



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 28, 2015

100 Cambridge St, 2nd Floor
Conference Rooms C and D
Boston, MA 02114

Councilors Present: Ian Finlayson (for Judith Judson), Donald Boecke (for Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Elizabeth Cellucci, Larry Chretien, Maggie Downey, Betsy Glynn, Paul Gromer, Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Elliot Jacobson, Paul Johnson, Emmett Lyne (for James Carey and Michael Sommer), Richard Malmstrom, Michael McDonagh, Robert Rio, Nancy Seidman (for Martin Suuberg), Brad Swing (for Austin Blackmon), Amy Vavak (for Carol White)

Councilors Absent: Cindy Carroll, Michael Ferrante, Charlie Harak, Deirdre Manning, Alana Murhpy, Andrew Newman, Eric Winkler

Consultants Present: Gretchen Calcagni, Craig Johnson, George Lawrence, Margie Lynch

DOER Staff Present: Lyn Huckabee, Maggie McCarey, Paul Ormond, Aimee Powelka, Steve Venezia

Others Present: Duane Baldwin, Patricia Baumer, Maria Belen Power, Don Bianchi, JoAnn Bodemer, Roger Borghesani, Monica Briggs, Manny Chaves, Shaela Collins, James Collins, Wesley Couture, Josh Craft, Doug Cranford, Charles Fox, Terry Fuller, Eugenia Gibbons, Ton Gilooly, Troy Hiller, Josh Kay, Greg Krantz, Ani Krishnan, Cathy Kristofferson, Christopher Landry, Gene Lawton, Paul Lipke, Mark Liu, Lourdes Lopez, Vince Maraventano, Susan McPhee, Claire Miller, Vickash Mohanka, Alex Papali, Dennis Pasqualino, Ellen Pfeiffer, Tom Protasewich, James Razsa, Phillip Reason, Tom Rooney, Kurt Roth, Arah Schuur, Karen Stewart, Tawana Stokos, David Straus, Natalie Treat, Marlon Washington, John Wells, Paul Yorkis, Andy Zucker

NOTE: These meeting minutes highlight summary talking points. Written public comments received by the Council are more comprehensive and are posted to the EEAC website at: <http://ma-eeac.org/may-28th-eeac-meeting-to-receive-public-comment-on-2016-18-efficiency-plan/>

1. Call to Order

Finlayson called the meeting to order at 1:11 PM.

2. Public Comment

Ned Bartlett (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) addressed the Council and began by noting that energy efficiency (EE) is a high priority for the EEA. He added that the EEA is committed to building on the state's achievements by increasing energy savings. He also discussed the Green Communities Act (GCA) and its mandate to achieve all cost effective EE. He commended the effort that went into the first draft of the Three Year Plan ("the Plan"), however he indicated that the proposed level of savings and budget was below expectations.

Commercial and Industrial

Paul Lipke (Healthcare Without Harm) noted that other organizations had signed onto their comments that were submitted at the previous Council meeting and that he had a few more points to discuss. His first point was that the healthcare market is not saturated and that there are many hospitals that can do more and many others that have not been served. His second point was that there should be specific benchmarks for each commercial and industrial (C&I) segment. His final point was that the program administrators (PAs) should identify which parts of the healthcare best practices study are being incorporated in the Plan.

David Straus (A Better City) thanked the PAs for providing a comprehensive draft of the Plan and noted that the proposed decline in savings goals are misaligned with state and local emissions targets for 2020. He also encouraged the PAs to reassess the large decrease in the C&I sector budget.

Troy Hiller (American Water Works Association) noted that there is significant opportunity for EE improvements through drinking and waste water systems. He noted that these systems are the largest consumers of electricity for many communities. He highlighted that the state has done a good job with this and has achieved large returns on investment with nearly all of the projects. However, he noted that there are many opportunities that still remain. He also noted that the Plan should look at the opportunity to capture embedded energy with water savings as it relates to leaks.

Roger Borghesani (The Energy Consortium) asked that the PAs provide more detail with respect to where the best opportunities are for benefits relative to cost. He also asked the PAs to improve the detail on the database and to improve clarity of difference in MOUs and incentives between customers. Lastly, he suggested an opt-out option for large customers who have used up the low hanging fruit and whose buildings operate under code requirements.

