

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Hearing Room A - NH PUC, 9 AM - 12:30 PM
February 12, 2010 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, Wes Golomb of NH SEA, Patti Carrier of NH Ball Bearings for the NH BIA, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Beth Fischer of Build Green NH, Ben Frost for Dean Christon of NH Housing & Finance, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Representative Jim Garrity, and Rep. David Borden.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, John Puc of National Grid, Ray Gosney of the NH Electric Cooperative, Janet Brewer of Ocean Bank, Jim Doberstein for Jim Grady of Lightec, Inc., and George Gantz for Cindy Carroll from Unitil Energy Systems.

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 [JANUARY 8, 2010 MEETING MINUTES](#)

Chairman Ober asked for a motion to approve the 1-8-10 minutes. Rep. Jim Garrity moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ben Frost. There were no edits to the minutes and they were unanimously approved.

3. BOARD MEETING FORMAT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Ober handed out the EESE Board's statutory charge, [RSA 125-0:5-a](#) and discussed what the EESE Board has and has not been charged with doing. He asked the Board and work groups to keep the statutory charge in mind and stay grounded within the statute. He noted that the issues the Board works on are enormously complex, exciting and controversial, but we need to try our best to stay grounded on what we

can do to coordinate, promote, review, investigate and explore our options and keep in mind the work that the Board has already done.

In reflecting on the previous board meeting and the discussion of legislation, he suggested the board's greatest value is in long-term planning and policy development over short-term reaction to fast-moving issues and policies.

Rep. Garrity reminded everyone that it was very important to stay within our scope and our core and proceed forward . He pointed out that the Governor just recently asked for more budget cuts and funding from the general fund will be especially tight.

4. GOALS COMMITTEE

Gil Gelineau updated the Board on the progress of the Goals Work Group. He presented [slides](#) to the Board and then a short discussion and question/answer period ensued.

The slides covered topics such as:

- The goals work group's charge
- What we need to do - Buildings Sector
- Ramp up scenarios - Buildings Sector
- Estimated Annual Costs & Cumulative Costs & Savings - Buildings Sector
- What we need to do - Electric Sector
- Current State - Electric Sector
- Issues/Next Steps

There were several questions of clarification. Chairman Ober thanked the group and noted the importance of having numerical targets to work toward.

5. Presentation: Outreach and Education Work Group

Julia Dundorf updated the Board on the work of the Outreach and Education Work Group. She presented slides regarding the [Progress and Challenges on Energy/Climate Change](#) and then a short discussion and question/answer period ensued.

The slides covered topics such as:

- Overview of the [New England Carbon Challenge](#) and [Clean Air - Cool Planet](#).
- Understanding the Barriers and Problems
- Strategies to Overcome Barriers and Problems

- Accessible Solutions - and Connecting the solutions to positive outcomes
- Climate Change Perception Issues
- What the New England Carbon Challenge provides to a household:
 - Online Energy Assessments
 - Computations of Household Carbon Footprints
 - Customized Reports - Actions/Savings
 - New England Carbon Estimator
- GHGERF Grant Project - myenergyplan.net (Not currently up and running) for Residential Energy Tools
- Other Innovative Web Tools
- Outreach and Education Mechanisms

Mary Tebo Davis from the UNH Cooperative Extension discussed that agency's extension programs. She noted that research shows that the extension reaches 1 in every 4 homes in NH. They have been serving NH residents for over 100 years. They created the [ENERGY ANSWERS](#) program in order to provide telephone and email answers to any NH resident's energy questions. The Energy Answers volunteers have answered questions regarding: energy audits, rebates, renewable energy inquiries, thermostat questions, energy star appliance questions, etc., to date. They can be reached toll free at 1-877-EXT-GROW or by email at answers@unh.edu.

Meredith Hatfield announced that she and Beth Fischer will be co-chairs of the Outreach and Education Work Group and the group will be convened in the near future. Anyone interested should contact Meredith or Beth.

Chairman Ober called a short break at 11:09. The meeting reconvened at 11:25.

6. POLICY DISCUSSION

Meredith Hatfield noted that while it was important to not get hung up on the "issue of the day" it still is important to continue to ask questions and provide information, and to recommend that our legislators seek the EESE Board's advice on energy policy issues.

George Gantz reminded the Board that many aspects of our statutory charge involves developing plans, but NH does not have a comprehensive energy plan in place. He urged that the Board continue to serve in an

advisory manner to legislators in order to promote the creation of an effective plan for the state.

