

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Public Service Company of New Hampshire, Manchester, NH
9 AM – 12:00 PM
April 8, 2011 Meeting

***Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.**

Members in Attendance: Jack Ruderman of NH Public Utilities Commission, Meredith Hatfield of the OCA, Joanne Morin for Eric Steltzer of OEP, Mike Fitzgerald for Robert Scott of DES, Wes Golomb of NHSEA, Beth Fischer for HBRANH/Build Green NH, Bob Reals, Jr. of NH DRED, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Patti Carrier of BIA, Representative Naida Kaen, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Dean Christon of NH Housing and Finance Authority, Representative James Garrity and Ken Walsh for NH Fire Mashall.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, Debra Hale of National Grid, Cindy Carroll for George Gantz from Unitil Energy Systems, Carol Woods for NH Electric Cooperative; James Grady of LighTec, Charlie Niebling of NE Wood Pellet and Janet Ackerman of Peoples United Bank.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting commenced at 9:05am with Meredith Hatfield acting as chair for Chairman Ober and Vice-Chairman Eric Steltzer who could not attend the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the November EESE Board Meeting.**
 - The minutes of the February 11, 2011 meeting were approved with one minor change.
3. **Legislative Monitoring Process and Legislative Updates – Mike Licata**
 - [HB 144](#) – Repeal of PACE. Bill would repeal the legislation in RSA 53-F which enables municipalities to makes loans for energy improvements that are paid back by property owners. A compromise was reached and passed the House. A Senate committee hearing is scheduled for April 14th.
 - [HB 648](#) – Relative to the use of Eminent Domain by utilities, bill passed the House by a vote of 317-51 and was forwarded on to the Senate. This bill is possibly going to the Senate Judiciary committee.
 - [HB 519](#) – Act to Repeal RGGI and to Repeal the EESE Board. The bill has passed the House twice by a vote of 251-108. There is no Senate committee hearing set for this bill at this time.

There was no discussion following the briefing.

- [Presentation](#) by RGGI Grantee – Southern New Hampshire Resource Conservation & Development Area Council – Stacy Luke
- Received a grant and began the NH Farm Energy Initiative to assist farmers and address their concerns on the rising costs of energy prices.
- A process was set up to create awareness of energy efficiency and renewable options, and to work on reducing energy costs for NH farmers.
- Workshops were held with over 600 attendees that produced 25 energy audits.

- Three energy data collectors were trained in New Hampshire. The project promoted the USDA Technical Service Provider program to energy auditors. New Hampshire now has two certified TSP's.
- The Miles Smith Farm in Loudon is one of the success stories from the grant as well as an example of the importance of the workshops. This farm was not audited, but having attended the workshops, Miles Smith Farm made changes that have produced a lot of energy savings from efficiency and solar.
- There were 71 high tunnels for growing crops during colder seasons funded in New Hampshire that produced an economic benefit of \$643,741.
- Mr. Robert Larocque of Carter Hill Orchard, the largest cider producer in NH, provided copies of the energy [audit](#) performed on his farm. Mr. Larocque explained that he purchased a UV machine which will help significantly with his energy costs, and that he would not have purchased if it had not been for the audit performed on his farm.
- Southern New Hampshire Resource Conservation & Development Area Council would like to set up "demonstration" sites so people can see the results of how audits have helped other farms. They have applied for grants to create five energy efficiency demonstrations sites.
- NH Dairy farms are an area that they see opportunities and would like to focus on going forward.

A short discussion followed.

4. Outreach and Education - Beth Fischer and Mary Downes

- Thanks to Clean Air-Cool Planet as well as the Community Colleges for doing outstanding work at the Home Show. Over 7000 people came through the show.
- Will be meeting in May and will be looking at several Outreach & Education programs across the state to see if they may work for this purpose.
- The Outreach & Education RFP went out to bid and the company chosen is Burgess Communications. Burgess will need information from stakeholders, and it is the hope that a plan will be completed in a month and hopefully finalized in June. The budget of \$50,000 has been funded through ARRA funds from OEP.

A short discussion followed.

