

Minutes

Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 (Hearing Room A) Concord, NH
April 10, 2009 Meeting

*Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.

Members in Attendance: Richard Ober of NH Charitable Foundation, Jack Ruderman of NHPUC, Meredith Hatfield of the OCA, Eric Steltzer of NH OEP, Robert Scott of DES, Daniel Feltes of NHLA, Susan Olsen of NH Municipal Association, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Laura Richardson for Wes Golomb of NH SEA, Ken Walsh of NH Fire Marshal's Office, Patti Carrier of NH Ball Bearings, Roy Duddy of NH DRED, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Brian Wujcik of Home Builders and Remodelers Association of NH, Rep. James Garrity, Rep. David Borden, Sen. Martha Fuller Clark.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, John Puc of National Grid, James Grady of LighTec, Inc., Charles Niebling of New England Wood Pellet, Janet Brewer of Ocean Bank.

Link to Meeting Agenda: [Meeting Agenda](#)

Welcome & Chair's Remarks.

Chairman Ober convened the meeting at 9:07 A.M and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. {Introductions followed}.

1. Approval of March 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Ober asked for a motion to approve the 3-13-09 minutes. Roy Duddy moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Susan Olsen. There were no corrections. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Ober noted that that the board has been meeting for six months and suggested it is time to reflect on where we are, where we have been, where we might be going, and how this all fits into the energy universe. He showed the board a [chart](#) which tried to capture what it is we are trying to do - Reduce fossil based energy in NH while achieving our goal of increasing sustainable resources, reducing carbon, creating jobs and keeping money in NH.

He presented [slides](#) regarding the EESE Board. The presentation focused on topics such as:

- The Charge of the EESE Board
- Duties of the Board
- What the Board has done already
- What is going on now
- Climate Action Plan
- Overarching Strategies
- Approaches to Consider
- Guiding Principles
- Coordinated, Measurable and Sustainable Projects
- Examples of Projects and What they should do
- What the board will be working on

He suggested we look ahead three years and define what it is we want to have accomplished. He suggested a strategy of focusing some of our work and encouraging investment of some public funds in a handful of highly visible tangible beacon projects. He noted that we need to define significant policy changes that may be needed to achieve our goals and the goals of the Climate action Plan, and the importance of working closely with the legislature in the coming months, with leadership from the EESE Board's legislative members. He then asked for reactions from board members and guests.

Charlie Niebling favored the idea of investing time and resources in beacon projects. He noted that it was important to choose initiatives that will show progress within the next few years and really try to get things moving. He reminded everyone that great progress has been made in Europe and that we need to start thinking about the point in time when the public sector will be able to leave these issues to the private sector to maintain.

Brian Wujcik noted that he thought that beacon projects would inspire the public sector, in turn making it more likely that the public will get behind them.

Jim Grady agreed with the others. He noted that utilities have been working hard over the years to promote and create efficiency projects through the core program and this could highlight some of the winning projects. He also noted that people from the Energy Services Industry would be able to identify potential barriers in the field.

Bob Scott noted the importance of success stories in the media to urge people to do something. Unfortunately, many times, only the non-success stories get advertised which ultimately deters people from doing things.

John Puc noted the importance of gas and electric utility collaborative projects which have been successful in the past.

Gil Gelineau noted that having beacon projects and advertising our success stories is certainly the way to go, but that we should also begin to think about the next step in order to have a place to channel our successes more broadly.

Rep. David Borden noted that he was involved with a beacon-like project in Tokyo which was Big Dig sized and that there were 2 fundamental differences in the Tokyo project over the Big Dig. The first being that the Tokyo project ultimately came in under budget at completion and the second being that this large project developed the necessary infrastructure needed to extend to smaller projects and communities - which is incredibly important.

Clifton Below noted that while developing beacon projects was important, we only have this 1 time funding coming and only a few sustainable funding streams. He noted that we have to steer into a realm of developing more sustainable projects and the use of equity and buying into projects is very important as well.

