

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
RSA 125-O:5-a

Fourteenth Annual Report

Prepared for:
The Governor
President of the New Hampshire Senate
Speaker of the New Hampshire House
Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chair of the House Science, Technology and Energy Committee
Department of Energy
Public Utilities Commission

December 1, 2021

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I. Introduction

This annual report provides an update on the activities of the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board and its recommendations for action, pursuant to RSA 125-O:5-a IV.

II. Background

The Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board (“EESE Board”) was created by Chapter 292 of the 2008 New Hampshire Laws. The purpose of the EESE Board is, “...to promote and coordinate energy efficiency, demand response, and sustainable energy programs in the state.” (RSA 125-O:5-a, I). New Hampshire must do more to promote and utilize energy efficiency and sustainable energy resources as a means to bolster the state’s economy and spur business innovation, improve energy security, reduce customer costs, and protect the environment. Further, cost-effective energy efficiency is considered the least expensive and cleanest energy resource. These precepts form the context within which the EESE Board was established and the Board continues to serve as a convening body for stakeholders in the state’s energy future.

The Chair of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) convened the first organizational meeting of the EESE Board on October 1, 2008. Since then, the EESE Board has since met roughly nine to twelve times per year. The EESE Board is administratively attached to the Department of Energy, which provides administrative support.¹ The Department of Energy hosts a comprehensive webpage for the EESE Board and other interested parties where all meeting materials and background information can be found at <https://puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm>, on the Public Utility Commission’s web site. The EESE Board was administratively attached to the Commission prior to the creation of the Department of Energy on July 1, 2021. The transition of the EESE

¹ Administrative Support and Contact for the EESE Board is the Department of Energy: (603) 271-3670, EESEBoard@energy.nh.gov.

Board's web presence to the Department of Energy web site is ongoing. The EESE Board's page on the PUC site can also be reached from the Quick Links section of the Department of Energy web site: <https://www.energy.nh.gov/>.

III. Statutory Duties

The EESE Board's duties are broad. *See* RSA 125-O:5-a, I (a) through (j). They include, but are not limited to:

- reviewing available energy efficiency, conservation, demand response, and sustainable energy programs and incentives and compiling a report of those resources in New Hampshire;
- developing a plan to achieve the state's energy efficiency potential for all fuels, including setting goals and targets for energy efficiency that are meaningful and achievable;
- developing a plan for economic and environmental sustainability of the state's energy system including the development of high efficiency clean energy resources that are either renewable or have low net greenhouse gas emissions;
- exploring opportunities to coordinate programs targeted at saving more than one fuel resource, including conversion to renewable resources and coordination between natural gas and other programs which seek to reduce the use of nonrenewable fuels;
- developing tools to enhance outreach and education programs to increase knowledge about energy efficiency and sustainable energy among New Hampshire residents and businesses;
- expanding upon the state government's efficiency programs to ensure that the state is providing leadership on energy efficiency and sustainable energy including reduction of its energy use and fuel costs;
- encouraging municipalities and counties to increase investments in energy efficiency and sustainable energy through financing tools, and to create local energy committees;
- working with community action agencies and the NH Department of Energy (DOE) to explore ways to ensure that all customers participating in programs for low-income customers and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have access to energy efficiency improvements, and where appropriate, renewable energy resources, in order to reduce their energy bills; and

- investigating potential sources of funding for energy efficiency and sustainable energy development and delivery mechanisms for such programs, coordinating efforts between funding sources to reduce duplication and enhance collaboration, and reviewing investment strategies to increase access to energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

IV. Members and Public Participation

The members of the EESE Board, designated by RSA 125-O:5-a, II, include representatives of businesses, non-profit organizations and associations, legislators, state agency heads or their designees, and consumer representatives. In addition, the Board includes several non-voting members representing electric and natural gas utilities, investment community, and businesses in relevant energy efficiency and sustainable energy industries. The members represent a wide range of interests that help inform the EESE Board’s work. Members as of December 2021 are:

Chair:

- Bruce Clendenning, The Nature Conservancy, Acting Chair –, not-for-profit appointment by commissioner of the department of energy, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (l)

Voting Members:

- Daniel Goldner – chairman of the public utilities commission, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (a)
- Christopher Ellms - department of energy designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (b)
- D. Maurice Kreis – the consumer advocate, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (c)
- Rebecca Ohler - department of environmental services designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (d)
- Taylor Caswell – department of business and economic affairs commissioner, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (e)
- Tonia Chase, Lydall Global Operations – Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (f)
- Doria Brown, City of Nashua –the New Hampshire Municipal Association designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (g)