Natalie Treat (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership) began by thanking the PAs for the hard work that went into the first draft of the Plan. She noted, however, that NEEP was disappointed with the decrease in goals and that it should not be about keeping the state at the top in terms of EE, but that it should be about achieving all cost effective energy efficiency. She noted that the

language in the Plan would seem to indicate that EE increases costs to ratepayers, but that that is not entirely the case. She also recommended that the PAs should clearly address lighting issues (LEDs, street lighting, controls, etc.) and that they should not overemphasize the short term bill impacts with respect to the long term benefits.

Ron Gilooly (Northeast Energy Efficiency Council and Leidos) highlighted the importance of the EE programs for the EE industry. In particular, he noted that the programs have helped seed a lot of EE companies and ancillary companies that help deliver the programs.

Ani Krishnan (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) noted that the savings proposed by the consultant team (C-Team) are more aligned than the draft of the Plan with what they feel can be achieved. He urged the PAs and the Council to approve a plan that increases, rather than slows or decreases savings targets. He also discussed the issue of municipal streetlights and recommended that all PAs support buyback of municipal streetlights. He also discussed customer engagement and suggested that the PAs do more community based outreach to address market barriers. Lastly, he recommended that the statewide database needs to be transparent and easy to use.

Josh Craft (Environmental League of Massachusetts) strongly encouraged the PAs and the Council to approve a plan that is aligned with the savings targets proposed by the C-Team. He noted that this would be a crucial step in the state's effort to meet its 2020 and 2050 climate targets. He stressed that the program costs are insignificant when compared to the benefits.

Tom Protasewich and Josh Kay (Emerson Swan and Action for Boston Community Development) noted that Emerson Swan has partnered with the Low Income Multifamily Program to assist in design, implementation, and training with high EE upgrades in conjunction with ABCD. Protasewich stressed that funding and backing for this program is crucial to its success. Kay noted that just because the program has been successful does not mean that it could do more. Kay suggested that it is important to look at efficiency in the entire system, not just by replacing an inefficient boiler with an efficient one.

Cathy Kristofferson (Ashby Conservation Commission) noted that EE is a first fuel in the GCA and that the draft Plan does not set aggressive enough goals compared to previous goals and performance. She noted that the Plan must set the state on a path for the state's 2020 climate targets and stressed that 2020 is not that far away.

Claire Miller (Toxics Action Center) stressed the risks that communities are asked to bear when it comes to various types of energy production. She asked the PAs and the Council to be as robust and intense with EE as possible and to engage with all customers from all sectors.

Charles Fox (Bloom Energy) noted that he would appreciate the opportunity to work with the Council and the PAs to be able to serve customers who cannot do CHP with non-combustion on-site energy. He also recommended that more consideration of benefits should be added to the benefit-cost models. He cited the extent to which a system can improve system efficiency, and not just project efficiency as an example of that.

Patricia Baumer (Greater Boston Real Estate Board) noted that the existing programs lack sufficient building operator training and that this is crucial and should be included in the Plan.

Paul George (Public Citizen) noted that he would like to see meaningful incentives for off-grid energy efficiency. He also suggested that EE be better defined and that someone should look into who and what defines the state as the top state in EE.

The Council adjourned for a break at 2:12 PM and reconvened at 2:22 PM.

Residential

Don Bianchi (Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations) recommended that the goals in the Plan should be at least 3-percent for electric and 1.5-percent for gas and should be consistent with the C-Team's potential assessment. He expressed concern that the current draft of the Plan is inconsistent with the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). He recommended that multifamily low-income retrofits through LEAN must be prioritized. He also suggested that there needs to be a comprehensive statewide database.

Maria Belen Power (Chelsea Collaborative) noted that the Chelsea community is highly underserved with about three quarters of its population living in rental properties. She noted that the special renter part of the draft Plan has a lot of potential, but that she is concerned with the lack of detail and is worried that renters will once again be left behind. She concluded by urging the Council to vote against any Plan that does not address renter issues.

Maria Elena Letona (Neighbor to Neighbor) noted that 90-percent of the members in her community do not speak English and that the PAs should consider ways to reach into this community besides just doing Spanish and Portuguese languages on the website. She noted that a little investment in Neighbor to Neighbor would have large benefits.

Mark Liu (Chinese Progressive Association) noted that many citizens in the Chinese community are not being reached and that offering the website in other languages is simply not enough. He noted that there are already enough issues with the pre-weatherization process, even if one speaks English. He also suggested that the next Plan needs to have a database that is transparent and allows everyone to see what communities are and are not being served.

