



MINUTES

Joint Committee of the CT Energy Efficiency Board and the Connecticut Green Bank Board of Directors

Wednesday, September 25, 2024
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

In Attendance

Voting Members: John Harrity, Melissa Kops, John Viglione, Brenda Watson, Hank Webster

Non-Voting Members: Stephen Bruno, Bryan Garcia

Members Absent: None

Others: Gentiana Darragjati, Richard Del Soldato, Joseph DeNicola, Marriott Dowden, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Kathy Fay, Victoria Hackett, Stefanie Keohane, George Lawrence, Cheryl Lumpkin, Amy Mclean Salls, Bernard Pelletier, Ghani Ramdani, Lauren Savidge, Ariel Schneider, Stacy Sherwood, Amanda Stevens, Natalia Sudyka, Becca Trietch, James Williamson

Unnamed Callers: 3 others

1. Call to Order
 - Brenda Watson called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.
2. Public Comments
 - None
3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the July 22, 2024 meeting.

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Joint Committee for July 22, 2024.

Upon a motion made by John Harrity and seconded by John Viglione, the Joint Committee voted to approve Resolution 1. None opposed and Melissa Kops and Hank Webster abstained. Motion approved.

4. Healthy Housing
 - a. Connecticut Green Bank Board – Comprehensive Plan Status

- Bryan Garcia gave an update to the Healthy Housing initiative in relation to the Green Bank's FY23 – FY25 Comprehensive Plan.
 - John Harray commented that he is pleased with the progress to get equitable power to rental units.
 - Brenda Watson asked how soon it is expected to see multifamily property owners enrolling in the program, or if it is happening now. Bryan Garcia responded that it is happening, but that Mackey Dykes would provide more information in just a little bit within today's presentation.
 - Melissa Kops asked how the program would look in practice in terms of referring customers from other programs as well as any administrative concerns. Bryan Garcia responded that there are different ways that the program will be implemented and that today the group will be discussing one pathway. Stacy Sherwood added that some of Melissa's questions would be touched on in Agenda item 4b.

b. Energy Efficiency Board – Conservation and Load Management Plan Status

- Stacy Sherwood summarized the EEB's progress to adopting the resolution regarding Healthy Housing and the potential to expand the scope further.
 - Brenda Watson asked to be sent the upcoming EEB meeting dates and Stacy Sherwood responded she would get that information to Brenda.
- Stacy Sherwood reviewed upcoming DEEP Technical Meeting dates and subjects.

c. Next Steps

- Mackey Dykes summarized the solar framework for Affordable Multi-Family Housing and explained how that framework ties into energy efficiency. He summarized how Affordable Multi-Family properties benefit from the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES) program and how tenants receive the benefit. He explained the financing product and the technical assistance program that the Green Bank developed to help implement the program.
 - Bernard Pelletier asked in the chat what is meant by a tariff, if it is 20% of the income from solar in year 1 or over the lifetime. Mackey Dykes responded that it is 20% of each year's production.
- Mackey Dykes responded to Brenda Watson's earlier question that it is happening now and there are currently 14 properties that have gone through the technical assistance program so far and he fully expects there to be more to come. The 14 properties represent 916 units and 3.2 MW of solar.
 - John Viglione asked if the presentations will be posted on the Joint Committee page of EnergizeCT's website. Brenda Watson responded that the presentation should be available. Bryan Garcia responded that the materials will be available on the Green Bank website. Stacy Sherwood added that she will verify that it gets onto the EnergizeCT's website as well.
 - Richard Del Soldato asked if the Green Bank owns, maintains, and is it also paid by the production of solar, how do the tenants receive credits on their electric bills. Mackey Dykes responded that the utility companies are responsible for divvying up the revenue from the system and then explained how the data and revenue would be determined.
 - Bernard Pelletier asked what happens if the apartment is vacant, and if the credit is reallocated among the other units. Mackey Dykes responded that the utilities are still working through that decision but has heard that they should know which units are vacant and so the 20% would be divided among the inhabited units instead.

5. 2025-2027 Conservation & Load Management Plan Update

- Stephen Bruno summarized the progress to the C&LM Plan as well as the plan priorities of Decarbonization, Equitable Access, and Energy Affordability.
 - Brenda Watson asked how someone could go about receiving technical assistance to understand all the different programs to figure out which they could apply for. Stephen Bruno responded that there is information on the EnergizeCT website.

6. Other Business

- a. Brief Update: C&I – Government
- b. Brief Update: C&I – Small and Medium/Large Business

- Stephen Bruno summarized information regarding the renewed SBEA and MUNI financing programs, including that since the program's inception in 2018, Eversource has sold over 7600 loans and funding from banks has been nearly \$110 million. Mackey Dykes added that having the capital for the loans has allowed for the expansion of the programs to allow for more loans and bigger loans to be offered.

- Bernard Pelletier asked if the Green Bank facilitates the sale of the loans by offering default protection of some sort. Mackey Dykes responded that the Green Bank does, as partnered with Amalgamated Bank where the Green Bank protects Amalgamated Bank and then the C&LM Plan protects the Green Bank. As well, the Green Bank raises capital through the Green Liberty Notes program.

- c. Brief Update: Residential – Single Family and Multi-Family

- Bryan Garcia gave an update to the Smart-E loan program in relation to its 11 year history as well as 2024 specifically, in which there were 1286 projects, \$33.2 million in investment, and 1.7 MW of generation capacity. The plan is to continue to grow the program with improved technology, added measures, and increase the number of lenders in the program.
 - Amanda Stevens asked if the Smart-E program will sunset fossil fuel energy efficiency measures. Bryan Garcia responded that in terms of measures, he believes if the homeowner is financing improvements, the old system would be replaced with a more efficient system but the choice of the type of system would be up to the homeowner.
 - Stephen Bruno noted that there was a legislative mandated program that was administered by Eversource and AvanGrid which was primarily used for natural gas conversions, which then shifted to heat pumps, but that program is set to expire in December 2024, which means it is likely to increase the Smart-E Loan program activity.
 - Bernard Pelletier asked if Smart-E needs to expand to absorb the HEAT loans that need to be moved over. Bryan Garcia responded that the loan range is \$500 to \$50,000 and that in certain cases they may go up to \$75,000. Stephen Bruno added that he believes it should cover most geothermal and heat pump projects.

- Natalia Sudyka summarized the Multi-Family Initiative Financing program which offers incentives and financing opportunities for energy efficiency projects within existing properties that have five or more dwelling units.

d. Other Business

- None

7. Public Comments

- None

8. Adjourn

Brenda Watson adjourned the Joint Committee meeting at 2:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Watson, Chairperson