- Raymond Burke – New Hampshire Legal Assistance designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (h)
- Scott Emond – New Hampshire Homebuilders and Remodelers Association designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (i)
- Two members of the house science, technology and energy committee appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, RSA 125-O:5-a II (j)
 - Representative Michael Vose
 - Representative Kat McGhee
- Senator Kevin Avarad – member of the senate energy, environment and economic development committee, appointed by the president of the senate, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (k)
- Three representatives from not-for-profit groups representing energy, environmental, consumer, or public health issues and knowledgeable in energy conservation policies and programs, appointed by the commissioner of the department of energy. RSA 125-O:5-a, II, (l)
 - Ryan Clouthier, Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc.
 - Bruce Clendenning, The Nature Conservancy (currently Acting Chair)
 - Vacant
- Donald Perrin –department of administrative services designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (m)
- Philip Biron – state fire marshal designee, RSA 125-O:5-a, II (n)
- Jack Ruderman –New Hampshire housing finance authority designee – RSA 125-O:5-a, II (o)

Non-Voting Members:

- One representative from each utility-administered electric and natural gas energy efficiency program appointed by the commissioner of the department of energy - RSA 125-O:5-a, III (a)
 - Cindy Carroll, Unitil/Northern Utilities
 - Eric Stanley, Liberty Utilities
 - Carol Woods, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative
 - Kate Peters, Eversource Energy

- Matthew Siska, GDS Associates, Inc.– representative of energy services companies delivering energy efficiency services to residential and business customers, appointed by the commissioner of the department of energy - RSA 125-O:5-a, III (b)
- Vacant - A representative of a business or association of businesses selling or installing sustainable or renewable energy systems, appointed by the commissioner of the department of energy - RSA 125-O:5-a, III (c)
- Scott Maslansky, New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority– representative from the investment community with expertise in efficiency investments and financing, appointed by the commissioner of the department of energy - RSA 125-O:5-a, III (d)

Since its inception, the EESE Board has appreciated and encouraged attendance and participation of the public at its meetings. Business, municipal, and nonprofit leaders, and other stakeholders regularly attend the EESE Board’s monthly meetings and are encouraged to bring relevant energy experience to the EESE Board’s discussions. In all, roughly 150 people are on the EESE Board’s email distribution list, not including EESE Board members. The EESE Board recognizes that energy consumers, business leaders, municipal officials, energy efficiency and sustainable energy professionals, and other concerned members of the public and private sectors are all crucial to achieving our state’s energy goals.

V. Description of 2021 Activities

The EESE Board met eleven times in 2021, in the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October, November and December. Meeting agendas, minutes, presentations, and other materials from all of the EESE Board’s meetings can be found on the Department of Energy’s EESE Board webpage: <https://puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm>. (Please see note above re: transition to Department of Energy web site.).

Committees

The EESE Board uses a committee structure to meet its broad statutory goals, which enables work between EESE Board meetings and provides opportunities for participation in that work from both EESE Board members and non-members. The EESE Board currently has three standing committees, including: the Energy Efficiency (EE) Committee, the Outreach and Education (O&E) Committee, and the Legislative Monitoring Committee. The O&E and Legislative committees meet and support EESE Board work as needed. During 2021, no requests were made of the O&E Committee. The Legislative Monitoring Committee provided legislative tracking and monthly updates to the Board from January through July.

The EESE Board had an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) Committee whose charge was to serve as the enhanced stakeholder forum, per PUC Order No. 25,932, during the development of the 2021-2023 utility energy efficiency plan. The function of the EERS Committee was fulfilled with the filing of the Draft 2021-2023 EERS Plan in August of 2020 and the Committee ceased their work. As described in the EESE Board 2020 Annual Report, all meeting agendas, minutes, presentations, and other materials from all of the EERS Committee's meetings can be found on the PUC's EESE Board webpage:

<https://www.puc.nh.gov/EESE%20Board/CommitteeMeetings.html>

Energy Efficiency Committee (EE Committee)

At the August 2021 EESE Board meeting members discussed whether the EERS Committee was still necessary, or should it be disbanded or have its role revised. Following discussion of the past actions of the EERS Committee, the status of the PUC EERS docket, and a shared uncertainty of the best approach forward, a working group was formed to create a revised description of an Energy Efficiency Committee to present at the EESE Board's September meeting. The EE Committee was formally created in September 2021 to continue to consider potential means to

increase the implementation and delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency in New Hampshire outside of the framework of the EERS.

At the September 2021 EESE Board meeting, following discussion of the proposed EE Committee Charter as presented by the working group, the Board voted to form an EE Committee. It was agreed that the EE Committee would be forward-looking in scope – striving to create new agreements on approaches to:

- expand implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency programs in NH;
- study issues, technologies, and potential implementation approaches to present for EESE board discussion; and
- serve as a venue for the utilities and stakeholders to find agreement on cost-effective EE implementation approaches before formal PUC dockets or other official decisions are required.

