moderate income communities; and increasing environmental justice training in the building profession to build a Green Jobs Pipeline.

c. Review of equity metrics from other states. Mr. Faesy reviewed the importance of equity. Most benefits of these programs have gone disproportionately to white, highly educated home owners with high incomes and access to employment and contracting opportunities. Historically underserved communities have multiple and intersecting barriers to participation. The importance of focusing on metrics consist of understanding the baseline; progress; establishing priorities; building consensus; and, iterating to improve. Historically, the sole focus of energy efficiency was low income. With current C&LM performance management incentives, if programs don't achieve a certain amount of savings, there is a penalty metric. Now more attention needs to be based on race, ethnicity, language, housing tenure and type; workforce and contractor and environmental justice communities.

The Energy Trust of Oregon was highlighted as increasing the trade ally network by minority and women-owned businesses (MWBE) by 50%, increase projects and contracts by 15% each increasing market awareness, hiring diverse employees by 255 and increasing cultural responsiveness at the organization. California developed a standardization for energy equity indicators to ensure low-income customers are being served and are used in a state-wide baseline, advanced energy savings and to track performance. California also established standardized metrics to track employment and job impact of these programs. Access Investment and Resilience are used in planning in both Oregon and California.

Mr. Faesy also showed a list of 2020 Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities ranked by CT DECD as Distressed Municipalities. Potential starting points for 2021 include: increase HES-IE service to customers with arrearages; prioritize customers in EJ communities; and/or, engage diverse participants (race and language) in the 2022 program design. Ms. McLean and Mr. West thanked Richard for his presentation.

Ms. Watson thanked Mr. Faesy and mentioned adding people with medical bills in arrears to the list of focused customers. Mr. Araujo agreed establishing a baseline is important while using historical trends.

9. Weatherization Barriers Coordination Workshop Plans. Ms. McLean noted she is working in concert with DEEP on a Weatherization Workshop involving Healthy Homes, DGC3 through PURA. Potential dates are November 10th or 17th. Mr. Cowell asked about the definition of Environmental Justice in Connecticut. Mr. Araujo commented different states take into account several factors: a listing on the DECD Distress Communities list, living below the 200% federal poverty level, English language isolation, etc.

10. Public Comments. Mr. Cowell stated he thought it was an important issue to look at the health and safety barriers and define metrics for measurement looking at other states and best practices. Joe Roy mentioned New Jersey has seen an influx of program dollars and expanding income eligible programs and wondered if Connecticut would have those types of programs. Ms. McLean responded that with different

definitions of poverty can go across programs and eligibility. Ms. Watson agreed a universal definition of poverty is needed with multiple programs using different state, local and federal measures to qualify for assistance.

Ms. Colon De Mejias asked if the Board has interest from hearing from groups serving Low and Moderate Income customers who are working to educate this group on healthy home issues. These meetings seem rushed to provide meaningful engagement on these topics. Ms. McLean agreed that these topics may need more than a proceeding to brainstorm these ideas and hope the workshop in November can start discussion. Following up, Ms. Colon De Mejias stated companies like hers work with thousands of these customers within multiple programs and can provide insight consultants and utility folks may not have. Minority owned business owners and members of these negatively impacted communities, should be included in these discussions. Ms. McLean agreed and thanked Ms. Colon De Mejias for her comments and hoped groups like hers will attend and contribute.

11. Agenda items for future Residential Committee meetings. (No discussion)

- a. Quarterly Report on Residential New Construction, Multifamily, HVAC (including Heat Pump Pilot) (May, Aug, Nov, Feb or March year-end)
- b. Connecticut Green Bank Update – Madeline Priest
 - i. Weatherization barriers resources update
 - ii. GHHI update
- c. Equity Metrics
- d. Weatherization Barriers Coordination Workshop Plans
- e. Serving Disadvantaged Communities
- f. All-electric new homes
- g. Benchmarking HES and HES-IE against other programs in the region
- h. Next Three-year Plan priorities, changes, and enhancements
- i. Transformation of the Residential lighting market

12. Adjourn 12:12 pm