Gene Lawton (Coalition for Social Justice) expressed concern with the backlog for low income services, noting that a person could sign up today but not have work done until next year. He recommended that the PAs address this moving. He also raised concern that very wealthy people are eligible for the same type of efficiency work as low and moderate income folks.

Monica Briggs (Green Justice Coalition) raised concern that the first draft of the Plan falls short of meeting statute requirements to achieve all cost-effective EE. She noted that the burden should be on the utilities to show why they are not planning to capture all cost-effective EE. She also encouraged the PAs to incorporate gas leak repairs as part of EE.

Phillip Reason (Community Labor United) noted that the special renter visit proposed in the draft Plan could be great but that it needs more specifics with respect to goals how it would work. He also noted that the program should not be considered first class without a transparent database and that the PAs should provide a geographic view of which communities are and are not being served.

Alex Papali (Clean Water Action) noted that the savings goals in the draft Plan are disappointing and that the PAs did not provide sufficient reason as to why they proposed goals that are either leveling out or decreasing. He urged the PAs to build strong grassroots outreach into implementation in the next Plan. He reminded the Council and the PAs that others are watching to see what the state does with this plan.

Karen Stewart (South Coast Energy Challenge) discussed three areas of concern. First, she noted the disparity in services provided between ratepayers who rent and those who own homes. Second, she highlighted the lack of community grants and outreach in several communities. Lastly, she emphasized concern for the lack of data and transparency.

Paul Yorkis (Massachusetts Association of Realtors) noted that the PAs should work more closely with realtors, building owners, and inspectors as they represent an opportunity to disseminate information about the programs in the Plan to consumers.

Terry Fuller (Winchester Council on Aging) and Susan McPhee (Town of Winchester) discussed a pilot program that they started in 2014 to provide services to the elderly community. They noted that they marketed the programs in a different way and that they saw a 60-percent follow-through rate on weatherization from audits. They recommended that the PAs look into a targeted senior program with a specialist that spends more time with the elder community when doing work.

Representative Denise Provost (State Representative – Somerville) recommended that the goals for EE need to be more robust than what is proposed in the first draft of the Plan. She noted that EE makes people more comfortable in their place of living. She also noted that there needs to be more access to EE for renters. She noted that she stands ready on the legislative side to assist in creating more access to EE and encouraged the PAs to be as ambitious as reasonably possible in determining EE goals for the next three years.

Dennis Pasqualino (AA Arden, LLC) asked that home performance contractors (HPCs) be granted lead sharing in the next Plan. He noted that they already have a better conversion rate than some others in the program and that it would help offset some of their costs. He also expressed concern that inspections of their work are currently being done by the lead vendors, which also happens to be their competition and suggested third-party inspections.

Doug Cranford (Air-Tight Weatherization) noted that people that take advantage of the programs are satisfied and that their quality of life is greatly improved. He suggested there is plenty of room for improvements with the programs and that there needs to be more focus on outreach and communications. He encouraged decision makers to consider all ideas that are presented at the public comment meeting.

Christopher Landry (Fluid Industrial Associates) noted that his experience with the low-income multifamily program to date has been great and that continuation of programs and funding is important.

Manny Chavez (Chaves Heating and Air Conditioning) suggested that some aspects of program implementation are problematic and unfair. He suggested that HPCs should be allowed to have a representation on the residential committee and that inspections should be performed by an independent third party and not by the lead vendor.

Wesley Couture (American Installations) noted that he shared concern discussed by the other HPCs with respect to program design.

Paul Johnson, on behalf of Martijin Fleuren (Homeworks Energy Inc.) emphasized points made by the other HPCs. In particular, he noted HPCs achieve higher sales per contract than the lead vendors and that the program would benefit and be more sustainable if the HPCs received some sort of financial support.

Andy Zucker (Public Citizen) noted that EE is important in addressing climate and clean energy goals and that the Plan should follow the goals proposed by the C-Team. He also noted that there needs to be more detail with respect to peak demand and demand response, the rental community, and transparency in the EE database.

Emily Norton (Sierra Club) expressed concern with the decrease in some of the planned investments and savings goals targets. She also noted that the PAs should be getting more, not less, efficient at administering programs. She also recommended that the Plan incorporate more of the findings addressed in many of the EM&V studies. She also encouraged the PAs to use the Plan to keep making progress on grid modernization plans.

3. Adjournment

Finlayson thanked everyone for their public comment and adjourned the meeting at 3:55 PM.