Senator Martha Fuller Clark noted that it is very important that we do not lose the involvement and support of the public. We need our municipal projects to serve as models for other communities and we need to be ready in case other communities wanted to participate. This way we can have all resources and information available to them.

Rep Jim Garrity noted that we need to figure out what tools we will need in order to measure our progress. Also, we should have a way to measure hard costs vs. soft costs, sustainability and return on investment. We should have 1 central location where you can get all of the information you need for all different classes of energy users such as residential, multi-family, renters, state government, etc.

Dick Henry noted the importance of beacon projects but also noted the need for a mentoring role with these projects so that when a beacon community learns new things then they have an obligation to share the information with other communities. He noted that mentoring should be a condition of funding and that this would help promote and spread ideas.

Laura Richardson noted the importance of defining what 'normal' is. She noted that it is important to make being 'green' the norm and making the term obsolete so that 'non-green' projects and behaviors seem archaic and being green is the only way to be.

Dan Feltes noted that mobile homes consume massive amounts of energy and seem to be the low hanging fruit. Weatherizing these homes will save energy and provide a service to many low income families.

Scott Albert noted that the beacon project approach was a great one but not to lose sight of the small projects and to look into the community and increase demand for energy efficiency merely by getting the word out. He reminded the board of the importance to have a qualified and well trained work force and he urged the board to analyze short term vs. long term projects because sometimes the long term projects which are more expensive are also more measurable and sustainable. He noted that it was OK to spend more so long as you are getting more of a benefit.

Liz Skidmore (guest) noted that she is a carpenter who has worked in NH for many years and has also worked on the Big Dig in Massachusetts. She advised the board that given the expansion of weatherization funds in NH, it is important to keep an eye on working standards so that you know that you have a trained and skilled workforce working on these homes. Additionally, she noted that one of the reasons that the Big Dig went wrong was that the prime contractor was also the clerk of the works, which is a bad idea and that an independent entity should be charged with overseeing projects. She also noted the importance of apprenticeship programs in the work force because it gives workers an opportunity to build a long-term career and all while working under supervised efficient conditions.

Roy Duddy noted the importance of synergy in the use of all programs involving RPS, RGGI and Stimulus funds. He noted that we do not have enough representation of what is going on in our state universities and colleges, etc. He also noted that perhaps we need to look into incentives more in order to encourage future demand. He agreed that the media needs to be involved and success stories need to be portrayed but the other idea that needs to be equally portrayed in the media is that anyone can take part in energy efficiency and that the return on investment is worth it.

He also noted that we need to lead people to one place which can provide them with all of the answers to their questions and it is important that we not lose sight of the importance of ongoing training and certification. He said that ultimately, if we do this right, then entrepreneurial businesses will take over from us and we may not be needed any more - ultimately, we want to put ourselves out of this business and let the private sector take over.

Kate Peters (guest) noted that the idea of beacon projects was great but that we needed to keep a couple of things in mind. First being, that we are working with public funds which are available for many different projects.

Also, that we need to be thinking now about the nuts and bolts and where these projects are going and as we think about these projects we should try to figure out coordination - who will be in charge? Who will oversee these projects?

Russ Aney noted that certain beacon projects needed to be embraced and assistance should be provided to them such as marketing and development. This will show that everyone can do these projects and hopefully succeed. Additionally, he noted that one of the most difficult problems faced with these projects is trouble financing them. If there was a way to find an easier or lower cost financing option that could complement good projects then this would help streamline the process.

Jim Grady noted that people are wondering if what is available now is the very best product available, and are waiting to see what might be coming next. This is showing great public enthusiasm in energy saving measures but could be slowing down progress.

Karen Rantamaki noted the importance of educating the public as to what the good projects are and what they can do with them along with educating the public as to what they might want to stay away from.

3. Updates

Bob Scott discussed the Climate Action Plan Report. He handed out a [summary of the plan](#) as well as a list of members of the [Climate Action Change Policy Task Force](#) and the new [Energy and Climate Collaborative](#). He noted that the full report could be found on the [DES website](#), including all appendices. He noted that the report was lengthy but if anyone needed a full copy, he could get one for them. Due to the cost of making numerous copies of the report he wanted to direct people to the website first, if possible.