Eric Doberstein noted that we need to keep in mind that there is a cost for failure.

Senator Martha Fuller Clark noted that analyzing the cost of failure is a great way to begin the development of a state plan, and to ensure that failure does not take place while heightening the level of urgency in doing so.

Bob Scott warned that taking positions on issues and voting for or against potential legislation can potentially undermine the Board and its diverse membership.

Bob King noted that informative websites and the creation of new helpful programs cannot solely get us to where we need to be in regards to our goals. Ultimately, we will need to look at the implementation of incentive programs such as a carbon tax in order to get us to where we need to be.

Ray Gosney stated the importance of reminding our legislators that the Board is here as a resource and as a tool for them.

Rep. Jim Garrity noted that the EESE Board can be used as a resource to the legislature for advising legislators on matters that may previously have been handled by study committees

Legislation

Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Rep. Jim Garrity and Rep. David Borden discussed some current legislation in the NH House and Senate that are of interest to the Board.

[HB1626](#) - Requiring the licensing of building energy auditors. The status of the bill can be found [here](#).

[HB1554](#) - Allowing municipalities to create energy efficiency and clean energy districts. The status of the bill can be found [here](#).

[HB1353](#) - Relative to group net energy metering. The changes in this bill would allow up to 1 MW of generation to be included in net metering and allow users and utilities to choose how they want to get credited back for their power. The status of the bill can be found [here](#).

[SB323](#) - relative to the EESE Board, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund and the Renewable Energy Fund. Sen. Fuller Clark noted that many hours were spent on this bill. There has been movement toward shaping it to require the PUC, with close consultation from the EESE Board, to undergo a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of all the public funds for EE and SE under its jurisdiction. The EESE Board would be closely engaged in the study and would be charged with making policy recommendations to the legislature. A hearing is scheduled for February 18. The status of the bill can be found [here](#).

[SB334](#) - establishing a committee to study methods of encouraging the installation and use of small scale renewable energy resources by homeowners and businesses. An amendment has been introduced to look at the possibility of taking a limited amount of funds from Alternative Compliance Payments and be used as a pilot program by the Utilities for renewables/jobs/etc. It was stated that the goal of this amendment is hopefully to put people back to work in NH. The Pilot Program would also need the approval of the PUC. A hearing is scheduled for March 4. The status of the bill can be found [here](#).

7. UPDATES

Stacy Doll from the [NH Energy & Climate Collaborative](#) discussed the inventory of progress being made with the 67 recommendations of the Climate Action Plan. She requested that the EESE Board members and interested parties take this inventory and return it to her as soon as possible. The inventory can be found [here](#) and a description of the 67 recommendations of the Climate Action Plan can be found [here](#).

Questions can be directed to [Stacey Doll](#). The next meeting of the collaborative will be held on March 11, 2010.

Jack Ruderman discussed the GHGERF and RPS funds.

GHGERF - Projects are underway and quarterly reports are continuing to come in and will continue to be posted on the PUC [website](#). Carbon Solutions New England is working on tracking the process of all 30 winning grant proposals and will be working on creating a website that the winning grant proposals can enter their quarterly data into so that the information is readily available.

The PUC is in early stages of crafting the next GHGERF RFP - They are hoping to get it out by mid March. Certain concepts under

consideration are: narrowing the scope of the RFP, focusing on specific categories, and reviewing the specifics of the grant review process.

The PUC has met with organizations (per the organization's request) who were not awarded GHGERF grants in order to provide them with feedback on their proposal.

Renewable Energy Fund

The PUC has released a [notice of opportunity to comment](#) in order to get feedback as to what the next steps of the program will be. The current amount of residential rebates disbursed is \$1.3 million.

Eric Steltzer discussed ARRA funding.

He handed out a spreadsheet of ARRA programs and statuses. It can be found [here](#). He noted that the Appliance Rebate Program was approved at the February G&C meeting. He also noted that some of the next priorities would be the MOA for the appliance rebate program to go before the G&C on 3/10 and the development of a wood pellet rebate program for residents.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Jack Ruderman stepped down as Vice Chair of the Board but will remain as the PUC's representative. Chairman Ober nominated Eric Steltzer to act as Vice Chair. A vote was taken and he was unanimously appointed as Vice Chair of the EESE Board.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Chairman Ober adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

The next meeting of the ESSE Board is scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2010 from 9 A.M - 12 P.M in Hearing Room A (NH PUC).

All subsequent meetings will be held on the 2nd Friday of the month at the PUC.