

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
PSNH, Energy Park, Manchester, NH
July 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, James Robb for Roy Duddy of DRED, Patti Carrier of NH BIA, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Susan Olsen of NH Municipal Association, Wes Golomb of NH SEA, Brian Wujcik of Home Builders and Remodelers Association of NH, Rep. David Borden, Rep. James Garrity, and Sen. Martha Fuller Clark.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Tom Belair for Gil Gelineau of PSNH, John Puc of National Grid, Cindy Carroll of Unitil, James Grady of LightTec, Inc., Janet Brewer of Ocean Bank, and Charlie Niebling of New England Wood Pellet.

LINK TO MEETING AGENDA: [MEETING AGENDA](#)

1. Welcome & Introduction, Chair's Remarks

Chairman Ober convened the meeting at 9:08 A.M.; he welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. {Introductions followed}.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 12, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ober asked for a motion to approve the 5-8-09 minutes. Meredith Hatfield moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Susan Olsen. There were no edits, additions or deletions to the minutes and the motion for adoption was unanimously approved.

Chairman Ober reviewed the agenda and the plan for the meeting.

Scudder Parker and Christine Donovan then began reviewing the agenda and handed out slides listing the statutory [Duties of the EESE Board](#). They then began facilitating the discussion for the day.

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Note: Also see separate [summary](#) of Strategic Planning Session highlights

Chairman Ober began by framing the discussion. He stressed the importance of lowering barriers and creating a cohesive vision for legislators and policy makers so that the U.S. is not knocked off the road to a new energy economy like it has been in the past.

BARRIERS AND TOOLS

Scudder Parker presented a list of [Barriers and Tools](#) that were compiled from previous written comments submitted anonymously by the Board and guests. Additional barriers discussed by the group included workforce issues, access to information and credit, and poorly advertised incentive programs.

ENERGY POLICIES

Jim Grady noted that the sustainable energy industry has been evolving since the 70's and should not be obstructed by new energy policies. Rep. James Garrity asked how we can insure that average citizens who pay the bills have some say in the energy policy that affects them. Chairman Ober suggested that the group list the policies that should be changed in NH. Clifton Below noted that some people in New Hampshire are discouraged from investing in renewable energy technology because not all towns here have adopted a renewable energy property tax exemption.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Ken Walsh observed that in some cases the evolution of energy efficient technology has caused products to break more easily and need replacement sooner; Tom Belair wondered how we can insure that sustainable energy products such as solar electric panels are operating as efficiently as possible. Sen. Fuller Clark noted that perhaps another term should be used with the general public in place of energy efficiency so that people can clearly understand that it has now become their duty to reduce their energy consumption which saves money and meets goals related to economic development, the environment and carbon reductions.

LAND USE

Ben Frost noted that we generally focus on how we use energy, but not always why, and suggested that the transportation sector and land use

patterns be addressed. Eric Steltzer added that it is crucial for NH to focus on how we develop our communities and that individuals have access to affordable housing in close proximity to their employment. Guest Jeff Taylor added that transportation is an after effect of poor community design and that effective community design requires attention to building codes and land use. Chairman Ober questioned whether the EESE Board statute includes these land use issues implicitly and, if so, how such a large set of issues could be added to the board's already very full responsibilities.

PUBLIC GUIDANCE

Dick Henry noted that individuals usually rely on information supplied by a vendor regarding a project's energy savings; they should instead be given a nonbiased, integrated overview of their energy savings. Meredith Hatfield agreed and added that individuals should be advised on energy projects and how to budget them by someone who is not selling them a particular product. Charlie Niebling commented that the energy challenge should be approached more collectively; both the government and its citizens should recognize their marriage of interests, and citizens should have a better understanding of what must be done. Sen. Fuller Clark suggested that the board take advantage of the currently receptive public to increase participation in energy efficiency programs.

EESE BOARD FUNDING

A Guest asked if NH had considered advocating for a climate bill that would continue to support the EESE Board in its efforts, and Sen. Fuller Clark suggested that the EESE Board apply for a RGGI grant.

Chairman Ober called a short break at 10:47. The meeting reconvened at 11:02.

ENERGY MARKET

Guest Bob King noted that the energy industry needs a set price for renewable energy; Dick Henry suggested that NH make a social commitment to set the price of oil and gas. Rep. James Garrity asked why rate payers should subsidize the energy industry to keep it in business.