It was agreed that the new EE Committee would remain extant for the foreseeable future, schedule meetings for discussion/analysis on an as-needed basis; follow applicable rules of RSA 91A as a formal committee of the NH EESE Board; and report findings, agreements, and recommendations to the EESE Board as appropriate. It was further agreed that the EE Committee will not “rehash previous agreements or PUC dockets” or have decision-making authority. The EE Committee is a source for research, discussion, feedback, and input for the utilities (as administrators of ratepayer-paid EE programs) and the EESE Board as appropriate.

The first meeting of the EE Committee was held in November 2021. The meeting was initially led by Bruce Clendenning, Acting Chair of the EESE Board. It was agreed that the first meeting would serve as an organizing meeting for the Committee. In addition to early consideration

of topics for the Committee to examine, there was discussion of EE Committee leadership. The EE Committee Members agreed that Chris Skoglund (NH DES) and Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance) would serve as Co-Chairs. It was agreed that the Co-Chairs would report the proceedings of the Committee at regularly scheduled EESE Board meetings.

EESE Board Meetings and Presentations

The EESE Board frequently solicits presentations from projects and programs relevant to issues of interest to the EESE Board. During 2021, the EESE Board heard updates from several existing New Hampshire programs, as well as presentations from outside experts on energy initiatives and policy.

- **January:** (Per COVID State of Emergency, meeting was held remotely.) Nominations and a roll call vote for Chair and Vice Chair were held. Madeleine Mineau was voted as Chair and Bruce Clendenning was voted as Vice Chair. A presentation was given by Kate Peters of Eversource on the EERS NH Saves Program. There was a discussion of potential presentation topics for the upcoming year. There were several legislative updates with discussion on bills of interest to the board.
- **February:** (Per COVID State of Emergency, meeting was held remotely.) Donald Perrin from the Department of Administrative Services presented the Fiscal Year 2020 State Energy Report. The report summarized the state energy goals, consumption and costs, legislation changes, and an energy conservation plan for building management. Rebecca Ohler from the Department of Environmental Services presented information on the state's vehicle fleet management. A question-and-answer session was held after the presentation.
- **March:** (Per COVID State of Emergency, meeting was held remotely.) Madeleine Mineau announced that she was leaving her position at Clean Energy NH effective June 1, 2021 and

will no longer be able to serve on the EESE Board. Melissa Elander and Emily Roscoe of Clean Energy NH made a presentation on The North Country Energy Efficiency Initiative. The program provides technical assistance for energy projects in Coos County. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation. Mark Sanborn of the Office of Strategic Initiatives led a discussion on House Bill 2 and the formation of the Department of Energy.

- **April:** (Per COVID State of Emergency, meeting was held remotely.) The Board discussed, but made no decisions on, re-forming the EERS Committee. Key points included whether there would be consultant support for future work and the need for an EERS Committee given the pending 2021-2023 Triennium Plan. There was a discussion about EESE Board bylaws which specify that the Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected at the January meeting. It was decided the Board would appoint an acting Chair from June until December and asked Bruce Clendenning (Vice Chair) to fill the role. The board agreed that they would work ad hoc without a Vice Chair until the end of the year. Representatives Michael Vose and Kat McGhee led the legislative updates to the board.
- **May:** (Per COVID State of Emergency, meeting was held remotely.) Mark Sanborn of the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) gave an update and led a discussion on the 10-Year State Energy Strategy. OSI opened a public comment period for submission of written comments. The board offered suggestions about information they thought should be included in the report. Rebecca Ohler, Chris Skoglund, Representative McGhee, Mark Lemenager from Eversource, and Bruce Clendenning volunteered to prepare a document for proposed recommendations to the 10-Year Strategy for discussion at the June meeting. Lori Weigel and Kathryn Hahne from New Bridge Strategy presented Barriers and Solutions to Electric Vehicle Adoption by Rural Drivers. They conducted an on-line focus group of twenty-three registered voters that reside in small towns in New Hampshire, Maine, and

Vermont and do not own EVs. The key findings were shared with the board. The May meeting was Madeleine Mineau's last meeting as Chair of the board.