He noted that the recommendations in the plan were based on the "no regrets" approach in that what is good for the environment will also be good for the economy and that actions taken to benefit climate change will also simultaneously achieve environmental, economic and societal benefits that are worth while and important on their own. The handout provided important information regarding the Climate Action Plan as well as highlighting the recommendations of the plan. He hopes that this will be used as a 'road map' of sorts for the EESE board.

He noted that DES just did not have the resources to sustain the effort of following up and making sure that the action plan is a living document so the Climate and Energy Collaborative was formed. He noted that the members of

the collaborative were diverse and brought many resources to the table. Finally, he urged State Representatives and Senators to be involved.

Chairman Ober described the work and purpose of the collaborative. He noted that the collaborative will meet quarterly in order to coordinate the scores of implementing partners (EESE Board is an implementing partner). Additionally the collaborative will plan an annual summit in order to get all of the collaborative members and implementing partners, etc. together. Finally he noted that this collaborative was not formed under executive order or by the legislature, but by 18 leading institutions who have committed to each other and to the residents of the state to keep the plan moving forward.

Dick Henry suggested charging a fee for copies of the Climate Plan as many agencies and companies do.

Jack Ruderman updated the board regarding the RGGI RFP and the rules. He noted that no funding decision have been made yet. There has been an overwhelming response to the RFP with 84 proposals received totaling over \$50 million. He reminded everyone that while the process is currently under way - it is very time consuming. The projects are across the board and include loan funds, job training, outreach, community action, and requests for assistance with single buildings. The PUC has convened a review panel consisting of the three PUC commissioners, Jack, Eric Steltzer, and Dick Ober. Final funding decisions will be made by the commissioners.

He noted that there was another RGGI auction in March which made \$4.4 million, bringing the total amount available in the fund to \$5.9 million.

He also noted that the PUC is considering extending the internal deadline for submitting an initial proposal for regular rules to go into effect so as to gain the benefit of learning from this funding round before refining and adopting final rules.

Bob Scott noted that Congress will be taking up a national climate bill in the near future that could eventually create a carbon cap-and-trade system that would replace RGGI.

Amy Ignatius (guest) updated the board regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). She handed out materials regarding the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#), as well as the [State Energy Program](#). Amy noted that approximately \$20,000 of the funds appropriated by the legislature in September 2008 from RGGI funds for [Staywarm NH](#) may be returned. She also noted that the board may want to consider putting in a request to Senator Jeanne Shaheen's Energy Policy Liaison, Trent Bauserman,

to speak with him and see if he could come speak to the board. He works full time on energy policy and would probably welcome the board's input.

Amy described in general how the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants will be distributed, beyond the 10 largest cities and towns that have already been notified of their grants. She noted that there is not yet an application process but she suggested that any municipality considering applying should be prepared to satisfy significant compliance documentation and reporting requirements. She hoped that this would not deter smaller projects but noted that some towns just could not successfully manage the amount of work due to lack of available resources.

Amy noted that there is approximately \$25 million in the State Energy Program over a 3 year period but that the funds are not moving as quickly as they would have wanted. She noted that the initial application has already been submitted but a more thorough application is now due May 20th.

Amy also noted that municipalities need to know what to do first. OEP has previously taken on a mentoring role of sorts but just does not have the available resources to do this now. She noted that they need technical assistance in filling out these applications and going through the process and that they cannot simply be directed to a website - that is not fair. She noted that importance of providing a more personal role with more one on one information. She noted that this was also the case with homeowners and small businesses. She hopes that OEP is able to retain some of the funds for outreach and coordination efforts to help with this problem.

Kate Peters noted that the Governor's Office has compiled a list of possible projects and programs. She noted that there may be ways of getting at other programs, such as non-income based programs to help homeowners, etc. that could be useful and that any feedback or input on these different types of programs would be welcomed by Kate and Amy. She noted the importance of leveraging the funds with other projects and noted that she and Roy Duddy would be attending a Governors Conference workshop on April 30th and May 1st regarding stimulus funds and programs as well as the possibility of leveraging funds and many of the issues discussed in EESE board meetings.

