MINUTES

Joint Committee of the CT Energy Efficiency Board and the Connecticut Green Bank Board of Directors

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
1:30 – 3:30 pm

In Attendance

Voting Members: John Harrity, Melissa Kops, Brenda Watson

Non-Voting Members: Stephen Bruno, Bryan Garcia, Bert Hunter

Members Absent: Kathy Fay, Lonnie Reed, Becca Trietch, John Viglione

Others: Richard Del Soldato, Marriott Dowden, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Brian Farnen, George Lawrence, Patrick McKenna, Nicole Palermo, Bernard Pelletier, Laura Savidge, Ariel Schneider, Stacy Sherwood, Marissa Westbrook, James Williamson

1. Call to Order

    - Brenda Watson called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

2. Public Comments

    - None.

3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the June 18, 2025 meeting.

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Joint Committee for June 18, 2025.

Upon a motion made by John Harrity and seconded by Bernard Pelletier, the Joint Committee voted to approve Resolution 1. None opposed or abstained. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Healthy Housing
    a. Connecticut Green Bank Board – Comprehensive Plan Status – Solar MAP+ Affordable Multifamily Housing

- Mackey Dykes gave an update to the SolarMap+ progress for Affordable Housing, which includes over 2 MW of solar delivering an average amount of $363 per year to the tenants, and then summarized progress for a few of the specific projects.

- Brenda Watson asked if he could include the number of jobs created or economic impact on the slides for the future. Mackey Dykes agreed that it can be added to future presentations.
- Bernard Pelletier asked for the projects paired with batteries, what the role of the batteries are. Mackey Dykes responded that in some cases the properties are on a residential rate class, where there are no demand charges and therefore no savings opportunities aside from the ESS program, but for resiliency the goal is to be able to provide some resiliency. With the size of the properties, they would not provide full resiliency for days, but a common space or some other compromise to balance the economics of it would be the goal.
- Melissa Kops asked for further clarification about the savings that each customer receives and Mackey Dykes responded by explaining that in the presented chart, it either shows the annual savings per tenant or it's the upgrade amount. If the property is tenant-metered then they will receive a credit from the system, and for master-metered properties the tenant portion of the solar revenue will be used to fund either an upfront upgrade to the building or fund ongoing services for the tenants.

b. Energy Efficiency Board – Conservation and Load Management Plan Status – HES-HESIE Copay and Smart-E Loan IRB

- Marissa Westbrook gave an update to the C&LM Plan timeline and milestones and she highlighted some key, upcoming milestones. She reviewed some of the changes to the Plan to be submitted on October 1, 2025, which includes an overall change in revenues. She explained the driver for the change was a Federal IRA grant that was received and updated estimates and CAM revenue for electric and gas.
  - Melissa Kops asked if the budget spending is behind for this year or if it is back on track. Marissa Westbrook responded that the budget is still lagging a bit and explained some of the efforts planned to counteract that. Melissa Kops asked if there is a concern about spending the incoming revenue and Stephen Bruno responded that for Eversource, compared to previous years there is a decrease in participation for heat pumps and weatherization, so those mentioned efforts should help increase demand and that money through the HEAR program should help as well.
  - Richard Faesy clarified that the funds have not yet been received but they are being budgeted for.
- Stephen Bruno explained that due to the slower uptake of heat pumps and weatherization, a 0% promotional offer for electric projects was created which was successful in stimulating demand.
  - Brenda Watson asked what happens if Eversource doesn't receive the reimbursement from the DOE. Stephen Bruno responded that it isn't a large amount of additional funding and so the focus would be to manage the regular budget.
- Stephen Bruno reviewed the upcoming Smart-E Loan Interest Rate Buydown pilot which is a special offer for heat pumps. The rates will be 6.99% down to 4.99% and for low income customers 4.99% will go down to 2.99%.
  - Melissa Kops asked what measures the Smart-E buydown can be used for. Bryan Garcia responded that this buydown is only for heat pumps but the Smart-E Loan covers many measures, including things that are related to health and safety, resilience, and environmental infrastructure. Stephen Bruno added that since the Energy Efficiency Fund is being used for the buydown, the hope is that it will help increase heat pump rebates and uptake from customers. He added that the Green Bank's loan loss reserve process allows for that initial 6.99% which is much lower than the current market rate.

- Richard Faesy commented that contractors are looking for more opportunities to enhance the Smart-E Loan further and suggested some of the Green Bank staff meet with other program staff to brainstorm ideas, such as instant approvals.

5. 2025-2027 Conservation & Load Management Plan Update
    a. Performance Management Incentive – Comprehensive Metric

- Stephen Bruno summarized the final DEEP Determination including the background, regulatory context, and working group for the 2025-2027 Plan. He then highlighted existing efforts in marketing, engineering,
    - Brenda Watson asked if there is an effort to market to municipalities so that town councils can begin to think about turning their communities into a Net 0 community. Marissa Westbrook responded that they can leverage a portion of their outreach for that and noted that there is an upcoming small scale pilot that could also be directed towards schools or town buildings.
- Marissa Westbrook reviewed the future planned and coordinated efforts. She explained the pilot proposal that was discussed in the process filing, noting that on the Residential side they would initially target 10-20 customers, and for C&I it would target 10 customers.
    - Brenda Watson asked for the C&I portion if it would include abandoned buildings or would it only include buildings that are operational. Stephen Bruno responded they didn't consider abandoned buildings but it could be brought up to the team.
    - Bernard Pelletier asked if there is a plan for a navigator for the pilot program. Marissa Westbrook responded that one of the ideas was an entity could do an enhanced audit that would act as go-between for all the different end uses. Stephen Bruno added that there would also be a lead for each area but the big concern is cost-recovery, so the goal would make sure the vendors are trained in all the disciplines so that they can make sure they cover all areas. Richard Faesy commented that there are other models for a comprehensive approach and agreed with Bernard Pelletier that is a navigator for the customer, and that it can make all the difference for success. The group discussed the inclusion of a navigator further.
    - Melissa Kops asked if this combined effort will also affect the directive for customers to think about their energy bills and increase savings. Stephen Bruno agreed with Melissa's suggestion to make it ready for future programs.

6. Other Business
    a. Brief Update: C&I – Government

- Mackey Dykes reviewed the partnership with Eversource for the SBEA program and summarized the recent progress, which includes the first 2 loans of the fiscal year and the third one is in process.
    - Melissa Kops asked if the program was available to customers who are in UI territory. Mackey Dykes responded that the program is available but the capital is not provided by the Green Bank and Amalgamated Bank. Marissa Westbrook added they do offer on-bill financing through a different funding mechanism and Marriott Dowden noted it is internally funded through Avangrid.

Bernard Pelletier asked if there is no-cost financing available for commercial customers and why it is not available to Residential customers. Stephen Bruno responded that through an RFP process there were some attractive rates but that the markets have changed, and so for the Residential side it is commonly a 10-year loan which creates financing challenges.

b. Brief Update: C&I – Small and Medium/Large Business
c. Brief Update: Residential – Single Family and Multi-Family

- Stephen Bruno explained that all the updates were covered earlier in the presentation.

7. Public Comments

- None.

8. Adjourn

Brenda Watson adjourned the Joint Committee at 2:32 pm.