

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
RSA 125-O:5-a

Ninth Annual Report

Prepared for:
Governor Chris Sununu
President of the NH Senate
Speaker of the NH House
Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chair of the House Science, Technology and Energy Committee
Public Utilities Commission

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I. Introduction

This annual report provides an update on the activities of the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board and its recommendations for action, pursuant to RSA 125-O:5-a IV.

II. Background

The Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board (“EESE Board”) was created in 2008, by RSA 125-O:5-a. The EESE Board’s central charge is “to promote and coordinate energy efficiency, demand response, and sustainable energy programs in the state.” A key purpose for establishing the EESE Board was an increasing awareness that energy efficiency is the least expensive and cleanest energy resource, and that New Hampshire must do more to promote and utilize energy efficiency and sustainable energy resources as a means to bolster the state’s economy and spur business innovation, improve energy security, reduce customer costs, and protect the environment. To this end, the EESE Board is directed to develop a plan to achieve the state’s energy efficiency potential as well as the economic and environmental sustainability of the state’s energy system, including development of clean energy resources, and to ensure that the state is providing leadership on energy efficiency and sustainable energy matters.

The Chair of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) convened the first organizational meeting of the EESE Board on October 1, 2008, and the EESE Board has since met roughly nine to twelve times per year. The EESE Board is administratively attached to the PUC, which provides administrative support.¹ The PUC hosts a comprehensive webpage for the EESE Board

¹ Administrative Support and Contact for the EESE Board is the PUC: (603) 271-2431, EESEBoard@puc.nh.gov.

and other interested parties where all meeting materials and background information can be found: www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm.

III. Statutory Duties

The EESE Board's duties are broad. They include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing available energy efficiency, conservation, demand response, and sustainable energy programs and incentives and compiling a report of those resources in New Hampshire;
- Developing a plan to achieve the state's energy efficiency potential for all fuels, including setting goals and targets for energy efficiency that are meaningful and achievable;
- Developing a plan for economic and environmental sustainability of the state's energy system including the development of high efficiency clean energy resources that are either renewable or have low net greenhouse gas emissions;
- Exploring opportunities to coordinate programs targeted at saving more than one fuel resource, including conversion to renewable resources and coordination between natural gas and other programs which seek to reduce the use of nonrenewable fuels;
- Developing tools to enhance outreach and education programs to increase knowledge about energy efficiency and sustainable energy among New Hampshire residents and businesses;
- Expanding upon the state government's efficiency programs to ensure that the state is providing leadership on energy efficiency and sustainable energy including reduction of its energy use and fuel costs;
- Encouraging municipalities and counties to increase investments in energy efficiency and sustainable energy through financing tools, and to create local energy committees;
- Working with community action agencies and the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) to explore ways to ensure that all customers participating in programs for low-income customers and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have access to energy efficiency improvements, and where appropriate, renewable energy resources, in order to reduce their energy bills; and
- Investigating potential sources of funding for energy efficiency and sustainable energy development and delivery mechanisms for such programs, coordinating efforts between funding sources to reduce duplication and enhance collaboration, and reviewing investment strategies to increase access to energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

IV. Members and Public Participation

The members of the EESE Board, designated by RSA 125-O:5-a, II, include representatives of business and non-profit organizations and associations, legislators, state agency heads, consumer representatives, as well as several non-voting members representing electric and natural gas utilities, banking, and businesses in relevant energy efficiency and sustainable energy industries. The members represent a wide range of interests that help inform the EESE Board's work. Members as of December 2016 are:

Chair:

- Ben Frost — Housing Finance Authority designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (o)

Vice Chair

- Dennis Labbe — NH Legal Assistance designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (h)

Voting Members:

- D. Maurice Kreis — Consumer Advocate, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (c)
- Ryan Clouthier, Southern NH Services, Inc. — not-for-profit appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, II, (l)
- Karen Cramton — PUC Chair designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (a)
- Jeffrey Cyr — Fire Marshal designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (n)
- Kate Epsen, NH Sustainable Energy Association — not-for-profit appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (l)
- Sen. Kevin Avarad — Senate President appointment, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (k)
- Jeffrey Rose — Department of Resources and Economic Development, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (e)
- Rick Minard — OEP designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (b)
- Rebecca Ohler — Department of Environmental Services designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (d)
- Scott Emond — NH Homebuilders and Remodelers Association designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (i)
- Rep. Herbert Richardson — House Speaker appointment, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (j)
- Brian Ramsey — Business and Industry Association designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (f)
- Karen Rantamaki — Department of Administrative Services designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (m)
- Vacant — not-for-profit appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (l)
- Theresa Swanick — NH Municipal Association designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (g)
- Rep. Chuck Townsend — House Speaker appointment, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (j)

Non-Voting Members:

- Kate Peters, Eversource — utility appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III(a)
- Michael Bruss, Bruss Construction, Inc. — energy services co. appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (b)

- Michael Behrmann, Revolution Energy, LLC— renewable energy business appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (c)
- Cindy Carroll, Unitil/Northern — utility appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (a)
- Joe Harrison, NH Community Development Finance Authority — investment community appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (d)
- Eric Stanley, Liberty Utilities — utility appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (a)
- Carol Woods, NH Electric Coop—utility appointment by PUC Chair, RSA 125-O:5-a, III (a)

The EESE Board has since its inception appreciated and encouraged attendance and participation of the public at its meetings. Business, municipal and nonprofit leaders and other stakeholders regularly attend the EESE Board’s monthly meetings and are encouraged to bring relevant energy experience to the EESE Board’s discussions. In all, roughly 100 people are on the EESE Board’s email distribution list, not including EESE Board members. The EESE Board recognizes that energy consumers, business leaders, municipal officials, energy efficiency and sustainable energy professionals, and other concerned members of the public and private sectors are all crucial to achieving our state’s energy goals.