Meredith Hatfield thanked Amy, Kate and OEP for keeping us up to date on ARRA matters but wondered if OEP had enough resources to handle the influx of work coming from these stimulus funds and wondered if they could get assistance with resources from these funds. Amy Ignatius agreed that this was a problem and noted that she just had one position cut due to a cut in federal funding so OEP does need additional help and resources which are difficult to find in a budget crisis.

Charlie Niebling asked if any positions which were cut due to the budget crisis and layoffs could be recreated with the use of stimulus money. Kate Peters noted that this is a complicated situation because the ARRA funds is 'one time money' and creating a new position would create a long term investment so when the money is gone there will still be a position that needs to be funded.

Rep. Jim Garrity wondered about the notion of using 'free market based money'. He suggested that if partnerships are created with companies such as Lowe's, Home Depot or any other hardware store could become an 'authorized energy efficiency dealer' and use the NH Seal to promote the power of the brand. Then people could sign up for this program and get a card in the mail. They would go to the authorized dealers who will give them a 25% discount on energy efficiency measures that were purchased. He suggested that using a program such as this one would promote energy efficiency as well as stimulate private action.

Kate Hartnett (guest) noted that when trying to decide whether to invest in energy efficiency or renewables first it is wise to remember that "you cannot get any renewable dessert until you get your energy efficiency vegetables". The load needs to be lowered and that is law in NH.

BREAK - The meeting recessed at 10:58 a.m. for a short break and resumed at 11:16 a.m.

4. Work Group Reports and Focusing Our Work

Chairman Ober asked work group chairs to discuss the progress that their work groups were making. He asked chairs to update the board regarding the number of meetings convened, number of work group members, and other discussions which ensued including any guidance that they may need from the board.

Meredith Hatfield discussed the outreach and coordination work group. She noted that her work group consists of 10 members and has met 2 times. She noted that the work group is discussing the idea of creating an information portal and has pulled together a summary of what programs are available for both efficiency and renewables and that the work group stood ready to help the public and that they have the right people ready to communicate information to others as to what is available.

She also wondered if there was a way, in the short term, to do something that will affect the long term. She noted that the work group was looking for some guidance from the board regarding what to do next on a concrete level.

Clifton Below noted that the PUC was looking into the notion of an EESE board blog on the website and had been wondering whether to activate or abandon

this idea. He wondered if this work group could give some thought to the idea. Eric Steltzer noted that the Office of Energy & Planning has a similar blog program on their website at [NH OEP - Plan Link](#).

Rep. David Borden discussed the Public Sector Work Group, which focuses on state and municipal buildings and programs. He noted that Eric Steltzer created a very helpful flow chart which lists all resources available in the Education, Government, Non-Profit and Private Sector. He noted that this model was still a work in progress and was not completed yet. Karen Rantamaki discussed the progress that the work group has made as well as what challenges they must overcome. She noted that every state agency now has an energy liaison, achievements are being made in tracking energy consumption, the state government is actively celebrating and recognizing energy related leadership, and that there is a fostered collaboration between departments. Unfortunately, there was also a long list of challenges, including the budget crisis, staff shortages, training, difficulty in baseline metrics, location of buildings all over the state, maintenance and repairs needed in state buildings, matching improvements with funding, and trying to get the most work done in such a short amount of time.

Charlie Niebling noted that Sen. Martha Fuller Clark's bill, which would hopefully be brought back next session and tried to set a state goal for energy usage in state buildings, might be a good idea for this work group to look into. Karen Rantamaki noted that the idea of a goal is great but the state needs to resources behind it for implementation.

Jim Grady wondered if the state was having trouble defining what is 'broken' or if the problem is having the resources to try to figure it out? Karen Rantamaki replied that unfortunately the list of what is 'broken' is just too large when it comes to state government.

Rep. David Borden noted that unfortunately there is a lot of red tape when dealing with state projects and buildings.

