

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

### Minutes for February 16, 2018

#### Attendees:

**Board Members:** Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Stephen Eckberg for Karen Cramton (PUC); Becky Ohler (DES); Katherine Garfield (BIA); Rep. Herbert Richardson (House of Representatives); Stephen Tower for Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Jeffrey Cyr (State Fire Marshall); Rep. Robert Backus (House of Representatives); Ben Frost (NH Housing & Finance); Kate Epsen (NH SEA); Donald Perrin (DAS); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Wood (NHEC); Scott Maslansky (CDFA); Michael Bruss (Bruss Project Mgmt); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy)

**Others:** Liz Nixon (PUC); Brian Buckley (OCA); Gregory Wade (ISO New England) Chris Skoglund (DES); Azanna Wishart (PUC)

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Don Kreis called the meeting to order at 9:02.

#### 2. The minutes of the January 19, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

#### 3. Report of Building Codes Working Group

- The Board discussed the draft policy statement prepared by the working group (**Attachment A**) and the energy efficiency benefits of newest version of the Energy Code (2018) versus the 2009 version of the Code currently applicable in New Hampshire. On behalf of New Hampshire Legal Assistance, Stephen Tower expressed concerns about the effect on low-income residents on adopting the most recent version of the Energy Code. He suggested the Board undertake more education and possibly develop a white paper on Energy Codes or engage more with legislature before taking a policy position.
- Others suggested that New Hampshire is ten years late on this and that baby steps should not be taken.
- There was general discussion about the negative perception of the more recent versions of the Energy Code being more “stringent” as opposed to being more up-to-date in light of evolving building technology. It was noted that the Building Code Review Board (BCRB) regularly amends critical components of the code to make it specific to New Hampshire.
- Question was raised as to how long it would take for the 2018 codes to take effect in light of the need for legislative approval upon recommendation of the BCRB. It is possible it could be sponsored by fall of 2018, move to Legislature by spring of 2019, which would then trigger a need for training of builders, building inspectors, etc.

- The Board agreed by consensus to defer taking a vote on the draft policy statement and, instead, task a reconstituted working group to undertake further refinements, in light of the discussion, with any meetings to be publicly warned pursuant to RSA 91-A. Jeffrey Cyr volunteered to be Chair of Working Group consisting of himself, Stephen Tower or Ray Burke, Representative Backus, Kate Peters, Stephen Eckberg, Brian Buckley, Donald Perrin, and Chris Skoglund.

#### 4. Action Plan for EESE Board “enhanced stakeholder board” activities as EERS is implemented

- Don Kreis asked the Board to consider what priorities it would like to adopt on energy efficiency matters now that the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) has been launched and its first triennium has begun. He referenced the 2018 priorities document recently adopted by the EESE Board’s counterpart, the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council. He noted that Massachusetts issues priority statements, they hold workshops every year, get feedback from stakeholders then come up with their priority document as a way to formalize and come to a consensus.
- There was discussion of whether EESE board would prefer more presentations in the future or more action item focus.
  - Presentations helpful – having others present that give voice to every level, i.e., builders, implementers, auditors, produce more informed conversations due to presentations which prompt interaction from all different perspectives.
  - Education on emerging technologies would be welcome.
- The discussion concluded with the Board agreeing by consensus that members should email Don with suggestions for priorities for the year – with Don and Becky Ohler thereafter pulling together a priorities document for the Board’s consideration at the March meeting.
- There was also discussion about having food at future meetings. NHSEA agreed to sponsor food for next meeting, and sponsors would be solicited for future meetings – with the contributions being used to order food for delivery so that sponsors would not have to shop, prepare, etc.

#### 5. Working Group Reports

- EM&V (evaluation, monitoring and verification) Group is meeting every two weeks. The EESE Board’s representative to the group, Brian Buckley, reported on progress:
  - PUC to set up website for EM&V working group to post agendas, reports, recommendations, tracking sheets, strategic plan.
  - RFP was issued for a consultant to assist group.
  - The strategic evaluation plan for 2018-2020 to be developed based on tech market works report. Still in draft form. They are committed to bring a plan before the EESE Board with either a presentation or discussion.
  - Two evaluations currently ongoing:

- Energy Star products – Program Administrator interviews conducted, waiting on further data
  - Small business/Muni lighting-data loggers installed in field
- Almost done with RFP for studies:
  - HEA impact, process, low-income NEI evaluation
  - HPwES impact & process evaluation
  - Non-lighting impact & process evaluation for multiple C&I programs
  - Cross-cutting NEI study
  - EE market assessment
- Lost Based Revenue – meeting delayed due to illness. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Finance & Funding – no update
- Performance Incentive – kick off meeting Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Benefit/Cost – Steven & Alan of NHLA made a presentation on behalf of low-income consumers. Next meeting will include total benefit cost test and what the policy goals are.
- Question as to whether working groups are permanent. EM&V is a more permanent group than the others.
- There was discussion of whether updates from PUC staff leading the groups should be a standing assignment.

## 6. Legislative Updates

- Oversight committee unanimously recommended House act on four major bills.
- HB559 – relative to expenditures from the Energy Efficiency fund
- HB1472 – relative to building code provisions for energy codes in new building construction
- SB517 – study issues in regard to electric vehicle charging (Volkswagen settlement funds)
- SB575 – lengthy bill; directs PUC evaluation on issues related to electric vehicle charging
- HB1202 – relative to town revolving funds for group net metering – approved unanimously – gives municipalities ability to take revenue from net metering to put in fund in community for future town projects.
- Study Bills – HB1544 – requirements needed for goal of 100% renewable energy by 2040; HB1230 impact of national carbon pricing; HB1647 inclusion of energy storage in distributed energy resources for electricity transmission & distribution; HB1338 - regulatory barrier to micro-grids in NH; HB1563 payment in lieu of taxes in solar installations.