Sen. Fuller Clark observed that the government cannot change the energy market alone and that there is no place comparable to the private sector. Charlie Niebling reminded the group that policy has a profound

influence over the private sector; and Mary Downes added that there must be a role for the public with rules and laws, but that the market needs to be able to provide efficiency and renewables. Eric Steltzer agreed, and cautioned that there must be an appropriate balance between the free market and governmental programs supporting the new energy market. Eric Doberstein suggested raising the price of fossil fuels and letting the private sector figure it out on its own, and Jack Ruderman acknowledged that while raising energy prices might be a sound policy, he advised the group that elected officials would be unlikely to support this policy.

BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITY

Chairman Ober and Christine Donovan instructed the group to brainstorm and write down on sticky notes their top 3-4 tools or strategies they felt were needed in New Hampshire and then place them on the appropriate tools and strategies board. There were seven boards representing seven different categories: State Policy, Regulatory Process, Codes and Standards, Workforce Infrastructure, Education/Awareness, Effective Advocacy and Research and Development.

Chairman Ober called a break for lunch at 11:49 A.M. and reconvened the meeting at 12:24 P.M.; he asked that the group consider in the remainder of the meeting what role and tasks are appropriate for the EESE Board to take on.

All sticky notes were read to the group. The category that generated the most notes was Policy. The following is a sample of the tools and strategies proposed, by category. Please also see separate [summary](#).

STATE POLICY

Implementation of State Energy Policy, Tax Incentives at the local level, decoupling, least cost procurement policy, creation of a financing model, provide for real time monitoring of energy usage, focused policy for low income customers, establish targets/goals, state energy authority, update law to provide for energy efficiency as top priority, eliminate subsidies for energy efficiency pricing.

REGULATORY PROCESS

Align decoupling; remove disincentives to energy efficiency, group net metering, and regulatory focus to enhance low income projects, on bill financing for upgrades, additional PUC info to customers, multi year

planning for EE projects, review of core programs with ESCO's for effectiveness, eliminate perceived and real disincentives for utilities.

CODES AND STANDARDS

Property tax abstentions for net zero buildings, forced compliance of codes, tax incentives, mandatory inspections, integrated energy efficiency clearinghouse.

WORKFORCE INFRASTRUCTURE

Requirement of state certification for service providers, state competition for resources, licensing of energy professionals (including mentoring), clear definition of 'green jobs', not removing the 5,000+ dams in NH.

EDUCATION/AWARENESS

Energy auditor training, coordinated effective guidance for municipalities, private consultants, education programs aimed at code officials and the trades, targeted and trusted public assistance, open scientific debate of solutions, public education campaigns by sector, addition of efficiency and sustainability into children's curriculum.

EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

Encourage trusted organizations to work with officials, access to carbon coaches, fund leveraging programs for energy efficiency, a public commitment now to make sure this is carried out.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Provide tax and economic incentives, central information center for incentives with state approval, provide support for case studies, life cycle design and cost analysis for new technologies, and enabling feedback.

EESE BOARD ROLE

The board generally agreed that land use was a key issue determining long term energy use patterns, but that the EESE Board should seek out other entities to deal with the issue.

Chairman Ober reminded the EESE Board of its duty to write an annual report containing updates and recommendations. Charlie Niebling suggested that the EESE Board's task was to conceive and integrate a

plan and vision for the future and then identify and evaluate various strategies to achieve the plan. The EESE Board must then become advocates of the plan. Dick Henry added that the plan must have very specific annual targets and recommendations, and the Board proceeded to discuss the need for prioritization and the feasibility of setting targets, especially in the current unstable economy. Clifton Below pointed out that the Appendix of the Climate Action Plan has a wealth of information that the EESE Board should make use of when constructing this strategic action plan. A discussion followed regarding the relationship between recommendations to the legislature, EESE Board's strategic action plan, and the NH Climate Action Plan. Eric Seltzer and others stressed the need for coordination, specifically with programs like CORE that are already working on these issues.

Scudder Parker and Christine Donovan discussed the differences and similarities between NH and other state approaches in dealing with the energy challenge. They noted that the NH EESE Board is one of the most energetic boards they have observed and is unique in its integrating approach to sustainable energy and energy efficiency.

Tom Belair invited members and guests to take a tour of PSNH's new solar panel array at the end of the meeting. This array is currently one the largest in NH, over 51 kW.

The next meeting of the ESSE board is scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2009 from 9 A.M - 12 P.M in Hearing Room A at the NH PUC, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord, NH 03301.

The September meeting will be held on the third Friday of the month rather than the second, on September 18, 2009 from 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. - Location TBD

There being no other business to come before the board, Chairman Ober adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.