Dana Nute discussed the Workforce Development and Technical Advisory Work Group. He noted that there have been 2 meetings and the work group has grown from 4 people to approximately 32. He noted that residential workforce training is the focus and that the CAP agencies and OEP are developing a black and white plan of what is required of weatherization workers, lead paint training requirements, and that there would be an RFP issued next week for air sealing. He noted that there are still too few contractors trained in NH for this kind of work and that they really want to give people something concrete to work with.

He noted that it is not how many homes are weatherized or worked on but the amount of energy saved - and that we want to be a leader. Chairman Ober congratulated Dana and the CAP agencies for working so fast and diligently to use the stimulus money in the best and most efficient way.

Chairman Dick Ober discussed the Financing Work Group. He noted that they are tackling the statutory duties of coordinating efforts between funding sources and investigating innovative long-term funding mechanisms. This work group has met 3 times and will be meeting again this month.

Bob King discussed an article he read which discusses climate change and Samsø, the Danish island that recently became 100% renewable energy powered, as reported by Elizabeth Kolbert in National Geographic, after a state sponsored contest to see who could become the most energy efficient. He passed around a handout entitled, "Circuit Based Deep Dive" which explains the details and goals of the Samsø project as well as the idea of focusing on circuits on utility distribution systems rather than adding more capacity to an already overloaded system by targeting soon to be overloaded circuits and trying to wind down electrical usage. This has been discussed as an example of a beacon project, also known as "energy enterprise zone."

Terry Large noted that a circuit based choice is one way of selecting the geography of influences that you are working on. He advised the board to coordinate a comprehensive effort, create replicable solutions, and to focus on the idea of sharing knowledge.

Bob Scott wondered if there was a way to create a program that worked for utilities, such as circuit based, as well as for the general public.

Clifton Below raised the issue of revising or repealing RSA 374-F to facilitate geographic focus of energy efficiency investments, as discussed in last month's meeting. He recommended the repeal of this statute because he noted that there was really nothing to be gained by keeping this language. He asked for the board's OK to try to work with legislators to fix the language during this legislative session. There were no objections but the EESE board did not formally endorse any amendments to the language.

Lastly, Chairman Ober discussed the idea of sending a letter to OEP, PUC and the Governor's Office regarding the idea of 'Beacon Projects' and their advantages. He noted that he would draft the letter and make sure that all board members saw a copy of the letter before it went out. He noted that some ideas might be existing projects, new projects such as the one Bob King described, web portals, etc. Dick Henry noted that multi-family housing would be a great beacon project because it provides a large return and lends

itself to renewable projects as well as the ability to enter into the urban centers of the state.

Dan Feltes noted that a letter should also be drafted in regard to the 2 motions regarding the NH Energy Efficiency Potential Study that were passed at the last meeting.

Gil Gelineau noted that he believed that we should be looking at developing a plan. He noted that with limited time, money and a work force and we should know what the plan is and what the expectations are so that we can direct people to the right information.

New Business

Charlie Niebling encouraged everyone to attend the Heating the Northeast conference from 4/29-4/30 in Nashua. He noted that the website for more information was www.heatne.com.

Patti Carrier noted that the board would be receiving an invitation to the NH Ball Bearings Energy & Health Fair. She noted that members of the EESE board and others were welcome to participate in the event or just attend. The fair will be held on June 18, 2009 at NH Ball Bearings Peterborough, NH location at 175 Jaffrey Road, Peterborough, NH.

Julia Dunndorf noted that there will be a Local Energy Solutions Conference on June 20, 2009, at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. More information and registration can be found at:

<http://www.carboncoalition.org/Conference/index.php>.

The next meeting of the ESSE board is scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2009 at the PUC (Hearing Room A).

Subsequent meetings of the EESE Board are scheduled for June 12, 2009 and July 10, 2009 (the second Friday of every month) from 9 am - 12 pm and will be held at the NH PUC, Hearing Room A, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord, NH 03301.

There being no other business to come before the board, Chairman Ober adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.