



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

100 Cambridge St, 2nd Floor

Conference Rooms C & D

Boston, MA 02114

Councilors Present: Greg Abbe (for Janelle Chan), Cindy Arcate, Don Boecke (for Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Elizabeth Cellucci, Tim Costa (for Victoria Rojo), Steve Cowell (for Paul Gromer), Maggie Downey, Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Elliott Jacobson, Paul Johnson, Jane Lano, Rick Malmstrom, Deirdre Manning, Maggie McCarey (for Commissioner Judith Judson), Tom Palma (for Cindy Carroll), Cammy Peterson, Chris Porter, Robert Rio, Stephanie Terach, Mary Wambui, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg)

Councilors Absent: Justin Davidson, Michael Ferrante, Charlie Harak, Andrew Newman

Consultants Present: Eric Belliveau, Adam Jacobs, Craig Johnson, George Lawrence

DOER Staff Present: Rachel Evans, Emily Powers

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

2. Public Comment

Scott Greenbaum – Greene Energy Consultants

Greenbaum noted that he is a certified energy manager and engineer that mostly works on HVAC controls for existing commercial and industrial (C&I) buildings. He suggested that the C&I programs are dysfunctional in that it does not provide incentives to customers to update their energy management systems. Greenbaum indicated that a consequence of that is that many projects need to be scaled back in their scope which leads to less work. Greenbaum noted that his understanding of the reasoning behind there being no incentives for updating energy management systems had to do with how the existing codes and standards have been interpreted.

He suggested that there would be very little C&I work in existing buildings for HVAC controls until that misinterpretation was corrected.

Hank Keating – Passive House Massachusetts

Keating expressed concern that the Program Administrators (PAs) had not yet issued a low-rise passive house program. He noted that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has its low-income housing tax credit funding once a year and that projects submitting to DHCD must submit their pre-application by the end of November. Keating noted that if projects are not able to include low-rise passive house funding as part of that process then they will have a difficult time getting commitment for funding. The implications of that, Keating noted, would be that the programs would effectively miss out on an entire year of possible projects and that the first low-rise passive house project would not happen until the last year of the current three-year plan. He recommended that the PAs make a formal statement about there being a program by the end of the year so that projects could at least submit their pre-applications to DHCD.

Mark Pignatelli – ICF

Pignatelli noted that he has worked closely with Mr. Keating and that he wanted to respond to his comments. He noted that the Mass Save® residential new construction program team are working through the process and that they are reviewing an evaluation on passive house that was just recently completed. He also noted that they need to engage with fifty or more Home Energy Rating System (HERS) companies on next steps if they are to redesign what it means for low-rise passive house. He indicated that he hoped to have a formal announcement soon.

3. Council Updates & Business

General Updates

McCarey noted that Massachusetts was recently ranked as number one overall in ACEEE's State Energy Scorecard. She thanked all parties involved for their efforts and contributions that led to the ranking. McCarey also noted that the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) scheduled a hearing on the Program Administrators' (PAs) 2016-2018 Term Reports for October 30, 2019.

August 7, 2019 EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Boyd motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Executive Committee.

August 21, 2019 EEAC Meeting Minutes

Rio motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Peterson seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Wambui and Malmstrom abstained. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Council.

September 4, 2019 EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Boyd motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Executive Committee.

September 18, 2019 EEAC Meeting Minutes

Abbe noted that his comment on page four of the minutes was about quality control and not about security with respect to custom energy packages. The minutes were updated accordingly. Boecke noted that he had a designee at the September meeting and that his name was included in the attendance list. The minutes were updated accordingly. Manning motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Abbe seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Boecke and Malmstrom abstained. The minutes were approved, as amended, by the Council.

4. Commercial and Industrial Program Implementation

Ezra McCarthy, on behalf of the PAs, gave a presentation on program implementation for the commercial and industrial (C&I) sector. In his presentation, he reviewed savings pathways, engagement approaches, cross-offering linkages, a background on the C&I portfolio, and an update on combined heat and power (CHP) projects in 2019.

Johnson asked how many staff that PAs have involved in C&I programs. McCarthy noted that it varied by PA and that National Grid probably had about twenty-five to thirty staff who are involved in direct customer outreach. Johnson referenced a chart in the presentation about the success of upstream pathways for HVAC measures. He asked if there was a similar chart available for the downstream pathway. McCarthy indicated that it was available in the customer profile study.

Peterson asked if the PAs could respond to public comment made by Scott Greenbaum. McCarthy noted that it the issues that Mr. Greenbaum raised were a result of claimable savings and where baselines are set. He added that in the specific case referenced by Mr. Greenbaum, there was a decision made through evaluation feedback in recent studies that required customers to upgrade their EMS. McCarthy noted that that recommendation set the baseline very high. McCarey asked when the next baseline evaluation would be. McCarthy indicated that he was not sure but that he could find out.