V. Description of 2016 Activities

The EESE Board met nine times in 2016: in January, February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December. Meeting agendas, minutes, presentations, and other materials from all of the EESE Board’s meetings can be found on the PUC’s EESE Board webpage: www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm.

Committees

In addition, the EESE Board has utilized a committee structure to meet its broad statutory goals, enabling work between EESE Board meetings and opportunities for participation from both EESE Board members and non-members. The EESE Board has two active committees: the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) Committee; and the Outreach and Education

Committee. The EERS Committee was re-commissioned by the EESE Board after the PUC issued Order² on EERS in August 2016. The EERS Committee now has the charge of undertaking the bulk of the EESE Board’s work as the stakeholder convener and advisor to the PUC as stated in the Order. The Order also places the EESE Board in the position of working collaboratively with the Electric Division of the PUC and with the utilities; this work will be undertaken by the EERS Committee on behalf of the Board.

Meetings and Presentations

The EESE Board frequently solicits presentations from projects and programs working on issues of interest to the Board. In 2016 the EESE Board heard updates from several existing New Hampshire programs as well as presentations from outside experts on energy policy.

- **January:** There was no presentation. The Board discussed pending legislation.
- **February:** Laura Richardson of The Jordan Institute and Paul Leveille of Resilient Buildings Group made a presentation on the 2015 ICC Codes; and Rebecca Ohler of the Department of Environmental Services presented on efforts to expand electric vehicle use in the state.
- **March:** State Energy Manager Karen Rantamaki made a presentation on “State Government Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Initiatives”; representatives from three utilities presented the annual CORE Program updates; and Jeff Pollock and Geoff Phillips from Eversource gave a presentation on the new customer engagement platform,
- **April:** No meeting.
- **May:** Joe Harrison of NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) gave a presentation to the Board on the CDFA’s mission to provide funding through their Clean

² Available at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Orders/2016orders/25932e.pdf>.

Energy Fund to municipalities, businesses and non-profit organizations for projects that promote energy efficiency and utilize renewable energy resources; Steve Eckberg and Karen Cramton of the NH Public Utilities Commission presented an overview of the Renewable Energy Fund rebate and grant program; Dana Nute of Resilient Buildings Group gave a presentation detailing many energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, along with their benefits and energy savings; and Mark Luckes of Johnson Controls gave an overview of the ESCO model, processes and how these arrangements work for municipalities and businesses.

- **June:** David Littell of The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) presented an overview of rate design amidst changing technology and its potential energy market impact.
- **July:** No meeting.
- **August:** Rhonda Bisson and Brandy Chambers of Eversource presented an overview of Eversource’s 2017 Transition Plan for Statewide New Hampshire Energy Efficiency Programs and Discussion of Non-Energy Impacts.
- **September:** There was no presentation. The Board discussed the EERS Order and the EESE Board’s role; particularly the manner in which the Board could help the PUC develop the consultant RFP and review consultant proposals.
- **October:** No meeting.
- **November:** There was no presentation. The Board reviewed changes to its Governance Document and discussed ongoing work pursuant to the PUC’s EERS Order.
- **December:** There was no presentation. The Board met with PUC Chair Martin Honigberg to discuss the EESE Board’s role relative to EERS. Further, the Board approved and adopted the Governance Document. The Utilities led a discussion outlining the steps being taken and the projected timeline to achieve the goal of a draft

three-year plan to submit to the EESE Board for comment by April 30th. The Board discussed steps taken by utilities in surrounding states to successfully implement their three-year plan.

Legislative Monitoring

The EESE Board chose not to reappoint a Legislative Committee, but rather to utilize existing resources from EESE Board members' agencies and organizations to keep the EESE Board apprised of legislative activity.

VI. Conclusion

The EESE Board has endeavored to be a forum for collaboration and information sharing and to assist the state in the development of a comprehensive approach to energy cost savings, clean energy jobs, and a stronger and more secure energy future for New Hampshire. In addition to the main discussion items and presentations, at each meeting there is an opportunity for updates on state programs, policy items, and activities. All attendees are welcome to share updates on issues where they have particular knowledge or interest. Through these updates members remain informed about a wide range of energy-related policy and program topics, including the status of grant and financing programs, implementation of projects, events, and policy issues such as building codes, net metering, and budgets.

The EESE Board appreciates the engagement and immense time contribution of so many interested parties, including its volunteer members, non-voting participants and many other public and private stakeholders. This contribution by so many participants in support of dialogue, inquiry, analysis and sharing of ideas has created a unique opportunity for the state to draw on a wide variety of experience and knowledge as it navigates the next steps to move its energy efficiency and sustainable energy agenda forward. The EESE Board looks forward to

building on the knowledge gained from its previous work and helping the state to meet the next set of challenges and opportunities in energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Benjamin D. Frost, Chair