- **June:** Bruce Clendenning took over as Acting Chair of the Board. The June meeting was held in person and remote access was offered via Webex. Subsequent meetings of the Board in 2021 were held in person. There was a discussion of the draft comments and recommendations on the 10-Year State Energy Strategy, which were circulated to the board prior to the meeting. A vote was held to pass the comments with minor edits.
- **July:** No meeting.
- **August:** The Board discussed, nominated, and voted that Chris Skoglund (NHDES) be the EESE Board representative to the EM&V working group, one of several working groups formed pursuant to review of EERS dockets. Mark Sanborn (Department of Energy) provided an overview of the new Department of Energy and its role regarding the EESE Board. There was a discussion about the EERS Triennium Plan docket and what will happen if the plan is not approved by the Public Utilities Commission. Legislative and program updates were discussed.
- **September:** The Board discussed re-establishing the Energy Efficiency Committee. They discussed the mission and goals of the committee, the number of members, volunteers for Chair and Co-Chair, and location and times for the meetings. A vote was held and the motion was passed. Ceclia Viggiano of EBP gave a presentation on Supporting Rural Communities through Transportation Investments. The Nature Conservancy, interested in studying the benefits of rural transportation initiatives, hired EBP as a consultant to conduct a study. The results were shared with the board. The Board's comments on the State Energy Strategy developed on June 18, 2021, were submitted to OSI.

- **October:** The Board discussed the EE Committee (voted on in the previous month's meeting). Membership, priority topics and areas of focus were established. There was a presentation given by the utilities on the results and achievements of EERS-supported programs from 2018 through 2020. A discussion followed with topics covering future reporting, examples of municipal projects, and benefits of home energy efficiency measures to reduce oil consumption. A discussion was held on the board's input on relevant legislation. A motion and vote was put forth to re-engage the legislative committee.
- **November:** The Board heard a presentation from Kate Peters (Eversource) providing an overview and outlining the impacts to services provided by the NH Saves utilities of PUC Decision on EERS Docket (No. DE 20-092). Following the presentation, the Board held a lively and thorough discussion of the PUC decision, likely effects, and the potential for appeals and/or legislative action that may result. This discussion accounted for the majority of allotted meeting time. It was agreed that Bruce Clendenning, the Acting Chair, would update the draft Annual Report per recommendations received from Board Members and at the next meeting the Board will provide any final revisions prior to voting upon the Report.
- **December:** This report is being drafted prior to the December 2021 meeting to allow for approval at this meeting. The Proposed Agenda for the December 2021 meeting includes approval of the 2021 Annual Report and updates on actions as a result of the PUC Decision on EERS Docket (No. DE 20-092).

VI. Conclusion

The EESE Board has endeavored to be a forum for collaboration and information sharing, and to assist the state in the development of a comprehensive approach to energy cost savings, clean energy jobs, and a stronger and more secure energy future for New Hampshire. In addition to the

main discussion items and presentations, at each meeting there is an opportunity for updates on state programs, policy items, and activities. All attendees are welcome to share updates on issues where they have particular knowledge or interest. Through these updates members remain informed about a wide range of energy-related policy and program topics, including the status of grant and financing programs, implementation of projects, events, and policy issues such as building codes, net metering, the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and energy efficiency & related program budgets.

The EESE Board appreciates the engagement and immense time contribution of so many interested parties, including its volunteer members, non-voting participants, and many other public and private stakeholders. This contribution by so many participants in support of dialogue, inquiry, analysis and sharing of ideas has created a unique opportunity for the state to draw on a wide variety of experience and knowledge as it navigates the next steps to move its energy efficiency and sustainable energy agenda forward. To focus its efforts in 2022, the EESE Board may develop a list of priorities that will be updated annually as needed. The priorities may include continuing EESE Board monitoring of the adoption of updated international energy codes by the state and providing comment on updated energy codes when and where feasible; engaging in discussions and stakeholder convening as a result of the PUC's 2021 Order relative to the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard settlement agreement; and to continuing to engage with programs and entities throughout the state engaged in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The EESE Board looks forward to continuing its role as an "enhanced stakeholder board" in the development and evaluation of the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard. *See Gas and Electric Utilities*, DE 17-136, Order No. 26,095 at 15-16 (January 2, 2018); *Gas and Electric Utilities*, DE 15-137, Order No. 25,932 at 34, 60-61 (August 2, 2016). In 2022, the Board will continue to receive updates from and provide input to its designee on the Evaluation, Measurement and

Verification Working Group pursuant to the Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in DE 17-136. *See* Order No. 26,095 at 15-16 (January 2, 2018). The EESE Board understands that pursuant to Order No. DE 20-092, the activities of the Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification Working Group will be completed by December 31, 2022. In addition, the Board will continue to provide a forum at its monthly meetings for regular updates from the other working groups.

The Board, in conjunction with the then extant EERS Committee, appreciated the opportunity to assist with developing recommendations for the filing of the 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency Plan. Looking forward, the EESE Board and Energy Efficiency Committee anticipate a continued role in assisting with recommendations for future Energy Efficiency plans.

The EESE Board looks forward to building on the knowledge gained from its previous work and helping the state to meet the next set of challenges and opportunities in energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce B. Clendenning, Acting Chair