Wambui asked who is responsible for setting the baseline and what is it based on. McCarthy noted that the baseline is often set by the most recently adopted code plus stretch codes. He added that industry standard practice layers on top of that. McCarthy noted that the baselines are set by the PAs with input from the evaluation teams, the consultant team, and the Department of Energy Resources.

Cowell asked how many targeted efforts the PAs have conducted for small C&I customers. McCarthy indicated that the PAs conducted about seven or eight concentrated efforts for Energy Efficiency Day and that they will have conducted about twenty efforts over the course of the year. Cowell asked how the PAs would estimate the impact of those efforts. McCarthy indicated that they had not yet evaluated what was done as part of those efforts but that they would be looking into it.

Cowell asked how the PAs evaluate the range of technologies and the level to which they are incorporated in their active demand management programs. McCarthy noted that the PAs ran a

full scale offering over the summer and that they would be presenting on preliminary results at the next Council meeting.

Abbe noted that small- and medium-sized electric accounts have seen increased participation in the upstream programs. He asked to what extent the PAs have, or have not, heard from vendors that increased participation in upstream has, or has not, resulted in fewer comprehensive projects for vendors. McCarthy noted that it is a concern the PAs hear often.

5. Commercial and Industrial HVAC and Controls

Melissa Devalles and Kim Cullinane, on behalf of the PAs, gave a presentation on C&I HVAC and controls. In their presentation they reviewed the various pathways the PAs have for customers to participate in HVAC and controls, customer experiences, and how the PAs support market transformation within the HVAC end use.

Malmstrom indicated that he has received a lot of feedback from C&I customers that are asking about workforce development for building owners and engineers. He added that Building Operator Certification (BOC) training has gone well and that he would encourage the PAs to do more of those.

Wambui noted that a recent study showed that customers were not always operating their equipment correctly which has resulted in lower than projected savings. She asked what the PAs are doing about that. Devalles indicated that this was one of the reasons why the PAs wanted to engage in more BOC and workforce trainings. She added that equipment and systems performance optimization (ESPO) efforts would also be targeting equipment tuning opportunities.

Boyd encouraged the PAs to consider asset improvement and optimization as a whole system approach as opposed to two sides that have tradeoffs that require a balancing act. Devalles agreed.

Johnson asked how many whole building process tuning projects the PAs have seen. Devalles indicated that the program only launched in the spring of 2019, but that they have had two projects so far in Eversource's territory and that both were comprehensive.

6. Commercial and Industrial Lighting and Controls

PA Presentation on Lighting and Controls

Dave Gibbons and Margaret Song, on behalf of the PAs, gave a presentation on C&I lighting and controls. In their presentation they reviewed the various pathways the PAs have for customers to participate in lighting and controls and customer experiences.

C-Team Presentation on the Future of Lighting

George Lawrence, on behalf of the C-Team, gave a presentation on C&I lighting in Massachusetts. In his presentation he reviewed types of lighting technologies, how much of the

portfolio is made up of lighting compared to other end uses, the state of the C&I lighting market, controls opportunities and the opportunity cost of installing fixtures without controls.

Council Discussion

Weber expressed concern about the potential for stranded savings if TLEDs continue to be installed instead of LED fixtures with controls. She indicated that she was wondering about whether it would make sense to reduce incentives for TLEDs. Rio agreed with Weber and suggested at the very least the programs should be focused on moving customers to fixtures given that the incremental lost opportunity is not as great as it is for TLEDs versus LED fixtures. Johnson also agreed and noted that most customers are likely to install TLEDs without incentives. He suggested refocusing incentives on fixtures, especially those with controls, might be a good idea.

Malmstrom noted that energy savings are not the only driving factor. He noted that his institution is about to invest in renewable energy credits (RECs) in order to comply with Boston's Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO). He added that those requirements are likely to get more stringent and widespread in the future.

Abbe asked the PAs for more information on the install cost and labor associated with scaled incentives for TLEDs versus fixtures versus fixtures with controls. Song noted that TLEDs take two minutes to install, while fixtures take ten to fifteen minutes, and fixtures with controls take ten to fifteen minutes plus another ten to fifteen minutes to calibrate the controls.

Boyd noted that one of the PA's slides indicated that the retrofit programs are focused on LED fixtures and controls. She then noted that one of the C-Team's slides indicated that the current plan showed control savings representing less than one percent of all lighting savings in the small business pathway. She asked where the disconnect was coming from. Song indicated that they had an evaluation in the past that showed that small business customers with controls were often turning the controls off. She added that they have been pushing controls where appropriate.

Peterson noted that from her experience working with municipalities she has found that it is less of the issue that controls do not work and more of an issue that the building operators do not know how to use them properly. She suggested that more BOC and workforce trainings could help with that issue. She also suggested that this could be a reason to consider lighting as a service.

7. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:02 PM.