## 7. Board & Program Updates

- PUC – On 2/12 secretarial letter was issued in regard to Residential PV program. Public lottery will be held on 2/20 to determine rebate application queue. Program fully reserved and expected wait list of over 100 applications. Program is temporarily closed.
  - Staff memo in regard to C&I program – recommendation to Commission to re-open program with modifications. Public comment hearing scheduled for Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Staff recommendation on low to moderate income solar program – watch for secretarial letter for public comment hearing.
  - Value of DER – working group needs more time to develop scope.
- DES – State’s Mitigation Plan for VW funding should be posted to OSI website within the next two weeks. Plans to hold five listening sessions around the state to get comments.
- Other – Kate Epsen was chosen by New England Women In Energy & Environment (NEWIEE) as a rising star
  - In Business Section of Union Leader was an article about an energy efficiency MOU with Eversource and Lindt Chocolate
  - Net Zero competition – 3 or 4 finalists chosen; winners will be announced soon.
  - Louise Tillotson Foundation hired VEIC’s Christine Donovan to develop Coos County Energy Efficiency Forum. There will be a workshop at the Highland Center on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.
  - NH Energy Week starts March 12<sup>th</sup> – there will be a free breakfast. The Governor will be speaking at the event.
  -

8. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD**

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

February 13, 2018

DRAFT Policy Statement on Current Energy Codes for Building Construction

The New Hampshire Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Energy Board (EESE Board) supports the adoption and implementation of modern energy codes and standards for building construction in our state. The EESE Board was created by the legislature “to promote and coordinate energy efficiency, demand response, and sustainable energy programs in New Hampshire.”<sup>i</sup> Its members include representatives of state agencies, consumers, the Legislature, nonprofit groups, and private industry.

The EESE Board considers the adoption of the most modern International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) a vital strategy for reducing energy use, thereby reducing direct costs to consumers for their fuel and utility purchases. The EESE Board has long recognized that energy efficiency and conservation are the least-cost energy resources available to our state. We further reiterate here that by taking advantage of recent technological advances - through adoption of modern building construction standards and code compliance strategies - New Hampshire consumers can benefit from reduced energy consumption costs over the lifetime of their homes and businesses.

The EESE Board recognizes that buildings are long-term assets and that each building constructed today could affect energy consumption for the next 50 to 100 years.<sup>ii</sup> The EESE Board further recognizes that building-energy code adoption and compliance is one of the most cost-effective strategies for reducing fuel and utility costs otherwise born by the consumer.<sup>iii</sup> As the 2014 New Hampshire Ten-Year Energy Strategy recognizes, the cost savings of building energy code update and compliance efforts will help consumers keep more of their dollars in our local economy.<sup>iv</sup>

Modeling studies of residential buildings produced by the U.S. Department of Energy demonstrate an energy consumption reduction of up to 30 percent between the technology and standards required in the 2009 edition of the IECC and the 2015 edition. These energy consumption reductions equate to an average of \$500 annually for single family homes in the southern tier of our state, with an average of \$640 annually in the northern tier. Over the life span of an average 30 year mortgage, consumers could realize between \$15,000 and \$19,000 of cost savings.<sup>v</sup>

Therefore, the EESE Board strongly encourages our partners in the Legislature to move forward with the adoption of the latest version of the International Energy Conservation Code. We also recommend that the document be adopted in its entirety without removing critical components that realize a direct savings in energy bills to the consumer.

The EESE Board membership stands ready to assist with educational programs for New Hampshire home builders, consumers, real estate agents, and the inspection and compliance community to help transition to the new energy codes. Adoption of modern energy codes and standards will help keep New Hampshire economically competitive and will provide cost savings for heating, cooling and lig

---

<sup>i</sup> RSA 125-O:5-a Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board  
Available at: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/X/125-O/125-O-5-a.htm>.

<sup>ii</sup> US Department of Energy. Quadrennial Technology Review. Supplemental Information. (2015) Page 19.  
Available at: <https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/10/f33/Ch1-SI-Additional-Information-on-Energy-Challenges.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> The Edison Foundation. Utilities and Building Energy Codes: Air Quality and Energy Savings Opportunities. (Describing the cost of energy codes and standards as 1.1 cents/kWh, or 1/3 the cost of the average residential program) Available at: [http://www.imt.org/uploads/resources/files/IEE-IMT-UtilitiesAndBuildingEnergyCodes\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.imt.org/uploads/resources/files/IEE-IMT-UtilitiesAndBuildingEnergyCodes_FactSheet.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. New Hampshire Ten Year State Energy Strategy. (2014) Page 31-35. Available at: <https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/documents/energy-strategy.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> US Department of Energy and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of the Residential Provisions of the 2015 IECC for New Hampshire. (2016) This assumes \$1.96/gallon of heating oil, \$0.89/therm of natural gas, and \$0.16/kWh. Information was obtained from the NH Office of Energy and Planning “Fuel Prices” website, <http://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/energy-nh/fuel-prices/index.htm> on February 25, 2016. Available at: [https://www.pnnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical\\_reports/PNNL-24937Rev1.pdf](https://www.pnnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical_reports/PNNL-24937Rev1.pdf)