5. Program Updates

RPS – Jack Ruderman

- First, there are no changes to the renewable energy rebates currently at the PUC.
- The PUC has been charged with the review of the RPS Law. The final report is due to the Legislature on November 1, 2011. One workshop was held on March 15 and the second will be held April 21.
- Concerns/issues raised thus far:

- REC prices are higher for newer facilities than they are for the existing ones. Prices should be uniform for both existing and new facilities to help make them more attractive in New Hampshire.
- There is quite a bit of concern regarding Class III facilities (existing biomass) and some concern regarding Class II (solar). Some believe that there are too many out-of-state facilities qualifying for the NH RPS, and PUC will be discussing how to develop more in-state facilities and ways to change the RPS to encourage them.
- During the April 21 meeting the group will discuss whether new classes should be added to the RPS program.
- Check the PUC's Sustainable Energy webpage for more information.

A detailed discussion followed.

RGGI Update– Barbara Bernstein

- On December 8, 2010 the Governor & Executive Council approved six contracts for two-year programs. There are three continuation programs and three new programs. [See summary.](#)

ARRA Funding – Joanne Morin

- In early April an RFP will be issued on the Feasibility Study on the use of Renewable Energy at state facilities.
- On May 12, the ground breaking for the Glencliff Home will take place.
- In April the second phase of the Green Launching pad will begin.

Better Buildings – Kate Peters

- There are agreements in place with Merrimack County Savings Bank for financing residential customers.
- A couple of audits have been performed in Nashua and Plymouth.
- Have partnered with Lakes Region Community College to help with mentoring opportunities.
- Discussions with the utilities focused on marketing.
- The group is beginning to focus on financing for the commercial sector

Break at 10:20 and the meeting commenced at 10:35

6. [VEIC Presentation](#) – Christine Donovan, Jeff Taylor, Jim Grevatt & David Hill

- Topic – Mobilizing markets: Key Attributes of Developing Markets
- An effective approach to transforming EE and SE markets both reflects what is unique about NH and applies learning from other states & jurisdictions
- Goal is to move from a resource acquisition model into market development and – ultimately – to market transformation.
- Approaches should seek to capture cost-effective savings while enhancing market drivers that already exist, leveraging private investment, and engaging market players.

- New Hampshire EE and SE programs are largely publicly funded (by ratepayers or through other public funding like ARRA). We need to find ways to rely less on public funding.
- Efficiency:
 - Need to capture cost-effective savings while supporting market growth.
 - Need to have a clear, stable message to market players. Need to be consistent; don't keep changing the message.
 - Need to optimize incentive structures; current dynamic is that when money is provided people take action, but when the money is gone, they are reluctant.
 - There is a value in getting the message out to everyone and not just the electric side; all users of energy need to receive the message.
 - Adapting to the markets is essential to ensure positive results. We need to get as much benefit as possible for the least amount of money.
- Renewables:
 - New Hampshire has a good solar resource and has substantial wind resources. Solar hot water is a proven technology that has had positive market returns.
 - US photovoltaic markets are extremely dynamic right now. Industries will go where the incentives are. Incentives should be adapted and can have capacity based incentives.
 - Foundational strategies need to be put into place. New Hampshire has net metering and interconnections; just needs to build on it.
 - If there is a stable sustained process in place, contractor relationships will improve.
 - As the market grows, rebates should decline.
 - Feed-in tariffs can result in dramatic growth in the market; however, they could also cause problems.
- Updates:
- The Survey Monkey is up and will provide opportunity for the public to take the survey. This link will be available until the end of April.
- VEIC will be back for the May and June EESE Board Meetings.

7. **Municipal Energy Working Group – David Borden & Chris Skoglund - [Presentation](#)**

- A group was set up to design practical ways that communities can access comprehensive guidelines for energy efficiency audits.
- Margaret Dillon was the facilitator and expert during the process.
- The municipal energy audit process is very complex. It depends on the use of the building as well as the number of people occupying the building to determine the use of energy. Multiple energy audits may be necessary.
- A “Field Guide” was developed by Margaret Dillon and the goal of the committee is to figure out how make this guidebook user friendly; how to be able to move through it easily. Further discussions will determine who will be the owner/keeper of the guidebook, how to raise awareness that this [guidebook](#) exists, and how to provide additional technical assistance and funding for communities that wish to move forward.

8. Other Business

- On Tuesday, April 12, the Home Performance with Energy Star program of the Core programs will be recognized in Washington by the EPA.
- The Better Buildings program now has an office in Claremont and there is a meeting room available if needed.
- The 3rd annual Local Energy Solutions Conference at Merrimack Valley High School was a huge success and the tours were incredible.
- My Energy Plan with NH Sustainable, green homes tours, does not want to launch until there is more information on the website. Please go add yours! www.Myenergyplan.net

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05.